



# RAeS Future Combat Air and Space Capabilities Summit 2024

21-23 May 2024 - London

#FCAS24

## Speaker library

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## Meet the speakers (listed in alphabetical order)

**Major General Pilot Hamed Al Omari - Director of Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Chairman of the Committee on Future Capabilities of the Armed Forces, Saudi Air Force**

Details coming soon.

**Mathieu Bataille - Research Fellow and Lead on Security and Defence, European Space Policy Institute (ESPI)**

Details coming soon.

**AVM James Beck - Director Capability and Programmes, RAF**

Details coming soon.



**Steve Bleymaier, Brig Gen (Ret) USAF - CTO for Aerospace & Defense, Ansys**

Brigadier General (USAF Retired) Steve Bleymaier served 28 years in the U.S. Air Force and commanded at all levels including a 9,500-person, \$2.8B Air Logistics Complex. Thereafter, he consulted for several Aerospace & Defense companies and then joined Ansys 4 years ago; first as Vice President, Global Strategy & Government Programs, and currently as Chief Technology Officer for Aerospace & Defense.



**Jonathan Burnage - Principal Advisor - Strike Weapons, DSTL MoD (Weapons Operating Centre)**

Jonathan joined Dstl in 2007 and has worked in the strike weapons area for over 15 years supporting a range of weapon systems including Brimstone, SPEAR 3, SPEAR Capability 5 and PIKE. He is responsible for analysis activities to inform requirements definition and to underpin procurement business cases. Jonathan has recently taken up the role of Principal Advisor – Strike Weapons.



**Atherton Carty - Vice President Strategy & Business Development, Lockheed Martin Skunk Works**

Atherton A. Carty is the Aeronautics Strategy and Business Development (ASBD) vice president, supporting the ADP Line of Business. Serving in this role, he is responsible for supporting all programs within the Skunk Works to identify emerging market opportunities; shape customer budgets; strengthen key company discriminators; analyze and counter competitor strategies; pursue and capture new business; preserve and extend existing business and collaborate across all Lockheed Martin business areas.

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Previously, Atherton served as the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) for the Skunk Works organization, leading the Enterprise Technology Roadmaps organization including Air Vehicles, Mission Systems, Survivability, and Revolutionary Technologies and Emerging Concepts portfolios. He was responsible for developing and maturing key enabling technologies and transitioning them to address critical customer needs, in support of both current and future programs.

A Lockheed Martin employee for more than 23 years, he held prior roles on the Aeronautics Operations executive staff, as leadership of the ADP Conceptual Design organization, and in multiple program management and technical contributor roles supporting research, design and development related activities. He earned a M.S. in mechanical engineering from George Washington University's Joint Institute for the Advancement of Flight Sciences at the NASA Langley Research Center. He is an AIAA Associate Fellow, and received the Lockheed Martin NOVA and Aerostar awards.



### **Air Commodore Blythe Crawford CBE - Commandant of the Air and Space Warfare Centre, Royal Air Force**

Air Cdre Crawford is the Commandant of the Air and Space Warfare Centre. He completed tours on 111(F) and XXV(F) Squadrons, and the Tornado F3 Operational Conversion Unit, before promotion to Squadron Leader, where he was posted to the Tactical Leadership Programme, while completing a Masters at Cambridge University before returning to the F3 as a Flight Commander.

He completed Advanced Command and Staff College and an MA in Defence Studies, prior to posting to a strategy role in the Pentagon. He returned to the UK as OC Ops Wing at RAF Leuchars, before deploying as

XO to the Commanding General, 1st Infantry Division, in Baghdad on OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE. Crawford was awarded an OBE in 2015.

Within Joint Forces Command, he led the rollout of 'Warfare in the Information Age' and then returned to Washington as the interoperability lead for the Multi Domain Command and Control enterprise, before participating in the development of the USAF's innovation strategy.

Appointed Station Commander, RAF Leeming, he drove multiple transformation programmes including setting up the RAFX Innovation Hub. He was awarded a CBE in 2021 before attending Higher Command and Staff College. He is currently completing a Doctorate in Innovation, Technology and Strategy at Durham University, where he is also a Professor in Practice.



### **Jim "Guido" DiMatteo - Strategy Department, Director of Communications, F-5 Adversary Pilot, Tactical Air Support, Inc.**

Captain Jim Guido DiMatteo spent twenty-five years flying fighters in the U.S. Navy. He logged more than 5,000 hours flying the F-14 Tomcat, F/A-18 Hornet, A-4 Skyhawk, F-5N Tiger II and F-16N Fighting Falcon. He commanded Top Gun adversary squadrons (VFC-13, VFC-111) on both coasts and led the foundation stood up by the Commander Naval Air Forces to organise the Centennial of Naval Aviation Celebrations in 2011. DiMatteo retired in 2013 and currently serves as the Race Director for the popular Red Bull Air Races and as vice president of flight operations, features and attractions for the world's largest aviation event, EAA AirVenture Oshkosh.

His deep background and connections in aviation and his experience organising and managing large-scale events make him an ideal speaker for events around the world.

In 2007 Jim DiMatteo was recruited to be the first and only US Race Director for the International Red Bull Air Races. He was responsible for the development and coordination of all US aviation related activity, Rules and Regulations development, FAA (or international equivalent) liaison, execution and oversight of all flying sessions and was critical in race track design, which is unique to each location. In over 75 Air Races around the world the Red Bull Air Race safety record has maintained zero injuries or fatalities. The complexities of

organising and running a live-televised aviation event, viewed in over 140 countries, often in the heart of major cities (Barcelona, Budapest, Perth, Rio de Janeiro, Abu Dhabi, London, Indianapolis and Las Vegas Motor Speedways, etc) was never more challenging than the race Jim directed in New York around the Statue of Liberty and Manhattan. This race is now heralded as one of the greatest Air Races and aviation achievements in New York history.

In 2012, Jim was asked to revamp and run one of the largest aviation events in the world, AirVenture, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. For three years he was responsible for all AirVenture's Flight Operations and Features & Attractions. The three AirVentures that Jim lead, including 2014 when he coordinated the first ever US jet demonstration Team performance (the USAF Thunderbirds) are among the best, and safest, in the 64 year history of this renowned aviation event.

In 2014, Jim left Oshkosh to run Breitling Aviation in the US and be the Director of the Breitling Jet Team American Tour. This tour was the first in U.S. history where an International Jet Team performed extensively in America amassing over 40 airshows and over 100 displays and media flights to over 50 million spectators throughout the US and Canada.

## **Hugo Garcia Galán - NGWS/FCAS CPT Deputy Operational Chairman, Spanish Air and Space Force**

Details coming soon.



### **Brig Gen Arnaud Gary - Commander CEAM (French Air Warfare Center), Armée de l'air et de l'espace (French Air and Space Force)**

Brig Gen Arnaud Gary is a fighter pilot with over 2620 flying hours on Mirage 2000D, Jaguar, Alphajet, and PC-21, and 128 combat missions in ten deployments over Former-Yugoslavia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Libya. He became Commander of the French Air Warfare Center in Mont de Marsan in 2023.

Previously, he has held positions as Executive Assistant to Supreme Allied Commander Transformation - NATO HQ in Norfolk, USA (2021-2023); Air Base Commander – Cognac (2018-2020); USAF/A5SG CSAF Strategic Studies Group - Washington DC (2016-2018); Air Force Inspector – Paris (2015-2016); and Speech Writer and Military Assistant to the Vice Chief of Staff of the French Air Force (2013-2015).

Brig Gen Gary holds certificates from the Center for Higher Military Studies (CHEM) and Higher Institute for National Defence Studies (IHEDN), and has a Masters (graduated with distinction) in Strategic Studies from the Air War College (Maxwell, AL, USA). He got his pilot wings from the Fighter Pilot School in Tours (France) in 1999 and holds a Masters in Aeronautics from the French Air Force Academy.



### **Dr Raúl González Muñoz - Lecturer in Space Economy and Policy, University of Leicester; Researcher, Spanish Association of Aeronautical and Space Law (AEDAE)**

Dr Raúl González graduated with a Masters of Business Administration from the Polytechnic University of Valencia and with an MSc degree in Knowledge Management for Innovation at Cranfield University, as part of a joint degree programme between the two universities. He continued his studies in Cranfield University obtaining a PhD in Aerospace manufacturing, in a close collaboration with Airbus operations UK. After working for a year in Airbus Toulouse, he then conducted studies in Sciences Po University in Paris and joined the Space Task Force at the European External Action Service in Brussels. Currently, he is leading a research project within

Capgemini Engineering.



## Jane Greenman - Managing Director, Thales Training & Simulation, UK

Jane Greenman has responsibility for implementing the vision and strategic direction of Thales Training and Simulation business in the UK. Alongside this remit, Jane is also responsible for developing collaborative relationships and ensuring the business' 250-strong team provides exceptional performance-based training services and simulation solutions to Military, Government and civil customers in the UK, Europe and Saudi Arabia.

In her 30 year career, Jane has gained extensive experience across various Industry and Defence sectors including Aerospace, Security, Telecoms, Transportation and Space. Before her current position, Jane was Director,

Contract Avionics at Thales in the UK where, amongst other things, she held Board-level strategic roles for the Joint Venture Eurofighter Simulation Services in Europe, and the A400M Training Services JV.

Jane holds two Post-Graduate Diplomas in Marketing and in International Commercial Contract Management. She has a passion for helping individuals and teams to reach their full leadership potential and is currently studying for a Diploma in Transformational Coaching to attain membership of EMCC (European Mentoring and Coaching Council).

Outside of work, you're likely to find her in a yoga studio, watching or playing hockey and netball, or relaxing with a book or podcast.

## Air Marshal Sir Chris Harper FRAeS



Air Marshal Sir Chris Harper retired from the Royal Air Force in 2017. His 40-year military career began with his flying single-seat fighters, saw him command at all levels, and culminated with his serving as Director General of the International Military Staff in NATO HQ, Brussels. On leaving the Royal Air Force, Sir Chris started a small independent consultancy, CH4C Global Ltd.

Sir Chris advises a number of businesses on air and space-related topics and the strategic issues associated with UK and international defence and security. CH4C's commissions include Accenture (Member of the Global Defence Council), Adarga (Chair of the Adarga Advisory Group), Eagle Eye

Innovations (Non-Executive Chair), Frazer-Nash Consultancy, Auterion and Osprey Flight Solutions. Sir Chris maintains excellent connections at senior levels of Defence and is a member of the Defence workstream of the Munich Security Conference's Innovation Board. He is also a member of the Alphen Group and the Euro-Atlantic Senior Leadership Group; he is also a Non-Resident Senior Fellow of the Atlantic Council.

As the Honorary Air Commodore of No 2620 'County of Norfolk' Squadron, Sir Chris still holds a commission in the Royal Auxiliary Air Force. He is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and a member of the Society's Air and Space Power Group committee. He is also President of the UK Air League.

With a passion for harnessing new, innovative and positively disruptive technology for international defence and security, Sir Chris is determined to help with bridging rapidly the 'valley of death' that so often delays its adoption. He still flies for fun and enjoys skiing, shooting, English sports cars and American V-twin motorcycles.

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## Professor Keith Hayward FRAeS, FAEF

Professor Keith Hayward was formally Professor of International Relations at Staffordshire University. He was Head of Economic and Political Affairs at the SBAC from 1997 to 2004 and until his retirement in January 2015, he was Head of Research at the Royal Aeronautical Society. He is now spending his retirement switching between writing about contemporary aerospace issues and crawling through the National Archives at Kew working on various aspects of the relationship between British government and the aerospace industry. He is a regular contributor to the Aviation Historian and Aerospace. He has published several books and well over 100 chapters and articles on the defence and aerospace industries. A monograph tracing Britain's experience of military aerospace collaboration

since 1964 was published by Cambridge University Press in 2023. He is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and of the French Air and Space Academy.



## Rear Admiral Simon Henley FRAeS

Rear Adm Simon Henley Simon served as an Aircraft Engineer Officer in the Royal Navy for 32 years, retiring in the rank of Rear Admiral. He served as the UK lead in the US/UK Joint Strike Fighter Programme Office, and subsequently led the UK's Joint Combat Aircraft Integrated Project Team for 4 years. His last job before retirement was as Technical Director and head of Programme Management for the Defence Equipment and Support organisation. He subsequently joined Rolls-Royce as Programme Director for new programmes in Defence Aerospace, with responsibility for the F-35 Lightning 2 programme, and the propulsion systems for the Mantis and Taranis unmanned demonstration programmes. In 2010 he was seconded

to Europrop International as President, responsible for the development, certification, and introduction to service of the TP400 engine for the A400M aircraft, culminating in the delivery of the first aircraft to the French Air Force in 2013. Since leaving Rolls-Royce he has worked in a variety of Consultancy roles, and is currently Business and Industry Strategy Adviser to Reaction Engines Ltd, helping bring the revolutionary technology behind the SABRE Air-breathing Rocket engine to bear in other markets, particularly in tackling climate change through reducing emissions in transport and industry. He is a Chartered Aerospace Engineer, a Chartered Project Professional, a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, an Honorary Fellow of the Association for Project Management, a Fellow of L'Academie De L'Air et de L'Espace, and was President of the RAeS in 2018/19.



## Andrew Hilton - Synthetic Test & Evaluation Definition (Systems Engineer), MBDA

Andrew completed the MOD Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S) Advanced Apprenticeship Scheme in 2019 and spent a few years working in Military Aircraft Delivery Teams, including the PROTECTOR RPAS Certification programme and the P-8A Poseidon and Eurofighter Typhoon In-service Support programmes. He joined MBDA in August 2022 and joined the FCAS Synthetic Effector Integration (SEI) team as a systems engineer, where his main responsibility in the team is to establish and test methods of understanding Modelling & Simulation (M&S) and building/understanding Model Confidence and Model Assurance for MBDA and the wider FCAS Enterprise.

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**LT Eleftherios Karatzas - PhD fellow, European Security and Defence College; PhD researcher in Mechanical Engineering and Aeronautics, University of Patras; Officer, Greek Army**

Eleftherios Karatzas graduated from the Military Parachute School in 2015 and the Hellenic Military Academy in 2016, receiving his rank as a Second Lieutenant. In 2019, he graduated with an MSc in System Engineering from the Technical University of Crete. Until now, he has served at Airborne and Mechanized battalions as a Platoon and Company leader. Currently, he is the director of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Directorate at the Research and Technology Hellenic Army Center. He is a PhD Candidate at the University of Patras, Department of Mechanical Engineering and

Aeronautics and a Doctoral Fellow at the European Security and Defense College at Brussels. His research topic is related to UAV applications, specifically, a foldable fixed wing constructed with composite materials that meets NATO Class I standards, and is a distinguished speaker in UAV technology innovations. He is a “A Category” UAS pilot, PPL pilot and an aeromontelist.



**Admiral Sir Ben Key KCB CBE ADC - First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff**

Educated at Bromsgrove School, Ben Key joined the Royal Navy in 1984 as a University Cadet, subsequently graduating in Physics from Royal Holloway, University of London. He qualified as both helicopter aircrew and as a Principal Warfare Officer and as a junior officer saw service around the world in a variety of frigates and destroyers.

He has been privileged to command four ships: the mine hunter HMS SANDOWN, the frigates HMS IRON DUKE and HMS LANCASTER, and the aircraft carrier HMS ILLUSTRIOUS.

Shore appointments have included Resources and Plans in MOD, an advisor to the Iraqi Director Joint Staff in Baghdad, the UK's Permanent Joint HQ, and HQ Air Command. He has also served as Principal Staff Officer to the Chief of Defence Staff. From April 2013 to July 2015 he was Flag Officer Sea Training, responsible for recruiting as well as individual and operational training across the Royal Navy.

Promoted to Vice Admiral in February 2016, he was the Royal Navy's Fleet Commander from then until March 2019. He then served as the Chief of Joint Operations, prior to his appointment as First Sea Lord in November 2021. He was awarded the US Bronze Star in 2006 for his service in Baghdad, appointed CBE in 2016 and KCB in 2021.

Ben and his wife Elly have 3 children and make their home in Dorset. He is a governor of a school founded by his grandmother, and holds Honorary Degrees from his old university and the University of Plymouth. A Freeman of the City of London and a Younger Brother of Trinity House, he holds a Diploma from the Institute of Directors and is an alumnus of the London Business School. Now much better at talking about sport than actually playing any, he is President of a number of Royal Navy and UK Armed Forces sports.

**Gen (Arm) Philippe Koffi - Head of Joint French, German and Spanish Team in charge of FCAS Programme Management, DGA - Direction générale de l'armement, French Ministry of Armed Forces**

Details coming soon.



## **Kostiantyn Koshelenko - Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine for Digital Development, Digital Transformation, and Digitization, Author of "Management in Times of War"**

Prior to joining the Ministry of Social Policy, Kostiantyn Koshelenko worked as the Deputy Head of the State Property Fund of Ukraine and held top management positions in banks and financial companies.

He has been involved in the development of regional networks and the digital transformation of banking institutions, as well as the implementation of national projects such as transparent privatisation, Bank.ID, Apple Pay, Google Pay, mobile applications and customer service systems. He has experience in implementing project management approaches, including

Agile methodology.

On December 29, 2021, he was appointed Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine for Digital Development, Digital Transformation, and Digitization. Among Kostiantyn's projects are the implementation of the new Unified Information System of the Social Sphere, the eDopomoga humanitarian platform, and the provision of social online services via the Diia state portal, including adoption consultations and candidate registration for adoption.

Kostiantyn Koshelenko holds degrees in Finance, Computer Systems and Networks, and Management. He also has an MBA degree from Kyiv-Mohyla Business School and a diploma from the Ukrainian Corporate Governance Academy.



## **Erika Kuročkina - Vice-Minister of Economy and Innovation, Republic of Lithuania**

Erika Kuročkina is the Vice-Minister of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania since April 2023, responsible for the defence industry and innovation, digital policy, innovation in the public sector, and public procurement policy.

Before taking up the post of Vice-Minister, she was an adviser to the Minister of Economy and innovation and was working with building of the open data ecosystem in public sector; was a part of the governmental team which changed a legal approach towards private and public data centres, use of cloud technology and creation of Digital embassy, initiated digital

entrepreneurship programme.

Before joining the Ministry of the Economy and Innovation, she worked as Chief Official at Financial Department at the Vilnius City Municipality Administration and was engaged in the international activities in various EU projects.

In 2014, she obtained a Master of Public Policy Analysis at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University, and in 2012 graduated with a Bachelor of Political Science at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science of Vilnius University.





### **Maj Gen Jean-Luc Moritz - Head of the Future Combat Air System (FCAS) program, French Air and Space Force**

Jean-Luc Moritz is a fighter pilot by trade in the French Air Force, and he currently holds the position of Operational Chief of the French Future Combat Air System project. He mainly flew both the JAGUAR and the MIRAGE 2000 and has been deployed in several military operations in Europe and Middle East. He successively took the command of an operational fighter squadron, a Wing and its Air Base, the French Air Force combat fleet as he was promoted Brigadier-General and the Experimentations and Air Warfare Center. Among several assignments in the central administration in Paris, he notably acted as a nuclear deterrence adviser within the French defence minister's office.



### **Dr Brendan Mulvaney - China Aerospace Studies, National Defense University**

Dr. Brendan Mulvaney is currently the Director of the China Aerospace Studies Institute at National Defense University. He is a Marine who served for a quarter of a century, where he flew more than 2000 hours as a AH-1W Cobra pilot, and was an Olmsted Scholar in Shanghai, China.

He enlisted in 1991 and was commissioned in 1993 after graduating from UC San Diego. He earned his Master's in Leadership from the University of San Diego in 2002, and was selected as one of three Marine Olmsted Scholars for 2003. He studied at Fudan University in Shanghai, China from 2003-2005 where he earned his Ph.D. in International Relations.

He served several tours in California, Iraq, Japan, and the Western Pacific. He served as the first Director of the Commandant's Red Team, and supervised the implementation of Red Teaming in the Marine Corps. In 2013 he transferred to the U.S. Naval Academy, where he was the Associate Chair for the Languages and Cultures Department, and taught Mandarin Chinese, Chinese culture, and cross-cultural literacy.

He and his wife, Samantha, have twin sixteen-year old boys, Sean and Ryan, and live in Alexandria, VA.



### **Aleix Nadal – PhD Candidate, Freeman Air and Space Institute and the Defence Studies Department, King's College London**

Aleix Nadal is a PhD candidate at the Freeman Air and Space Institute and the Defence Studies Department, King's College London. His research examines the evolving posture of the UK Armed Forces on outer space since the end of the 1991 Gulf War, and how defence authorities interacted with senior policymakers to shape British defence space strategy. He teaches for the Royal Air Force's officers development programme on air and space power at the Joint Services Command and Staff College. He also teaches at KCL's Department of War Studies on Anglo-American grand strategy.



### **Daniel Rice - Strategic Advisor on China, The Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies**

Daniel Rice currently serves as the China Military and Political Strategy Subject Matter Expert at Marine Corps University's Brute Krulak Center for Innovation and Future Warfare. Daniel is also a Non-Resident Senior Fellow with the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies, the Chief Operation Officer of Foreign Brief, and the President of the consulting company Dong Feng. He holds a Master's degree in International Relations and International Economics from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and the Hopkins-Nanjing Center. He speaks and publishes on a wide variety of topics regarding China, the People's Liberation Army, and strategy. Daniel is fluent in Mandarin Chinese.



### **Air Commodore Patrick J Shea-Simonds OBE MA FIKE - Head of Capability Strategy, RAF**

Air Commodore Patrick Shea-Simonds was initially commissioned into the Royal Anglian Regiment (1st and 3rd Battalion) following graduation from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. After regimental duty and operational tours in the Army in Germany, UK, Northern Ireland and Bosnia he transferred to the Royal Air Force, joining the RAF Regiment in 1997. He subsequently served in the UK, NATO AWACS HQ in SHAPE, Iraq, Kuwait, Sierra Leone and Afghanistan. From 2010 to 2011 he commanded No7 RAF Force Protection Wing in Kandahar and in 2013 he was Deputy Commander Bastion-Leatherneck in Regional Command South-West working with the US Marine Corps.

In addition to serving as the Personal Staff Officer to the Assistant Chief of the Air Staff, he has completed two staff tours in the Directorate of Air Resources and Plans in the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD), and tours at HQ AIR Command as DACOS Strategy and DACOS Force Protection Commitments. As Assistant Head of Capability Strategy in the Finance, Military Capability area of MOD during the Strategic Defence & Security Review of 2015 he examined the wider Defence capability portfolio. Thereafter he attended the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS) after which he returned to HQ AIR Command to become DACOS Capability Plans looking across the RAF equipment plan during the Integrated Review before completing a tour as Deputy Head of the RAF Rapid Capabilities Office exploring areas of innovation and future technology. Promoted to Air Commodore he assumed the role of Head of Capability Strategy and was awarded the OBE in the 2024 New Year's Honours list.

He is married with 2 adult children, is an accident prone road cyclist and enjoys flying, motorcycling, hill-walking and history; he has motorcycled the Ho Chi Minh trail and completed the Deloitte Lands End to John O'Groats Ride Across Britain cycle event in 2022.



### **Lt Colonel Víctor Manuel Sobrino García - Vice-Head and Operational Director of the Spanish Future Combat Air System (FCAS) Program Office, Spanish Air Force**

Having graduated from the Spanish Air Force Academy in San Javier (Murcia), Lt Colonel Víctor Manuel Sobrino García was commissioned as a Lieutenant in 2002, specialising as a fighter and attack pilot on the F-18 aircraft. Throughout his service, he held various significant positions, including Chief of Electronic Warfare, Chief of Operations (COO) and Chief of instruction at the 15th Fighter Wing in Zaragoza. In 2012, he moved to Madrid to take on responsibilities at the A7 section of the Spanish Air Force Air Combat Command (MACOM), and at the Offensive Operations section of the Spanish Joint Force Air Component (ESP-JFAC). By 2018, he

assumed the command of the 122nd Fighting Squadron in Madrid.

Since 2020, Lieutenant Colonel Víctor M. Sobrino has been actively engaged in the NGWS/FCAS program, serving as the head of the operational section and deputy chief at the Spanish Ministry of Defense Program Office.

In addition to his domestic duties, Lieutenant Colonel Sobrino has contributed internationally, serving as Executive Officer (EXO) in the European Union's Atalanta Mission against piracy, and participating in various NATO activities. He brings with him extensive fighter flight experience, totaling more than 2000 flight hours.

Academically, Lieutenant Colonel Sobrino is a graduate of the Spanish Staff College and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, alongside with a Master's Degrees in Advanced Artificial Intelligence, Business Administration, and Direction of defense procurement programs. He is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Artificial Intelligence at the Spanish National Center for Oncological Research (CNIO).

He is married and a father of two.



### **Air Commodore Steve Thornber CBE MA - Deputy Director Integrated Cyber, Electromagnetic and Effects Directorate, Strategic Command, United Kingdom**

Steve served 35 years in the RAF, retiring from Regular Service in 2021 as Director of Operations for Defence Intelligence, Head of the RAF's Intelligence Profession, and Chair of the NATO Strategic Warning Panel. He is a career intelligence officer with a strategic perspective from years of close engagement with international diplomatic and law enforcement agencies. He has been an advisor to Government Ministers, security organisations and military leadership. He has extensive governance, resilience, risk, and strategic planning experience. He commanded Number 1 Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing, the US/UK Joint

Narcotics Analysis Centre, and the UK's National Imagery Intelligence Exploitation Centre. He served two tours on exchange with the US Military, firstly in the mid-90s as an instructor, and latterly as the Deputy Director of Intelligence at US Central Command in Florida. He also served as Deputy Director of Management in NATO's Strategic HQ Allied Powers Europe, and as Deputy Director of Intelligence for ISAF Joint Command in Afghanistan. Operational and combat deployments include several South Asian, Middle Eastern and Eastern European tours. On leaving the Military, Steve went into consulting in government, technical, financial, and space sectors, joined Universal Defence & Security Solutions, and is a part-time RAF Reservist guiding Defence's Targeting Enterprise. He is Chair of the RAF Intelligence Association, President of an intelligence veterans' association, and Chair of a Trustees Board.



### **Major General Kemal Turan - Deputy Chief of Staff Operations, Turkish Air Force**

Major General Turan was born in İstanbul, Türkiye in 1970. He is currently DCOS OPS in Turkish Air Force Headquarters. He has held this position since August 2023.

After earning his wings in 1994, in early part of his career he served in F-16 squadrons specialising in air defence and LANTIRN roles. Between 2001 and 2004, he was assigned to NATO AWACS Component in Germany as aircraft commander.

As a junior staff officer, he worked at Operations Plan Division at Regional Air Command and at Wing Operations Office of 8th Main Jet Base in Diyarbakır. As command assignments he served as Commanding Officer of 182nd Fighter Squadron in Diyarbakır and Operations Group Commander at İncirlik Air Base.

Among other commitments, he served two years as Air Mishap Investigator in Safety Division of Turkish Air Force Headquarters and one year as Branch Head in Military Training Cooperation Division at Turkish General Staff Headquarters in Ankara. He was promoted to Brigadier General in 2016 and served five years as the Commander of 9th Main Jet Base located at Balıkesir.

He served as Deputy Commander of Air Combat Command & Com. Turkish JFAC for two years before he was promoted to Major General in 2023.



### **Brigadier General Edi Turco - Chief of Staff of the Air Education Training Command / 3rd Air Region Italian Air Force**

Brig Gen Edi Turco serves as Chief of Staff of the Air Education Training Command / 3rd Air Region and Head of the International Flight Training School (IFTS) Program Office.

Brig Gen Turco joined the Italian Air Force in 1991 and he graduated at the Air Force Academy in 1995. He is a Master Navigator, Weapon Instructor, with more than 2200 flying hours (2000 of which on Tornado). He has served different combat tours. He spent most of his operational career assigned to the 154th Squadron, 6th Wing in Ghedi (Brescia - Italy) flying, as a WSO, on Tornado aircraft (reconnaissance, conventional and dual role fighter-bomber).

Brig Gen Turco was the Air System Requirements Working Group Lead and F-35 Future Requirements Deputy Lead at the JSF Program Office, in Arlington, Virginia (USA).

He was Base/Wing Director of Operations at 6th Wing Ghedi (Italy), he commanded the 2nd Wing at Rivolto Air Force Base (Italy) and he was the Deputy Commander Air Staff Situational Room at the Air Operational Forces Command in Rome (Italy).

Prior to his current assignment, Brig Gen Turco was the Air Attaché at the Embassy of Italy in Washington DC (USA), accredited both to the United States Department of the Air Force and Mexico.

Brig Gen Turco is a graduate of the Joint and Combined Forces Staff College in Rome.

### **Uves Wood - BD Director for Agile Air, Draken; former Deputy Force Cdr for the F35**



Uves Wood joined the Draken Team in January 2023 as Director Adversary Air. Prior to this he was in the Royal Navy, holding a variety of operational, management and leadership roles during a 35-year career. As a strike fighter pilot, Uves has seen operational service in Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya and during his last 3 years was the UK F-35 Deputy Force Commander responsible for F-35 core performance and operational outputs and strategic priorities. In his spare time Uves enjoys open water swimming, cycling, running and plays golf badly!

### **Gordon Woolley OBE AFC FRAeS**



Gordon Woolley OBE AFC FRAeS served in the RAF as a helicopter pilot from 1965, retiring in the rank of Group Captain in 1996. He is a graduate of the Joint Services Defence College and the Air Warfare Commanders Course. He joined the Medium Support Helicopter Aircrew Training Facility project in 1997, as the project development pilot and support co-ordinator. From 2000 to 2012 he managed the MSHATF Tactical Control Centre, and led on operational and training scenario design, and networked collective training issues. He is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and past-Chairman of the Flight Simulation Group (FSG), the IPTA Helicopter Mission Training Workstream, and co-chairman of the ICATEE Steering Committee. He is currently the FSG Business Manager, and represents the FSG on the

Falcon 2 Project, and in examining how modelling and simulation can support the development and operation of Electric Air Vehicles.

