Nathan Hochstetler

Naval Aviator | Defense Tech & Acquisitions | Yale MBA

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Mission-driven leader with a decade of operational experience in the U.S. Navy and deep exposure to defense acquisitions. Keen interest in emerging technologies, with a growing technical foundation in python and machine learning model development. Proven ability to lead high-performing teams, manage complex logistics, and thrive in challenging environments. Seeking a role in defense tech where strategy, operations, and technical curiosity meet.

Work Experience

US Navy, Naval Aviator (Jan 2016-Present)

USS Boxer (LHD 4), San Diego, CA (Mar 2025 - Present)
Department Head, Safety Officer

- Lead program manager for a portfolio of 15 programs spanning all aspects of occupational health and safety onboard one of the US Navy's largest warships.

DCMA Sikorsky Aircraft, Stratford, CT (Mar 2022-Mar 2025)
Acceptance Pilot and Aviation Safety Officer

- Embedded with a major defense contractor (Lockheed Martin/Sikorsky) as the government's on-site representative for helicopter production and delivery. Developed firsthand insight into the relationship between government contracts, industrial production, and emerging defense technologies.

- Program Manager for multiple safety programs, responsible for managing risk to both government and civilian pilots and aircraft. Achieved 100% compliance with safety programs during several extensive external inspections.

- Graduated top of class at aviation safety school in Pensacola, FL, a one-month intensive course covering aerodynamics, structural engineering, and root cause analysis

Helmineron Fourteen (HM-14), Norfolk, VA (Aug 2019- Mar 2022)
Functional Check Pilot & Airborne Mine Countermeasures Mission Commander

- Ranked as the #1 of 17 Lieutenants, distinguished for an exceptional level of qualification, an unwavering commitment to mentoring junior pilots, demonstrating proactive problem-solving initiative, and exhibiting profound tactical acumen.

- Hand selected from peers to fulfill the role of Assistant Officer-in-Charge of over 100 personnel on deployment in Pohang, South Korea. Solely responsible for the strategic planning of deployed forces, including coordination with US Ships, Korean Marines, and execution of several multinational exercises.

- Managed multiple maintenance programs and introduced several new initiatives to increase compliance with quality assurance requirements.

Education

Yale School of Management (2024-2026)
MBA Candidate, Class of 2026, Focus in Asset Management

University of California, Los Angeles (2012-2015)
Bachelor of Science in Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Environmental Sciences