

Panel: Nontraditional Technology, Tools, Innovation and OTAs

Mr. Garth Blakely
*Director of Government Business
Development and Strategy, Castleton*

Prior to joining Castleton, CDR Blakely, USN (Ret) served in the US Navy for more than 20 years. He began his career with the "Blacklions" of VFA-213, deploying on USS Theodore Roosevelt in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, later graduating from TOPGUN in 2011 and serving as a TOPGUN Instructor and subject matter expert. He went on to serve with the "Checkmates" of VFA-211 during the first Naval Integrated Fire Control deployment and was named Strike Fighter Wing Atlantic WSO of the Year in 2015, then with the "Shrikes" of VFA-94, where he deployed on USS Theodore Roosevelt in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and earned the 2017 Navy and Marine Corps Association Leadership Award. Returning to TOPGUN, he served as Executive and Commanding Officer, as well as the Navy and Marine Corps F/A-18 Fighter Integration SME and Air Wing Fallon Instructor. He concluded his career at OPNAV N98 Strike as the Navy Air Launched Weapons Division Lead and Requirements Officer.

CDR Blakely, USN (Ret) leaves behind a distinguished record of over 2,100 flight hours across the F/A-18F, F/A-18D, and F-16B, including 472 carrier-arrested landings in the F/A-18F. His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, four Strike/Flight Air Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and numerous unit, service, and campaign awards.

Mr. Todd Wesley
*Senior Director for Hivemind Solutions, Strike
Portfolio, at Shield AI*

Todd Wesley is the Senior Director for Hivemind Solutions, Strike Portfolio, at Shield AI, where he leads the development and integration of the company's Hivemind AI Pilot across multiple weapon systems. Before joining Shield AI, Todd served as the Program and Engineering Director for ISR Special Programs at Lockheed Martin's Skunk Works®, overseeing a \$3 billion portfolio of weapon system development and production programs.

With over two decades of experience across Lockheed Martin, MIT Lincoln Laboratory, and Boeing, Todd has driven innovation in autonomous platforms, open mission systems, and flight control technologies. He holds a Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Company Overview:

Founded in 2015, Shield AI is a venture-backed deep-tech company with the mission of protecting service members and civilians with intelligent systems. Its products include the V-BAT aircraft, Hivemind Enterprise, and the Hivemind Vision product lines. With nine offices and facilities across the U.S., Europe, the Middle East, and the Asia-Pacific, Shield AI's technology actively supports operations worldwide.

