

Jeff Huddleston - Bio

Jeff graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in Mechanical Engineering before reporting to Naval Flight School Pensacola in June 1984. By September of the following year, he was headed for San Diego and his first squadron, HC-1, The Fleet Angels. From there he did tours at NAF Atsugi, Japan to include a nine month stint in the Persian Gulf for Desert Shield and Desert Storm; NAS Oceana, VA; and ASU Bahrain.

Ultimately, Jeff left active service to pursue a career in commercial flying where he flew numerous aircraft with various charter companies, including business jets with NetJets before being hired with American Airlines in April 2001, only to be furloughed six months later following 9/11. Fortunately, he remained with the Reserves, flying C-130's out of NAF Washington (Andrews AFB). In October 2001, LCDR Huddleston led the second detachment to the Persian Gulf in support of what became Operation Enduring Freedom.

In November 2002, now CDR Huddleston was recalled to active duty to support NAVAIR 4.5X, Special Surveillance Programs, to help design, develop, test, deploy and manage what became known as "expendable" UAVs, vehicles inexpensive enough that they could be used without cost being the most significant consideration. In August 2004, CDR Huddleston deployed with the Mako and a team of civilian contractors to Balad AB just north of Baghdad in support of IED Blitz, a JCS effort to identify IED's from the air.

By June 2005, CDR Huddleston had returned to the US to manage the Mako deployment as well as help deploy a new Deep Blue initiative to COMUSNAVCENT: Scan Eagle. This was the first Navy deployment of Scan Eagle and continues today to be the primary surveillance system in use on the Iraqi oil platforms in the Northern Arabian Gulf.

For the next three years, CDR Huddleston continued to manage and help develop new vehicles (Tigershark) and system components for a variety of uses, working with a numerous entities to include: Insitu, Boeing, Navmar, ACR, L-3 Titan, Kuchera, Torrey Pines Logic, University of PA, JHU APL, AFRL, Navy Ten Cap and SOCOM. In October 2008, Jeff left active service to start his own company, Global UAS Services, offering his services for hire to companies and government entities alike. Some of Global's current clients include General Dynamics, Cubic Defense Applications, Navmar, Neany, NAVAIR, Elbit Systems and L-3 Titan.