Robert N. Saunders, PhD

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OBJECTIVE – My objective is to become a DoD/IC leader in development and transitioning of advanced capabilities across the technology development "valley of death".

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Industrial Engineering, Texas A&M University
Certificate in Applied Statistics, Statistics, Texas A&M University
Master of Science, Aerospace Engineering, Texas A&M University
Bachelor of Science, Aerospace Engineering, Virginia Tech

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Deputy Branch Chief, Launch Management Division Sept 2023 – Present
Mission Manager, Launch Management Division Feb 2023 – Sept 2023
Office of Space Launch, National Reconnaissance Office

- Lead team of civilian, military, and contractor support staff to deliver future launch solutions and offer flexible/tailorable launch support services.
- Identify, research, develop, and transition advanced launch and on-orbit capabilities via FAR and non-FAR based acquisitions.
- Facilitate and coordinate internal and external strategic outreach with industry and government partners.
- Execute non-NSSL missions through partnerships and procurement of small launch vehicles.

Mechanical Engineer, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) Sept 2016 – Feb 2023
Biomechanics Engineer, Leidos Inc. c\o NRL June 2015 – Sept 2016

- Machine learning to emulate simulations in the metal additive manufacturing process.
- Development of strategies to understand, prevent, and protect Warfighters from injuries due to blast, blunt, and directed energy events.
- *Naval Research Laboratory Edison Memorial Graduate Training Program Recipient*

Graduate Research Assistant, Texas A&M University Aug 2013 – May 2015

- Design, simulation, and optimization of shape memory alloy-based structures.

Summer Scholar, U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory May 2014 – Aug 2014

- Design and construction of a deployable tensioned helical structure using composites.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Virginia Tech Microgravity Research Team

- Investigated a moving mass actuator control system for re-entry vehicles and small satellites as part of NASAs Reduced Gravity Flight Education Program.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Reviewer for multiple journals, incl. Journal of DoD Research and Engineering
- Technical conference session/symposium organizer and chair

SKILLS/CERTIFICATIONS

- Finite Element Modeling, Mechanics of Materials, Machine Learning, Statistical Modeling, Acquisitions, Time and Personnel Management
- Coursera Certifications in project management and machine learning
- DAWIA Foundational Certification in Engineering & Technical Management
- DAWIA Technology Project Management, Digital Engineering, and RIO Credentials

PUBLICATIONS – 1 Book Chapter, 9 Journal Articles, 17 Conference Proceedings, 4 Technical Reports, 28 conference/seminar presentations