

ARUN KUMAR NUKALA (VETERAN)

arunknukala@gmail.com | +918527852906

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

◆ STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP ◆ PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ◆ TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Analysis and Problem-solving | Crisis Management | Negotiation | Policy Development | Process Improvement

Bringing over two decades of comprehensive experience in leadership roles within the Indian Air Force, I offer a rich reservoir of expertise in Strategic Management, Program Management, Administration, Training & Development to the realm of Human Resources. Throughout my career, I have held diverse positions including Ground & Flying Instructor, Senior Staff Officer (Operations), Joint Director and Senior Flying Supervisor, allowing me to refine my skills in stakeholder management, performance optimization, process audits, People Management, Facilities Management, Event Management and Problem-solving to name a few. As a skilled strategist, I possess the ability to oversee projects in remote locations, from initial planning to execution, while ensuring adherence to regulatory guidelines and efficient allocation of budgets and resources. Recognized for my adeptness in building consensus among diverse stakeholders and leading proactive change management initiatives. I am an effective communicator with exceptional leadership, planning, and negotiation skills, capable of fostering and maintaining positive relationships across various levels of an organization. My consistent track record of success in challenging environments underscores my commitment to achieving results. With a sharp focus on problem-solving and a demonstrated aptitude for successful project management, I am well-prepared to thrive in the dynamic landscape of **HR consulting**, offering tailored solutions to a broad spectrum of clients as a **freelancer/on-contract basis**. My dedication to excellence, coupled with a proactive approach to change management, ensures the delivery of impactful results and the cultivation of positive organizational relationships.

KEY SKILLS

Stakeholder Management | People Management | Vendor Management | Performance Optimisation | Resource Planning | Procurement | Logistics | Infrastructure Development | Program Management | Security Management | Health & Safety | Process Audits | Asset Management | Documentation | Facilities Management | Event Organisation | Legal Management | Problem-solving

NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS

- Carried out various roles during the past 22 years including Air Navigator and Instructor, Military Intelligence Image Analyst/GIS specialist, Senior Staff Officer (Operations), Training and Development Supervisor, Senior Administration Officer.
- **Optimised operations** in partnership with Indian Army enabling efficient and safe execution of Joint Operations (Military) conducted by the IAF & the Indian Army.
- **Provided strategic vision** and direction to implement the contract (value 140 million USD) for the newly inducted flight system for over 5 years after being selected by the IAF to train with the IAI Israel and being certified as Mission Commander and System Operator; subsequently, brought in as an external auditor of the system in 2019.
- Performed Flight liaison officer for VVIPs and key dignitaries including President, Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers of India and Senior Armed forces Officers.
- **Planned and conducted** camps for Officers of IA and IAF for Joint operations at different locations over 3 years, involving training, administration, complex demand forecasting, procurement, logistics and allocation, budgeting, documentation, fund management, vendor management and security.
- **Directed facilities management** and operations activities at multiple locations in roles such as President of the Mess Committee, Mess Secretary and Treasurer, handling planning and disbursement of non-public funds for catering, logistics, and improvement projects related to infrastructure and services
- Conducted Security, Administrative and Safety **audits/ inspections** at major airfields and helipads
- *Carried out role of **Program Manager** for Infrastructure Project with a budget of Rs 850 Cr by coordinating with various stakeholders for timely completion of the project.*
- Presently undergoing **DIRECTOR'S CERTIFICATION PROGRAM IN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE** from Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Freelancing / Independent Consultant / Advisor

Aug 23 – Till date

- After having completed the certifications, I have been working as a freelance advisor/consultant.

Transition into Civilian World

Aug 22 – Aug 23

- Successfully completed following certifications during this period :-
 - **Advanced Management Program in Financial Services and Capital Markets, IIM Lucknow** (Aug 23).
 - **Financial Modelling & Valuation Program, The Wall street School, India** (Aug 23).
 - **Certified Wealth Manager, NISM & CRISIL** (Apr 23).
 - **NISM Research Analyst certification** (Mar 2023)

INDIAN AIR FORCE, GOVT OF INDIA (Dec 2000 – Jul 2022)

Joint Director (DIPAC) /Image Analyst / Remote Sensing Specialist

Apr 2021 - Jul 2022

- A trained Military Image Analyst with over 10 years of work experience in analyzing satellite and aerial EO and SAR images.
- Served in the premium tri-service Intelligence generation setup (Defence Image Processing and Analysis Centre) with expertise on GIS softwares like ERDAS, QGIS and other in-house software etc.
- Expertise in satellite and Aerial imagery analysis, conducting independent research using open-source security research techniques and producing reports, both short and long, on research projects for diverse audience.
- Proficient in conducting briefings to government, industry e.t.c.

Staff Officer (SO) (Operations)/ SO (Administration) & (Maintenance) / Second-in-Command

Jan 2018 - Apr 2021

- **Planned, Coordinated and executed** all Operational activities as Staff Officer (Operations), including military air operations, operational facilities, Joint Operations, regular training of manpower, equipment management, communication equipment.
- Played an important role in planning and expansion of operational infrastructure.
- **Provided leadership** as second-in-command, handled training, legal, information security, and welfare matters for 300+ people at the Air Force Station with a team of 100+ members. Hands on experience in managing various roles including HR activities like manpower planning, performance management, grievance handling etc.
- **Ensured safety standards** and regulatory compliance while providing guidance to team members (IAF and IA for joint operations).
- **Provided leadership for** audits of Joint Military Air Operations, ensuring compliance and administration across all departments through planning, training, and monitoring, involving coordination with the IAF, IA and Airports Authority of India.
- Planning, Procurement, induction, and deployment of Operations related equipment.
- **Achieved** zero audit observations related to planning, execution of Military Air Operations and Joint Operations.
- **Planned, Coordinated and executed** training of personnel, as mandated by the HQs, to achieve best practices for procedures, enabling easier compliance, which increased operational effectiveness and safe maintenance practices among all personnel.

Flying Supervisor/ UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems) supervisor

Mar 2015 - Dec 2018

- As a Qualified Navigation Instructor, functioned as a training head.
- Supervised & provided on-the-job training to line navigators and pilots through meticulous planning of several missions in a premium IAF squadron for more than three years.
- Designed a training curriculum to take care of operational requirements of the organization and career planning of Officers catering for their organic growth and keeping in view the HR needs of organization.
- **Enabled successful completion** of more than 500 hours of accident or incident free instructional flying on An32 and HS-748.
- Oversaw Operations, HR, training, and administrative/personal needs of section officers.
- Chosen for conduct of **inspections/audit** of other flying units.

- Brought on board to undergo training by Israel Aerospace Industries at Tel Aviv and handle the induction of a newly acquired flight weapon system, a vital asset, into the organisation.
- Was instrumental in establishing a brand-new system into the IAF by carrying out change management to suit the requirements of the organisation. Oversaw policy as well as HR matters and led planning for system staffing and deployment, covering operational and technical support, personnel management, and operational safety monitoring, while driving execution of projects within existing resources.
- **Program Management** for the new system, including contract negotiation with the OEM, contract governance, infrastructure development (30 crore INR project), and coordination with field units to ensure effective induction trials.
- **Created** operational and training policies as well as SOPs in the Indian context, covering operators and trainers.
- Designed the training curriculum and training of newly inducted manpower on the system.
- Evaluation of the system by ensuring implementation of preset goals within the prescribed timelines and conducted operational training.

- As a Qualified Navigation Instructor, Trained and Instructed Ab-Initio officer trainees in a Premium IAF institute for more than two years who went on to become commissioned officers in the IAF.
- Functioned as a training head for young officers for more than Ten years.
- **Enabled successful completion** of more than 500 hours of accident or incident free instructional flying on An32 and HS-748.
- Oversaw HR, training, and administrative needs of Flight cadets with a team of 80+ members including administrative, technical, and training staff.
- **Revitalised IT infrastructure** for Instructors and cadets by instituting new IT infrastructure for easy access of training material to enhance training capabilities and skill development pan IAF.

- **Enabled successful completion** of 3500 hours of accident/incident free military air operations (as Flying Navigator) over entire Indian Airspace by providing strategic support including Op Parakram.
- **Participated in disaster relief** and defence preparedness operations, ensuring efficiency through effective planning and coordination
- **Coordinated and executed** rescue & relief efforts aftermath the natural disasters and provided aid to civil authority in the aftermath of riots in Gujarat and the Indian Army
- **Ensured** regulatory compliance while executing air logistics activities with civil aviation authorities.

EDUCATION

- **Advanced Management Program in Financial Services and Capital Markets** | IIM Lucknow, Nov 2022-Aug 2023
- **Certification in Financial Modelling & Valuation** | The Wall Street School (Aug 23)
- **NISM Research Analyst certification** (Mar 2023)
- **Certified Wealth Manager NISM & CRISIL** (Apr 2023)
- **Post Graduate Program in Management (PGPM)** | IMT Ghaziabad, 2011 – 2013
- **Bachelor of Science – Maths, Physics** | JNU (National Defence Academy), 1996 - 1999
- **In-Service Courses:** Qualified Navigation Instructor | Operational certification in UAS flight weapon system, IAI | Master Image Interpreter, TACDE | Geospatial Technologies, Ministry of Science and Technology | Basic Imagery Interpretation | Crew Resource Management | Methods of Instruction Course | Center for Leadership and Behavior course
- **Aircraft Expertise:** AN 32, AVRO

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Commended by AOC-in-C and GOC-in-C on two separate occasions for exceptional professional performance.