

2024 NEC Annual Conference

Keynote Speaker



Lieutenant Colonel Mark Hasara is a retired Air Force KC-135 instructor pilot and veteran of four wars. Mark was Deputy Commander of the 18 person team tasked to build the Air Force's TOP GUN-style school for the KC-135 fleet, the world's only PhD-level education on air refueling operations. Eight days after 9/11, Mark began a series of five deployments to the Middle East planning and executing air refueling operations for all six coalition nations as Chief Operating Officer of the Air Refueling Control Team. Air Mobility Command awarded him Tanker Tactician of the Year 2002 for his tactics and planning work. Leaving the Air Force in 2007, Mark led a Systems Engineering team designing cockpits for military aircraft without an engineering degree! In 2017 his book Tanker Pilot: Lessons from the Cockpit was published by Simon & Schuster. Mark began hosting the Lessons from the Cockpit show in October 2021, educating and entertaining his audience with flying stories but more importantly what did aviators learn from those extreme and extraordinary events in the air. He and three close friends founded Wall Pilot, a custom aviation art company creating aircraft profiles for the walls of your home, office, or hangar. Mark and his wife Valerie live in Salt Lake City Utah.

