

# **Michael Canders**

**Aviation Center Director, Associate Professor at Farmingdale State College**

Farmingdale, NY, US

Dr. Canders is an airline transport pilot, commercial helicopter pilot, and drone pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours experience.

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## **Biography**

A decorated combat veteran, Dr. Canders combines a degree from the U.S. Naval Academy, 7 1/2 years as a Naval Officer and helicopter rescue pilot and another 8 1/2 years in Air Force service after 9/11, with both an MBA and PhD (in Applied Management and Decision Sciences) and more than 20 years as a business leader in senior leadership positions in high-technology corporations on Long Island. Shortly after the September 11 attacks, Dr. Canders left a position as a vice president at global electronics manufacturer Telephonics Corporation to return to full-time service in the U.S. military, first as Wing Commander of the 106th Rescue Wing of the NY Air National Guard in Westhampton, NY, and then as Base Commander and top leader of U.S. Air Force 447th Expeditionary Group in Baghdad, Iraq. Before his return to full-time military service, Dr. Canders spent 17 years in senior leadership positions in electronics manufacturing on Long Island. After his return to civilian life, Dr. Canders returned to Telephonics as President of the \$221M Communications and Electronics Systems Division. He left his corporate career for teaching positions, first at St. Joseph's College and now at Farmingdale. Among other achievements, he served as a technical consultant and flew in the film, "The Perfect Storm." Dr. Canders is an FAA-certified airline transport pilot (ATP), commercial helicopter pilot, remote (drone) pilot and airplane multiengine flight instructor (MEI). He is a former military instructor pilot and flight examiner, with 47 lives saved as a rescue pilot. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Air Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal and 19 other decorations. He is on the Board of Directors of the School Business Partnership of Long Island and serves on a Military Advisory Committee for First Data Corporation.

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## **Availability**

Keynote, Moderator, Panelist

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## **Industry Expertise**

Airlines/Aviation, Aerospace, Airport Services, Education/Learning, Telecommunications, Military, Safety

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## **Areas of Expertise**

domestic and overseas military service, top-level organizational leadership, Airlines/aviation Business, Avionics Design and Manufacturing, Manned and Unmanned Aircraft Pilot

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## **Education**

**Walden University**  
PhD Applied Management and Decision Sciences

**Hofstra University**  
MBA Finance

**United States Naval Academy**  
BS Sciences

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