

JIM RATTI

PRESIDENT EMERITUS, DAYTON AEROSPACE, INC.

PROFILE

Former Dayton Aerospace president and seasoned business executive, program manager, engineer, and acquisition expert, with over 35 years of hands-on experience successfully managing and guiding development, production, modernization, and support programs across the Department of Defense (DOD). Served as the A-10 weapon system program manager (SPM). Assisted numerous large and small businesses in structuring complex program execution plans and proposals. Integrated master planning and scheduling (IMP/IMS) expert. Adept at team building. Colonel, US Air Force (USAF) (Retired). Former USAF pilot.

PRINCIPAL AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Program Management

Developed business case and persuaded senior USAF leadership to fund a \$1.2B competitive program to replace fatigued wings on A-10 aircraft worldwide. Program doubled original life span and saves \$2.6B over weapon system lifecycle. Tenaciously led complex acquisition strategy development and competition for streamlined \$2B, 15-year, USAF-wide training systems contract.

Cost/Schedule Control

Expertly led efforts to reduce manufacturing costs of state-of-the-art F-22 engine. Crafted a cost and profit-sharing incentive program that reduced production costs over \$38M in just one year. Returned over \$700K of a \$3M annual budget through shrewd management of a complex flight test organization.

Integration/Test

Led most extensive avionics upgrade in the history of the A-10 aircraft—a \$477M program that provided precision weapons and data link capabilities to the entire fleet. Designed and directed comprehensive ground test of a \$42M avionics upgrade to a C-135 testbed aircraft. Built and led team which developed the first-ever system-level avionics test for foreign versions of the F-16.

Risk Management

Developed and executed comprehensive risk mitigation strategy to address A-10 structural fatigue issues. The strategy blended predictive analyses, inspections, repairs, and aircraft tracking. Hand-selected to lead teams reviewing foreign object damage prevention at major defense contractor's site—program is now the industry benchmark.

Team Building

Formed and led team composed of representation from four organizations to deliver a \$2B training systems support contract. Personally, persuaded change-resistant staffs to forge strategic alliances. Formed and led new, 30-person "program support branch" within organization which coalesced multiple disciplines to provide computer, personnel, logistics, security, and contract management support for 250 personnel.

Customer Service

Spearheaded efforts and solved the top operational issue on F-22 engine—intermittent afterburner ignition. Prioritized resources, focused efforts, and motivated team. As executive airlift squadron commander, orchestrated all logistical aspects of a six-day, five-country European trip for the Deputy Secretary of Defense—on just 36 hours' notice. Consistently met 100% of VIP airlift taskings.



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4141 Colonel Glenn Hwy.
Suite 252
Dayton, Ohio 45431

P: (937) 426.4300

L: [linkedin.com/in/jim-ratti](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jim-ratti)

EDUCATION

BS, Electrical Engineering
US Air Force Academy

MS, Operations Management
University of Arkansas

Air Command and Staff College

Air War College

Defense Systems Management College (DSMC)

KEY POSITIONS

President

Dayton Aerospace, Inc.

System Program Manager

A-10 System Program Office

Director

Training Systems Management
Directorate

Director

F119 (F-22) Engine Program

Chief, Program Support Division

Training Systems Product Group

Commander

412th Flight Test Squadron

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Air Force Association (AFA)

National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA)

Dayton Defense

Dayton Development Coalition

WORK HISTORY

President Emeritus & President | Dayton Aerospace, Inc.

2015-present, Dayton, OH

Part-owner and president emeritus of the firm. As president, led the board of directors (BOD) and managed all operational and financial aspects of the company's business. Set company goals, formulated policy, led business development, and mentored associates. In 2020, transitioned from president to president emeritus status, providing company guidance as a knowledgeable member of the BOD and supporting various projects.

Vice President & Senior Associate | Dayton Aerospace, Inc.

2007-2014, Dayton, OH

Provided program management, integrated master planning and scheduling (IMP/IMS) expertise, manpower requirements analysis, proposal support, acquisition planning, business development, and airworthiness consultation and training services to numerous government and industry clients. Transitioned from Senior Associate to Vice President and BOD member in 2014.

System Program Manager | A-10 System Program Office

2005-2007, Hill AFB, UT

Single manager for entire A-10 fighter aircraft fleet. Accountable for all aspects of A-10 weapon system modernization and sustainment. Built business case and won support for \$1.2B A-10 Wing Replacement Program. Directed implementation of the Precision Engagement Program (PEP), the most comprehensive avionics upgrade in A-10 history. Personally fostered dramatic improvements in working relationships among weapon system stakeholders. Responsible for annual budget exceeding \$200M.

Director | Training Systems Management Directorate

2004-2005, Hill AFB, UT

Directed the acquisition, upgrades, and life cycle support for USAF aircrew simulators and maintenance training devices worldwide. Brokered agreements among three diverse operational and training organizations to implement 4-star vision of joint mission rehearsals. Led directorate through complex and controversial reorganization.

Director | F119 (F-22) Engine Program

2002-2004, WPAFB, OH

Led team responsible for development, production, and support of the world's most advanced fighter aircraft engine. Drove dramatic production cost reduction initiatives saving over \$38M annually. Laid groundwork for innovative government/industry partnership for F119 depot support. Led aggressive efforts to successfully solve afterburner ignition issues which threatened operational test.

Chief, Program Support Division | Training Systems Product Group (TSPG)

2000-2002, WPAFB, OH

Directed IT, security, management operations, human resources, and new business activity for 250-person directorate. Seamlessly meshed four organizations to lead acquisition strategy development and competitive source selection for \$2B omnibus training systems goods/services contract. Sold revolutionary acquisition strategy through all levels of management up through the Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition (SAF/AQ).

Prior to 2000

- Commander, 412th Flight Test Squadron, *Edwards AFB, CA*
- Avionics Integration Engineer/Program Manager, F-16 Program Office, *WPAFB, OH*
- Avionics Test Program Manager/VIP Airlift Pilot, *Andrews AFB, MD*
- Instructor Research Pilot, C-135, NC-135, et al, *WPAFB, OH*
- Pilot, KC-135A, *Blytheville AFB, AR*

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KEY PROJECTS

- Performed comprehensive review of aircraft design/test artifacts to determine compliance with MIL-HDBK-516B, *Airworthiness Certification Criteria*, for a large industry customer. Performed risk evaluations and recommended mitigation actions for non-compliant areas.
- Worked with a first-tier defense contractor to develop requirements, marketing strategies, and airworthiness certification plans for a new aircraft design.
- Provided in-depth IMS planning and program execution support for a first-tier defense contractor providing a major unmanned surveillance system to the US Navy. Worked with the major subcontractors to ensure their IMSs met the prime's and the Navy's exacting standards.
- Wrote systems engineering volume of a proposal for a complex electronic test set program—small business client was awarded competitive contract.
- Performed a comprehensive review of a contractor's aircraft depot maintenance operation to help them prepare for a major government inspection. Offered specific, actionable recommendations for improvement. Customer implemented recommendations and passed inspection.
- Led the team which designed and built a major section of a comprehensive, 17-week airworthiness course for an allied government. Acted as classroom instructor and spoke on airworthiness topics at an international convention. Regularly provided classroom instruction in airworthiness topics. Assisted an aircraft manufacturer in obtaining military airworthiness certification for a commercially-produced aircraft.
- Led team which developed the underlying business questions and logic for a semi-automated system to assess the health of USAF acquisition programs. Received "Exceptional" CPAR from government customer.

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