

WILLIAM THOMAS

SENIOR ASSOCIATE, DAYTON AEROSPACE, INC.

PROFILE

Over 38 years of technical expertise in air vehicle flight mechanics, with extensive specialization in stability and control (S&C), flying qualities (FQ), and flight controls, with significant experience in internal aerodynamics, external aerodynamics, and flight performance. Intimately involved in every release of MIL-STD-1797, *Flying Qualities of Piloted Aircraft*, as well as writing the flying qualities specifications for multiple United States Air Force (USAF) aircraft (e.g., F-22, B-21, F-15SA, B-52J). Excels at uncovering technical problems and shortcomings and formulating highly innovative, workable solutions. Received the "Civilian of the Year" award at every stage of career. NH-04, Department of the Air Force (DAF) (Retired).

PRINCIPAL AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Flight Test Planning	Requirements Planning	Stability & Control
Air Vehicle Integration	Aerodynamics	Technical Review Teams
Systems Engineering	Engineering and Technical Leadership	Airworthiness Certification

WORK HISTORY

Senior Associate | Dayton Aerospace, Inc.

2025-present, *Dayton, OH*

Provides systems engineering technical expertise to government and industry clients in all phases of the acquisition life cycle. Specific areas of expertise include air vehicle subsystems engineering, flight controls, and internal and external aerodynamics.

Technical Advisor | Air Force Life Cycle Management Center (AFLCMC)/Flight Mechanics Branch (EZFT)

2016-2025, *Wright-Patterson AFB (WPAFB), OH*

Orchestrated MIL-HDBK-516D, *Airworthiness Certification Criteria*, Flight Technology (Section 6) airworthiness assessments on hundreds of air vehicle modifications and dozens of new-build air vehicles. Assured due diligence and rigor of assessments. Hand-picked to provide flight mechanics technical expertise on dozens of USAF programs. Provided outstanding technical guidance that made tangible impacts on program success. Tri-Service lead for MIL-HDBK-516C, Section 6 update/rewrite. Provided technical accident investigation support to several programs (e.g., U-2, RC-26, A-29). Identified causal factors and recommendations, all of which were approved.

Technical Expert, S&C/FQ | AFLCMC/EZFT

2007-2016, *WPAFB, OH*

Recognized expert in military aircraft airworthiness and flying qualities with extensive experience supporting high-level acquisition programs and flight safety initiatives. Played critical roles in major programs such as Automatic Ground Collision Avoidance System (AGCAS), Hypersonic Air-Breathing Weapon Concept (HAWC), KC-X, B-1B, AC-130J, and C-5M, uncovering flight control deficiencies, influencing redesigns, and driving policy and technical consensus across Tri-Service stakeholders. Led independent technical reviews, flight test risk reduction efforts, and standard development initiatives. Co-chaired executive review teams, taught AFIT courses, and mentored the next generation of engineers while shaping the future of airworthiness evaluation.



DAYTON AEROSPACE

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EDUCATION

MS, Aeronautical & Astronautical Engineering

Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT)

BS, Aeronautical & Astronautical Engineering

The Ohio State University

AS, Science

Cuyahoga Community College

AA, Arts

Cuyahoga Community College

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

Acquisition Corps Certification

Acquisition Professional Development Program (APDP)

Systems Planning, Research, Development and Engineering (SPRDE), Level 3

Program Management, Level 1

Test and Evaluation, Level 1

Acquisition Leadership Challenge Program (ALCP)-III

Acquisition Leadership Challenge Program (ALCP)-II

Helicopter Performance, Stability and Control Short Course

University of Kansas

WORK HISTORY (CONT'D)

Branch Chief | Aeronautical Systems Center Plans & Programs Branch (ASC/ENOX) (now Air Force Life Cycle Management Center (AFLCMC)/EN/XP)

2005-2007, WPAFB, OH

Made unprecedented impacts on F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program as the only ASC/EN representative championing incorporation of USAF processes on the Flight Clearance Working Group (FCWG), United States Acceptance Working Group (USAWG), International Acceptance Working Group (IAWG), and Certification Working Group (CWG). Led joint coordination and establishment of JSF Policy Directive 39 (PD-39), Flight Clearance Procedure, with major impact on program success. Championed adoption and institutionalization of MIL-HDBK-516B and MIL-HDBK-514, Operational Safety, Suitability and Effectiveness (OSS&E). Convinced F-35 leadership to establish and conduct a joint ASC/ EN- Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) independent Flight Readiness Review Team (FRRT) modeled on ASC/EN First Flight Executive Independent Review Team (EIRT) activities. Conducted numerous, effective employee mentoring actions and actively recognized exceptional performance with awards write-ups and other recognition.

Prior to 2005:

- Plans and Programs Engineer, ASC/ENOX, WPAFB, OH
- Flying Qualities Engineer, Flight Mechanics Branch, ASC/ENFT, WPAFB, OH
- Chief Flight Mechanics Engineer ERCM Development System Office, ASC/FBXC, WPAFB, OH
- Lead Flying Qualities Engineer, F-22 Program Office, ASC/YFABU, WPAFB, OH
- S&C/FQ Engineer, ASC/ENFT, WPAFB, OH

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