

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CHARLES EDWARD GEHRKE

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US Citizen, Security Clearance: Top Secret / Secret Compartmentalized Information (TS/SCI) SAP/CAP

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Naval Aviator and Operations Manager with 14 years of professional experience leading strategic sorties, multi-domain exercises, and national level tasks in politically sensitive areas. Broad and effective communicator, with multiple years of experience as an instructor, and interaction with allied and non-allied governments. Consistently and effectively led teams of up to 80 personnel and recognized as a talented and innovative War Game Designer, Adjudicator and Facilitator. A strategic leader poised at the intersection of reflective analysis, rapid communication, and precision operational execution.

EDUCATION

United States Naval Academy <i>Bachelor of Science, Quantitative Economics</i> <i>Selected as "Blue and Gold" Officer</i> <i>and USNA Candidate Mentor</i>	Annapolis, United States Aug. 2008 -Jun. 2012 Mar. 2025 – Present
Northern Outdoor Leadership School <i>Advanced Outdoor leadership Course</i>	Prince William Sound, AK., United States Jun. 2010 – Jul. 2010
United States Naval Safety School <i>Safety and Mishap investigation Course</i>	Pensacola, FL., United States Aug. 2019 – Oct. 2019
United States Naval War College <i>Master of Arts, National Defense and Strategic Studies</i> <i>Graduate Certificate in Maritime History</i> <i>Joint Professional Military Education I</i>	Newport, United States Aug. 2023 – Jun. 2024 Aug. 2023 – Jun. 2024 Aug. 2023 – Jun. 2024
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Admitted) <i>Sloan MBA Fellowship</i>	Cambridge, United States Jun. 2026-Jun. 2027

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

United States Navy <i>Unrestricted Naval Aviator – MH-60R Seahawk Helicopter</i>	Washington DC, United States Jun. 2012- Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Specialized in expeditionary warfare, focusing on multi domain operations and the prosecution of hostile submarines.	
United States Navy-US Naval War College (War Games Supervisor) Student – US Naval War College	Newport, RI., United States Apr. 2023 – Jun. 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Earned a master's degree in National Defense and Strategic Studies, as well as a graduate certificate in Maritime HistorySelected by peers to give Graduate Certificate Acceptance Speech.	
Deputy Division Director – War Game Design	Jun. 2024 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Directs members of the US Navy's premiere war game design staff to analyze strategies for adoption by fleet commandersAdjudication Cell member in four title X War GamesSelected to represent USNWC at 22nd annual WPNS Conference in Tokyo, JapanPersonally created, tested, and fielded new Anti-Submarine Wargame for Naval Surface Warfare Commanding Officer training.	
United States Navy-USS Ronald Reagan (Air Operations) Air Operations Officer – USS Ronald Reagan	Yokosuka, Japan Jun. 2021 – Mar. 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Directed daily execution of aircraft carrier flight schedule, averaging 100-120 sorties.Informed and coordinated with all stakeholders and multiple external assets, including foreign governments, improving efficiencyWorked directly with Governments of Japan, Republic of Korea, The Philippines, Malaysia, Pakistan, and others to create training and warning areas for internationally sensitive no fly zones.Guided 22 Naval Air Traffic controllers through two deployments.	
Berthing Overhaul Project Manager – USS Ronald Reagan	Nov. 2021 – Mar. 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Oversaw the completion of the overhaul of 396 shipboard accommodations.Led a team of 56 to completion well ahead of schedule.	
United States Navy-Helicopter Training Squadron-8 (Flight Instructor) Squadron Safety Officer (Risk and Compliance Program Lead) – HT-8	Milton, FL., United States Oct. 2018 – Jun. 2021

- Spearheaded innovative safety protocols in accordance with Naval, Federal, and State directives, leading to a measurable decrease in lost sorties.
- Conducted and documented ten investigations of squadron mishaps, from low to high severity.
- Trained and mentored over 250 students, helping to further improve Naval Air Training.
- Directly mentored 10 individuals from first flight to solo.
- Selected several times as Instructor of the Month

United States Navy-Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron-51 (Expeditionary Warfare)

Atsugi, Japan

Detachment Operations/Training Officer - Detachment 2

May 2015–Jan. 2017

- Administered and developed training curricula for seven Naval Aviators and 22-26 Aircraft Maintainers, ensuring unit readiness and 11 on time individual qualifications
- Planned and executed six months of squadron operations at sea, allowing for the completion of two novel deployments off the coast of North Korea. Achieved record of no incidents, and development of unique intelligence gathering methodology.
- Mentored 3 Naval Air Crewmen to achieve further qualification.

Detachment Maintenance Officer – Detachment (s) 2, 3, and Home

Jan. 2017–Jan. 2018

- Drove maintenance and refit of three squadron helicopters, guaranteeing their immediate availability for on-call deployment
- Directly responsible for 21-83 aircraft maintenance professionals in overhaul of three squadron aircraft.

Squadron NATOPS Officer (Standardization and Training lead) – HSM-51

Jan. 2018–Oct. 2018

- Implemented squadron standardization and search and rescue program, while managing 5 subordinate standardization instructors
- Conducted or reviewed 43 squadron check rides and external evaluations, with no failures.

United States Navy Flight Training (Training)

Milton, FL., Corpus Christi, TX., San Diego, CA., United States

Flight Student – Helicopters

Jul. 2012–May. 2015

- Selected for training as a naval aviator specializing in Cruiser/Destroyer operation and anti-submarine warfare.

LANGUAGES

English (native)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Crisis Management | Strategic/Operational/Tactical Analysis | International Coordination | Risk and Compliance Analysis | War Gaming Design and Adjudication | Mishap Investigation

OTHER INFORMATION

- Experience and skill with the organization and utilization of working groups
- Expert in reaching across cultural and international lines to execute missions
- Skilled in adaptability and flexibility
- Comfortable in chaotic situations.
- Expert at crisis management
- Experienced and enthusiastic mentor