

# Smarter Skies, More Resilient Systems: The Future of Commercial Aviation

National Academy of Engineering Regional Meeting  
May 19-21, 2026 | Duke University

## Jim Graham

Senior Vice President of Delta Connection and Air  
Traffic Strategy Management,  
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Captain Jim Graham oversees all aspects of 1900+ daily regional flights and 340 aircraft flown by Delta's three regional partner airlines, Sky West, Republic Airways and Endeavor Air. For five years leading up to June '25, he also held the CEO and President position at Endeavor. He is Delta's strategic liaison to FAA and other international regulators for airspace design, air traffic management and air traffic control, bringing expertise gained over 37 years at Delta, both as an active pilot and senior executive. At Delta, Jim has held several key positions including Senior Vice President of Corporate Safety, Security and Compliance, Senior Vice President of Flight Operations, Chief Pilot and Director of Flight Standards. In addition to his airline career, his aviation background includes 52 years flying in general aviation and 20 years as a Naval Aviator, on both active and reserve duty. With over 18,000 total flight hours to domestic and international destinations spanning six continents, he has had a front row seat as aviation, air space and air traffic management have evolved over the last 50 years.



He has been integral to Delta's participation on many FAA and industry projects. From representing Delta on FAA's NextGen Advisory Committee (NAC) to current participation with FAA as the Brand New Air Traffic Control System (BNATCS) finishes design and begins implementation, Jim provides expertise from his industry operational and aircraft equipage knowledge, and pilot user aspects. He understands not only the needs of domestic carriers, but also international carriers flying into the US. As Delta's representative on the International Airline Transport Association's (IATA) Operations Advisory Council.

His military background provides further insight. Our US military controls a significant amount of airspace and in areas sometimes close to high volume civilian operations. Their ability to train as needed is paramount to our country's security and military readiness. Blending civilian aviation of all types, with military operations is an intricate and complex model. Add the new, rapidly expanding modes of space (vertical launch) and low altitude drone activity, and the current ATM system becomes overtaxed and unable to expand for the increasing commercial needs.