

CONTACT

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ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLES

Air Charter Safety Foundation
Board of Governors, 2012–2019
Vice-Chairman, 2017–2018
Chairman, 2018–2019

National Business Aviation Association
Safety Committee, 2012–2019
Chairman, Single Pilot Safety Working Group, 2016–2019

Federal Aviation Administration
General Aviation Safety Information Analysis Team, 2017–2019

THE HONORABLE

Michael E. Graham

Former Vice Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board

Professional Summary

Transportation Safety Executive with 40 years of experience in risk management, operations, training, and policy development. Unanimously confirmed by the Senate as a Board Member of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). Appointed by the President of the United States as Vice Chairman of the NTSB. Expertise spans all modes of transportation, with a particular focus on aviation, including commercial, corporate, general, and military sectors. Proven track record in enhancing safety standards, mitigating risks, and driving policy initiatives that improve transportation safety both nationally and globally.

Transportation Safety Experience

Vice Chairman / Board Member

National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), Washington, DC **Jan 2020 – Oct 2026**

Served on the Board of the world's preeminent transportation accident investigation agency. Presided over agency Board public meetings. Reviewed accident investigation details to determine probable cause and developed safety recommendations for multiple transportation modes aimed at preventing future accidents. The Board's authority covered Aviation, Marine, Highway, Transit, Railroad, Pipelines, and Commercial Space in the United States, and select events internationally. Analyzed, evaluated, and approved all NTSB accident investigation reports, safety studies, and safety recommendations.

As a member of the Go Team on major launches, coordinated on-site accident investigation efforts with local, state, and national agencies; conducted press briefings as the primary agency spokesperson; and assisted victims and family members impacted by transportation disasters with resources from the NTSB investigation and products, and available disaster relief services.

Advocated for safety initiatives in all transportation modes. Presented NTSB case studies outlining key safety issues and recommendations to industry and government conferences. Testified to Congress on transportation safety issues and initiatives as necessary.

Served as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the US Coast Guard, and adjudicated appeals of civil penalty actions levied by the FAA.

RATINGS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Airline Transport Pilot
Airplane Multiengine Land
CE-500, CE-510S, CE-525S, CE-560XL, CE-680, CE-750

Commercial Pilot
Airplane Single Engine Land

FAA First Class Medical

AIRCRAFT FLOWN

Civil
CE-750, CE-700, CE-680/A, CE-560XL, CE-560, CE-550, CE-530, CE-525C/B/A, CE-525, CE-510, C208, BE-76, BE-250, C172, C182, C206, L-39, PT-22

Military
F/A-18 A, B, C, D
A-7E, TA-7C
TA-4J, T-2C, T-34C

EDUCATION

University of New Mexico
B.S. Mechanical Engineering, 1986

University of Southern California
Aviation Safety Management Systems, 2009

U.S. DOT Transportation Safety Institute
Basic Aircraft Accident Investigation, 2018
Human Factors in Accident Investigation, 2019

Textron Aviation
Building Leadership Capabilities, 2007
Developing Leadership Excellence, 2008
Six Sigma Green Belt Certified, 2010

Aviation Safety Experience

Director of Flight Operations Safety, Security & Standardization

Textron Aviation, Inc. (Cessna / Hawker / Beechcraft), Wichita, KS **Sep 1997 – Dec 2019**

Responsible for the safe and secure operations of all domestic and international flights conducted in support of the company. Flight departments supervised included Demonstration, Transportation, Training, Pre-Ownership, Production Flight Test & Delivery across three divisions, Engineering/Experimental, and Defense. Directed the Safety Management System (SMS) and its certification. Directed all safety and security initiatives, developed and promoted a positive safety culture, and ensured all flight operations personnel operated in a standardized manner.

Directed and managed threat risk assessments for all international flight operations. Directed and managed daily operations at two company airports and a control tower. Supervised the largest general aviation Air Safety Investigation Department.

Production Flight Test / Delivery / Demonstration Pilot — Evaluated production aircraft for acceptance and delivery to clients; delivered new and used aircraft; performed post-maintenance and ferry flights; provided technical and professional assistance to new aircraft and advanced design teams; and demonstrated the Cessna Citation X, Sovereign, Excel/XLS/XLS+, Ultra/Encore+, Bravo, CJ, Mustang and Caravan to prospective clients. Resulted in countless demonstrations and hundreds of satisfied customer deliveries.

Safety, Compliance & Training Supervisor — Planned, developed, implemented and conducted safety and training programs for all department pilots. Developed and implemented an SMS within the Production Flight Test Department, allowing Textron Aviation to minimize the risks of flight testing while maximizing resources.

F/A-18 Aircrew Instructor / Subject Matter Expert

Boeing / McDonnell Douglas, St. Louis, MO **Mar 1995 – Sep 1997**

Instructed Fleet Naval Aviators in the use of proprietary simulators and software and developed new courseware for U.S. and foreign military pilots. Evaluated F/A-18 E/F proposed designs and led Proprietary Programs as Operational Analyst and Lead Integration Engineer. Worked with an integrated product team to develop a design that solved concerns of fighter aircraft target cueing, enabling the customer to make informed performance-versus-price decisions and lessening schedule and technical risk to the production aircraft's software development.

AWARDS

Flight Safety Foundation
Business Aviation Meritorious Service Award, 2019

5GAA Automotive Association
Special Recognition for Outstanding Contribution to C-V2X Deployment, 2025

Cessna Aircraft
Leading Edge Award, 2000, 2005, 2006

McDonnell Douglas
Quality Achievement Award, 1997

United States Navy
Navy Achievement Medal for Occupational Safety and Health program, 1993
Top Eleven Award (Air Wing 11), best landing grades on USS Abraham Lincoln — two times, 1991

Boy Scouts of America
District Award of Merit, White Buffalo District, 2008

Military Experience

Naval Aviator / Fleet Pilot – F/A-18, A-7E / F/A-18 Flight Instructor

U.S. Navy, VFA-125, VA/VFA-94, VA-122, VT-25/26/2 **Jun 1986 – Mar 1995**

As a carrier-based Naval Aviator, advanced from Ensign to Lieutenant Commander while accumulating 1,800 accident-free hours. As a Division Leader, led Combat Air Patrol (CAP) missions over Iraq and Kuwait in support of Southern Watch. The capstone of his Navy career was two highly successful operational deployments, flying the F/A-18 Hornet in Desert Storm and the A-7E Corsair during Westpac ’89–’90. Instructed all phases of student training in the F/A-18. Collateral duties included managing personnel and coordinating training and safety programs. Never lost an aviator or aircraft to enemy action or accident under his command.

Training Officer — Scheduled and tracked all academic, simulator and flight events for 70 replacement pilots and 40 instructor pilots. Helped graduate over 300 Fleet Pilots who served aboard aircraft carriers around the world. Implemented a new Instructor-Under-Training (IUT) syllabus that reduced required sorties by 50% to expedite training of qualified instructors and ease manning shortfalls. Handpicked to develop the first-ever F/A-18 Aircrew Coordination Training (ACT) syllabus for fleet-wide implementation, and personally trained the first select group of ACT Instructor Pilots.

Avionics / Armament Division Officer — Led over 50 personnel during transition and training from the A-7E to the F/A-18C, accomplished in the shortest turnaround time ever seen by the Navy with the onset of Desert Storm.

NATOPS Evaluator — One of two Instructor Pilots who served as the model manager for all Navy and Marine F/A-18s. Evaluated all F/A-18 Standardization Pilots.

Navy Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Officer — Created and implemented the OSH program for 600 squadron personnel, with the most comprehensive training and tracking system ever seen by Wing, Safety School and Industrial Hygiene Auditors. The Wing adopted the program as the model for all squadrons.