



Michael F. Canders, Ph.D, is an Associate Professor of Aviation and Director of the Aviation Center at Farmingdale State College of the State University of New York. He is responsible for the safe training of approximately 100 professional pilot students utilizing 22 College owned aircraft at the FSC Aviation Center at Republic Airport, staffed by 40 professional pilots, administrators, dispatchers, and maintenance technicians. Dr. Canders is certified by the FAA as an airline transport pilot (ATP) and as a multi engine instructor pilot (CFI). He is recognized as an aviation and safety expert and is a frequent media contributor to News 12, WCBS News Channel 2 NBC, Fox 5 News and Newsday

Dr. Canders graduated from the US Naval Academy and served 33 years of active and reserve duty as a Navy aircraft carrier helicopter pilot and as a US Air Force rescue and special operations pilot with six deployments to the Middle East. He served for eight years on US Navy active duty and then left to begin a civilian career in the electronics manufacturing sector while also transitioning from the Navy to the Air National Guard as a part time rescue pilot. He earned a MBA from Hofstra University and worked in business development and program management eventually rising to become the President of the Communications and Electronic Systems Division of Telephonics Corporation in Farmingdale New York. Shortly after 9/11/2001, Mike left his civilian job and returned to full time active duty as the Commander of the 106th Rescue Wing of the NY Air National Guard, best known for its portrayal in the book and film, "The Perfect Storm".

The 106<sup>th</sup> was deeply engaged in the global war on terror immediately following 9/11 with deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa. The unit also continued flying CONUS based civil rescue and recovery missions including in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and following Hurricane Ike in Houston, TX in 2008. Mike's final military assignment was as Commander of the main US Air Base and the 447<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group (AEG) in Baghdad, Iraq. He is currently an advisor and mentor for veteran owned businesses and is a member of the Military Advisory Committee of Fiserv Corporation.