

Speaker Bios

*Current as of April 14, 2026



Ted Angel is the Executive Director for the National Advanced Air Mobility Center of Excellence (NAAMCE). In this role, Ted is responsible for attraction, expansion, and retention of AAM partners, companies, and suppliers throughout Ohio. He convenes key stakeholders across the state, including researchers, industry leaders, military personnel, and government officials to foster collaborative efforts aligning with Ohio's industry strategy.

Prior to his role as the Executive Director, Ted held multiple positions at the Dayton Development Coalition, a network partner for JobsOhio. Those positions consisted of Director of Projects and Business Development for Aerospace & Defense and Aerospace Affairs Director.

Before his tenure at the Coalition and NAAMCE, Ted spent twenty-seven and half years in the United States Air Force, serving in every major leadership role to include Aircrew Flight Equipment Superintendent, Squadron Superintendent, Command Manager and Senior Enlisted Leader.



Tyler Bair is CEO and co-founder of Lighthouse Avionics, a defense technology company headquartered in Hilliard, Ohio specializing in unmanned aviation systems and counter-UAS solutions.

With a background in electrical and computer engineering from Ohio State University, Tyler leads the company's business development, strategy, and high-level technical direction.

Lighthouse Avionics builds integrated sensor and drone platforms that enable safe beyond-visual-line-of-sight (BVLOS) operations for public safety, defense, and critical infrastructure applications. Tyler previously led the software development at Converge Technologies before co-founding Lighthouse Avionics in 2021.



Mr. Joseph A. Baker, a member of the Senior Executive Service, is the Director of Engineering and Technical Management and Chief Engineer, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He provides comprehensive engineering leadership for maintaining technical superiority and integrity of all Air Force weapon systems. He leads the command's digital transformation to rapidly research, develop, test, field and effectively sustain disruptive technologies. He leads over 14,000 personnel in the engineering organization and is responsible for talent acquisition, development and management of over 80% of the Air Force's engineering and technical workforce.

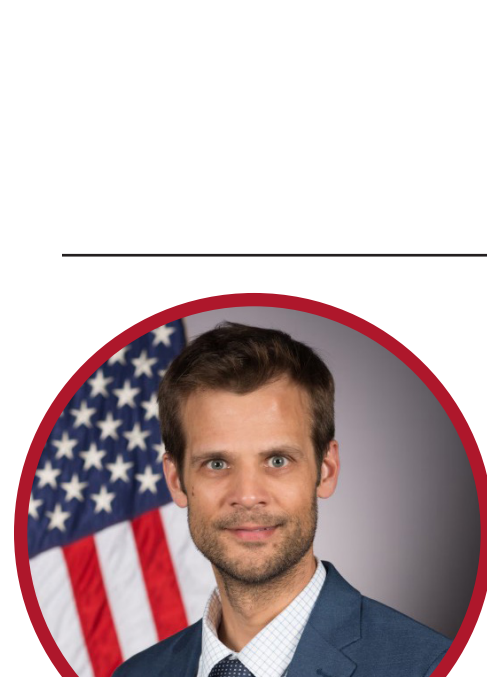
Mr. Baker began his federal career in 1996 as an aerospace engineer in the Aeronautical Systems Center's Engineering Directorate (Air Force Life Cycle Management Center today). He has held multiple management and technical positions within the Air Force Research Laboratories, Air Force Materiel Command and various acquisition program offices. Prior to this position, Mr. Baker was the Director of Engineering, F-35 Joint Program Office, Arlington, Virginia.



Christopher A. Garrett, a Senior Level Executive, is the Technical Advisor, Systems Engineering, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He serves as the recognized Air Force authority for systems engineering for weapon systems lifecycle management charged with providing technical oversight and advice to high level Air Force and government officials. In this role, Mr. Garrett is the lead engineer developing the Air Force Materiel Command strategy for digital transformation.

Mr. Garrett spent over 27 years of active-duty service in the Air Force working in the areas of electronic warfare, test, space, and aircraft sustainment and while on active duty he spent two years at Robins AFB, Georgia, leading the C-17 group. Mr. Garrett finished his career as the Deputy Director for Engineering and Technical Management at AFMC. As Deputy Director, he focused on three areas – System of Systems Analysis, Open Systems Architecture, and Strategic Planning. From September 2015 to February 2020, Mr. Garrett worked in the engineering home office at AFLCMC where he focused on infusing open standards and architectures across Air Force weapon systems.

Mr. Garrett also led an effort to build an Air Force ecosystem where open standards, agile processes and digital engineering could be combined to deliver capability expeditiously to the field. In February 2020, He was appointed Senior Leader for Systems Engineering in the Air Force. In this job, his current focus is to ensure the AFMC Digital Campaign appropriately replicates and expedites the system engineering process.



Tim Grayson leads the BAE Systems' FAST Labs™ organization in advancing science and delivering new technologies, products, and business models, to both internal and external customers.

Tim has a distinguished career that extends both government and industry. Having served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force to lead modernization of the Air and Space Forces. He was the Director of the Strategic Technology Office (STO) at the Defense Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and a senior intelligence officer with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Earlier in his career, he was a program manager and senior scientist at DARPA and before that he was a research fellow at Air Force Wright Laboratory (now part of Air Force Research Laboratory).

Tim also has extensive industry experience. He joins BAE Systems from Leidos, Inc. where he served as senior vice president and chief architect for the company's Defense Systems Sector. He was the founder and president of Fortitudo Mission Research LLC, a Senior Manager at Raytheon Photon Research, created a start-up business unit at Ktech Inc., and was a senior Interdisciplinary System Engineer at MITRE Corp.

Tim holds a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Rochester, where he specialized in quantum optics, and a B.S. in Physics from the University of Dayton with minors in mathematics and computer science.



Mr. John M. Grigaliunas, a senior-level executive, is the Technical Advisor for Armament and Weapons Test and Evaluation, Air Force Test Center, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

He is the senior technical advisor to the AFTC commander and serves as the senior Air Force technical advisor and national/international authority in armament and weapons test and evaluation.

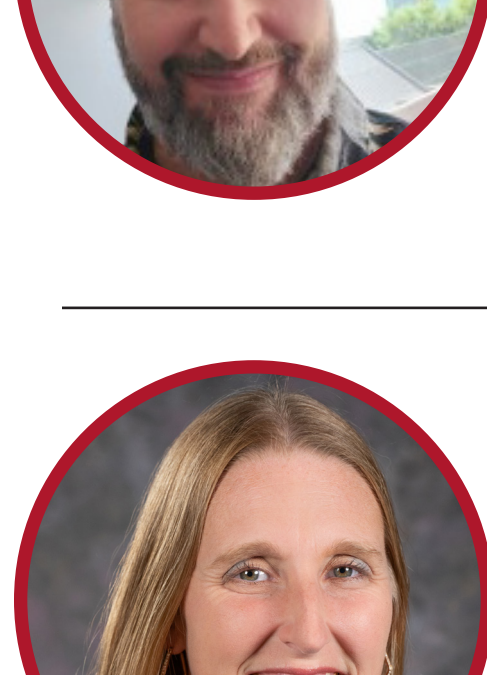
He also has responsibility for providing technical advice and guidance to the highest levels of the Air Force, the Department of War, as well as nationally critical conventional weapon system development efforts regarding test infrastructure, test capabilities and best practices, modeling and simulation and interpretation of test results. AFTC's workforce of 18,000 military, civilians and contractors, and its ranges and facilities, are located across the U.S. including Edwards AFB, California; Eglin AFB, Florida; Holloman AFB, New Mexico; and Arnold AFB, Tennessee. Mr. Grigaliunas was appointed a senior-level executive in December 2020.



Robert Herman is the co-founder and CEO of REscan, a 3D mapping technology company focused on digitizing the physical world from a human perspective. He brings deep expertise in commercial real estate, having spent over a decade acquiring and managing more than 100 assets for the Washington State Pension Fund.

In 2019, Robert was appointed to the Americas World Regional Board of RICS, where he advocates for technology-driven transformation across the real estate industry. He is also an active member of the Digital Twin Consortium.

Robert holds master's degrees from Corvinus University of Budapest and Nottingham Trent University, along with a JD from Pázmány Péter University.



Dr. Patrick Hester is the Principal Machine Learning Engineer at Mile Two where he leads development of natural language processing, generative AI, and knowledge graphing solutions.

He has 24 years of machine learning, decision analysis, and systems thinking experience, 20 years of consulting and practical problem-solving expertise, and 15 years of experience leading interdisciplinary research teams and projects.

His publication record includes over 100 publications and presentations in scientific journals, books, and conferences. His consulting and research clients have included NASA LaRC, AFRL, US Army, US Navy, MDA, NIST, NATO ACT, NOAA, DHS, Sandia National Laboratories, and General Dynamics.



David Uriel Ibarra is Founder and President of Eagle Flight Vertical Solutions and a former FAA Flight Standards (AFS-300) Aviation Safety Inspector specializing in Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) and UAS integration.

With over 40 years of experience in military and commercial aviation—including more than three decades at the FAA—he has led and contributed to certification, airworthiness, and regulatory initiatives across domestic and international aviation systems.

He is actively advancing multiple efforts within the AAM industry, including the development of scalable workforce models to prepare technicians for electrified and software-defined aviation systems, and currently serves as a Subject Matter Expert for the National Center for Autonomous Technology (NCAT), supporting national workforce development and integration initiatives.



Chris Lewis is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Vets to Drones, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering military veterans by providing training, certification, and career pathways in the commercial drone industry.

A veteran of both the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Army, Lewis served from 2009 to 2018, during which his military career included early exposure to unmanned aerial systems. In 2020, Lewis established Vets to Drones to address the barriers veterans encounter when entering the commercial drone sector.

The organization offers guidance, community support, and training programs—most notably preparing participants for the FAA Part 107 remote pilot certification. Under his leadership, the initiative has expanded significantly, assisting thousands of veterans in building sustainable careers as drone operators while fostering a network of professionals in this rapidly growing field.

Based in North Carolina, Lewis continues to lead Vets to Drones with a commitment to translating military expertise into civilian opportunities, emphasizing practical skills, rapid innovation, and veteran empowerment.



Dr. Adam Parrillo is the Dean of the School of Business and Applied Technologies at Clark State College where he oversees applied programs in business, computer science, digital arts, agriculture, engineering technology, and mechanical trades.

He has broad experience in higher education, including faculty appointments at both the community college and research university ecosystems in geospatial technology, geography, urban and regional studies, global studies, and as a graduate advisor in environmental science and policy.

Formally trained in the social geography of urban expertise development, Dr. Parrillo incorporates this critical expertise and analytical framework into his administrative responsibilities and overarching academic vision.



Dr. Lauren Reinerman-Jones is a distinguished human factors scientist, Section Manager, and Principal Analyst at Southwest Research Institute (SwRI), where she leads innovative research integrating human performance, artificial intelligence, and advanced technology for defense and government applications.

With a PhD in Human Factors Psychology, she has cultivated deep expertise in modeling and simulation, experimental design, human-machine interaction, and technology integration, advancing solutions that are both scientifically rigorous and operationally relevant.

Dr. Reinerman-Jones has collaborated with a broad range of U.S. Department of War and federal agencies—including the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Special Forces, DARPA, IARPA, FBI, and Nuclear Regulatory Commission—applying human-centered research to enhance system performance, safety, and training effectiveness. As a Professor of Special Programs at the Defense Acquisition University, she contributed to the education of defense professionals. She has numerous publications and presentations.



Meredith Rodgers is an Associate Director of Lead and Proposal Generation at Sinclair College with over 20 years of experience in education, program management, and workforce development.

She leads work in Digital Transformation, Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), and Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), developing industry-aligned, competency-based curriculum for K-12, post-secondary, and incumbent workforce audiences.

Her work focuses on connecting education, industry, and government to align programs with real workforce needs, while identifying strategic funding opportunities to support scalable pathways from early learning through career advancement.

Dan Sandrowicz is the Chief of Geospatial Engineering for the 88th Civil Engineer Group at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, where he serves as a subject matter expert on the integration of modern 3D digital technologies including LiDAR, 3D scanning, and sUAS (drones) with traditional engineering disciplines.

He leads a team of experts in leveraging these tools to advance the Air Force's Digital Twin initiatives and enhance mission capabilities. With over a decade of experience supporting the Department of the Air Force, Mr. Sandrowicz previously directed the enterprise-wide standardization and procurement of over \$40 million in modern survey assets. As a leader in the Air Force's digital transformation, he is focused on using these technologies to create authoritative "digital blueprints" that enhance job site safety and provide foundational data for the future.

A certified sUAS Initial Trainer and CompTIA Security+ professional, Dan will share his perspective on how modern digital tools are enhancing, not replacing, the ability of licensed professionals to deliver projects with greater accuracy and efficiency.

He holds a Master of Arts in Applied Archaeology and a Certificate in GIS and Geospatial Techniques from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The views expressed are those of Mr. Sandrowicz and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the U.S. Air Force, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Government.

Dr. Andrew Shepherd serves as the Chief Research Officer at Sinclair College in Dayton, Ohio. With over 20 years of experience in the defense industry and academia focused on modeling and simulation, research, course development, accreditation, instruction, and mentorship.

Shepherd offers expertise in many areas of technology, higher education, and workforce training and development. He has served as Managing Officer for the Journal of Unmanned Aerial Systems, President of the Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International (AUVSII) Wright Brothers Chapter, Chairperson of the National Science Foundation Center for UAS Industry Advisory Board, principal or co-principal investigator and senior personnel for multiple National Science Foundation, Federal Aviation Administration, and Department of Defense grants and contracts, and as First Vice President of the Aviation Trail Board of Trustees, a non-profit corporation in partnership with the National Park Service to promote Aviation Heritage in the Dayton region. Named by the Dayton Business Journal to Dayton's Forty under 40 in 2014, the Who's Who in Aerospace and Defense list seven times from 2014 through 2023, and a recipient of the Aerospace and Defense Award 2024, Shepherd is an active member of his community and broader aerospace industry.

Dr. Amy Thompson currently serves as the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) for the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT). In this role, she leads the technology, talent development, and training teams as a unified powerhouse that delivers end-to-end services to manufacturers, supporting their manufacturing technology adoption journey.

Dr. Thompson leads the development and implementation of CCAT's technical training programs and courses, supporting small and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs) throughout Connecticut and the northeast region.

Prior to joining CCAT in 2023, Dr. Thompson served as an Associate Professor-In-Residence of Systems Engineering at the University of Connecticut and the Associate Director for the Pratt & Whitney Institute for Advanced Systems Engineering. She earned a B.S. in Industrial Engineering, an M.S. in Manufacturing Engineering, and a Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the University of Rhode Island.

Her technical expertise includes model-based systems engineering (MBSE), the design and operation of smart, connected, and energy-efficient manufacturing and building systems, supply chain design, and engineering education. Her research has been funded by the U.S. Department of War, the U.S. Department of Energy, the Air Force Research Lab, Pratt & Whitney, Eversource, and United Illuminating.

Chelsea Treboniak is President of Critical Ops, a veteran-owned consulting firm specializing in digital transformation for critical infrastructure, workforce development, and advanced sensing technologies.

A West Point graduate and Army Veteran, she leads initiatives across Ohio and Manitoba, integrating drones, LiDAR, extended reality, and AI to improve construction, energy resilience, and manufacturing supply chains.

Chelsea organizes the Critical Infrastructure Modernization Conference and collaborates with universities, credit unions, and government agencies to build future workforce pathways.

She focuses on practical, partner-driven programs that help organizations adopt new technology, strengthen resilience, and create measurable workforce and operational results.