**David J. Lewis**

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# Qualifications Summary

I have many years of experience leading and motivating organizations large and small to achieve their peak performance and mission accomplishment. I had a rewarding and highly successful twenty nine year military career; the last eleven years in senior executive positions. I have significant experience with all branches of the military, allowing me to cross complex inter-service cultural boundaries. In my post military career I continue to guide the young men and women who will become our country’s next generation of leaders. My forte is strategic thinking applied to complex problems to create lasting solutions, no matter what the environmental challenges may be.

## 2020-Present Director, Veterans Services Department

Harris County, TX

First director and department head for a newly created Veterans Services Department. Primary Veterans Services Officer assisting eligible veterans and dependents to gain access to and receive benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Texas Veterans Commission. Leads multiple teams focused on claims processing, veterans’ transition, veteran homelessness, justice-involved veterans and mental health. Conducts frequent outreach and collaboration to ensure Harris County and surrounding region veterans have access to supportive services to enhance their quality of life and ease transition challenges from military to civilian life.

## 2008-2020 Director, Strategic Studies Program Texas Tech University

Lubbock, TX

Responsible for the concept and creation of a 15 credit-hour graduate certificate in Strategic Studies designed to teach students to think strategically and analyze complex national security issues. The certificate is designed to enhance employment opportunities in national and state government agencies including intelligence, homeland security and defense. Primary instructor in the Strategic Studies core courses, including Foundations of Strategic Thought, Intelligence in the Post-9/11 World, and Capstone Seminar in Strategic Studies. Currently serving as an Assistant Professor of Practice under the Political

Science Department. Undergraduate courses taught include Terrorism and Counterinsurgency and The

Politics of National Security and the Military. Created and taught a new course for the Public

Administration graduate program called Strategies for Success in the Public Sector. Created a new

Veteran Studies foundations course to be taught Fall 2017. Founding Member of the Texas Tech Institute for Peace and Conflict. Instructor for the Texas Tech University Certified Public Manager course including sections on Strategy, Leadership, Communications and small organization dynamics.

## 2011-2017 President, Veterans Resource Coordination Group and Director of Veteran Services (VetStar) StarCare Specialty Health System Lubbock, TX

First elected president of a new community-wide veterans resource network. Responsible for all aspects of a multi-tiered reintegration and community support program with an annual budget in excess of

$2,000,000. Designed a holistic strategy based on outreach and sequential intercepts for Post Traumatic Stress, substance abuse, family challenges, education, employment and other transition issues. Coauthored and received thirteen state-level grants and a federal grant for emergency financial assistance, homeless solutions, peer network programs and jail diversion and trauma recovery for a population of 35,000 veterans in a thirty-county service area. Created an innovative approach to fill in the gaps of service for an underserved rural veteran population. Director of Veterans Services for the local mental health authority leading a team of eighteen hard-charging support staff. Frequent invited speaker to address veteran transition challenges, including the Aerospace Medical Association, Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, National Association for Rural Mental Health and several local and state level media outlets. We assist more than 3,500 veterans and family members annually.

## 2010-Present Principal, Caprock Strategy and Leadership, LLC

Lubbock, TX

Established a boutique consulting firm focused on teaching strategic success for public and private enterprises. Created a framework for assisting clients and students in the characterization and strategic focus of their enterprise utilizing ten key strategic themes.

## 2010-2011 Director, Military and Veterans Programs Texas Tech University

Lubbock, TX

Responsible for the concept, creation and direction of a new center for Texas Tech in anticipation of increased veteran presence on campus following the passage of the post-9/11 GI Bill. Established the framework for recruitment, reception and retention of veterans through all aspects of their college education focused on the unique challenges faced by the military and veteran student population. Responsible for strategic planning, internal administration and managerial matters as well as morale, welfare and daily operations. 300% increase in student veteran population in a single year; current veteran student population is over 1,200.

## 2006-2009 Department Chair and Detachment Commander (Colonel) Air Force ROTC Texas Tech University Lubbock, TX

Senior military officer on campus with the rank of full professor. Responsible for the recruitment, screening and training of 100-150 officer candidates through a 4-year academic and leadership program designed to produce high-caliber officers and leaders for the U.S. Air Force. Managed all interactions between the Air Force and Texas Tech University to include strategic planning and financial and budgetary matters. Led all academic and administration activities for the Aerospace Studies academic department to include a broad range of functions such as personnel, logistics, resource management, facilities management, and protocol.

## 2004-2006 Operations Group Commander (Colonel) Columbus Air Force Base Columbus, MS

Principal leader for six squadrons with overall flying and airfield operations responsibilities to train and graduate 250 US Air Force pilots per year at the busiest airfield in the United States with over 400,000 annual flight activities. Maintained instructor pilot qualification in the T-37 aircraft and flight examiner qualification in the T-37, T-38 and T-1 aircraft. Acting wing commander during the impact and follow-on actions for Hurricane Katrina. Senior advisor to the wing commander on all operational and training issues. Led, managed and coordinated projects and programs designed to optimize production of Air Force pilots. Implemented innovative “lean” and quality management concepts in a highly dynamic environment. Exercised executive-level judgment to solve complex strategic issues and made difficult decisions for a 1,110 person organization.

## 2003-2004 Professor, Strategy and Policy (Colonel)

## U.S. Naval War College Newport, RI

Taught a graduate level course designed to teach students to think strategically to analyze complex political and military situations. The course utilized an interdisciplinary approach to strategy, drawing upon the disciplines of history, political science, international relations and economics. Military factors such as the profession of arms, doctrine, weaponry, training, technology and logistics were integrated to produce a coherent frame of reference necessary to analyze complex strategic problems. The Strategy and Policy course is the “signature” academic program in what is generally regarded as the most academically rigorous war college curriculum in the country.

## 2000-2002 Operations Group Deputy Commander (Lieutenant Colonel) Spangdahlem Air Base Germany

Responsible for two F-16 and one A-10 Fighter squadrons, one Air Control Squadron and all associated airfield operations in a NATO environment. Maintained F-16 pilot mission ready status as well as instructor and flight examiner qualifications. Deployed in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Principal advisor to the group commander overseeing a broad range of operational and administrative functions to include combat readiness, training, personnel, logistics, resource management, facilities management and protocol. Frequently required to exercise executive-level judgment in a complex NATO environment. Assumed all duties of the commander during his frequent absence.

## 1998-2000 Fighter Squadron Commander (Lieutenant Colonel) Cannon Air Force Base Clovis, NM

First commander for a newly designated operational fighter squadron for the Republic of Singapore, training in the United States. Responsible for all aspects of personnel management, logistics support, flying training, aircraft maintenance and daily operations of a combat-ready Republic of Singapore Air Force F-16 squadron. Exercised executive-level decision making in a highly visible international environment for an organization consisting of 20 American and 200 Republic of Singapore personnel.

## 1996-1998 Fighter Squadron Operations Officer (Lieutenant Colonel) Cannon Air Force Base Clovis, NM

Responsible for daily operations and flying training of a combat-ready F-16 fighter squadron. Maintained

F-16 mission ready status as well as instructor and flight examiner qualifications. Deployed in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, including multiple combat missions over Iraq. Created the training program and qualification for the highly demanding combat search and rescue mission in the F-16 aircraft.

## 1995-1996 Wing Combat Plans Officer (Major) Kunsan Air Base Republic of South Korea

Responsible for the detailed planning and integration of a combat-ready F-16 fighter wing in the defense of South Korea. Served as the primary mission director in charge of a highly dynamic operations center. Maintained F-16 pilot combat mission ready status, as well as instructor pilot responsibilities.

## 1992-1995 F-16 Advanced Development Program (Major) Air Combat Command Headquarters Hampton, VA

Primary staff officer responsible for advanced technology development, selection and integration on the F-16 aircraft. Personally responsible for creating, testing and fielding the most complex and modern variation of the F-16 fighter aircraft still in use today. Lead project officer for a short-notice program to articulate and prioritize all fighter aircraft improvements to a panel of 22 general officers. This program paved the way for fighter combat success for the U.S. Air Force for nearly twenty years and multiple wars.

## 1990-1992 Air Force Liaison Officer (Captain) United States Army Schweinfurt, Germany

Primary advisor to the U.S. Army Infantry Brigade Commander for tactical air power operations.

Operating location commander for a detachment of 22 U.S. Air Force and 5 U.S. Army personnel. Extensive ground combat experience as the advanced guard for the U.S. VII Corps in Operation DESERT STORM, including the destruction of 22 enemy tanks of the Iraqi Republican Guard.

## Prior

Instructor pilot, U.S. Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training. F-16 combat mission ready pilot, flight commander and wing executive officer.

## Education

U.S. Naval War College, Master of Arts (with distinction)(2003). Major: National Security and Strategic Studies.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Master of Business Administration (1995) GPA 3.9

University of Southern California, Bachelor of Science (1980). Major: Mechanical Engineering GPA 3.25

## Community

Chair, Board of Directors, Texas Aviation Heritage Foundation, Inc.

Founding member and first Chairman, City of Lubbock Veterans Advisory Committee

Member, Board of Directors, Texas Tech Center for Public Service

Member, Community Advisory Board, Texas Tech Vietnam Center and Archive

Faculty Advisor, Veterans Association of Texas Tech

Vice Flight Captain, Daedalians Flight 52

Member, Texas Tech Strategic Enrollment Planning Council

Member, Texas Tech Academic Advisement and Retention Council

Life Member, Air Force Association

Life Member, Military Officers Association of America

Life Member, Tau Beta Pi National Engineering Honor Society

## Academic Activities

Founding member, Institute for Peace and Conflict, Texas Tech University   
Co-creator, Texas Tech University Strategic Studies graduate certificate  
Member, Global Studies steering committee, Texas Tech University   
Member, Masters of Public Administration Advisory Board, Texas Tech University   
Member, Secure Critical Infrastructure Research Group, Texas Tech University   
Developed undergraduate coursework in Terrorism and Counterinsurgency, National Security, Homeland Security, and Veterans Studies   
Developed graduate coursework in Foundations of Strategy, National Security and Intelligence in the Post-9/11 era, Strategies for Success in the Public Sector, and a new Veterans Studies course

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