

TANNER R. YACKLEY

MQ-9 INSTRUCTOR/EVALUATOR | UAS TRAINING & READINESS LEADER
| AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS OPERATIONS
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Professional Summary

Former MQ-9 Instructor, Evaluator, and Training Leader with 15+ years of experience developing operators, evaluating mission readiness, and implementing training systems across military, industry, and higher education environments. Led qualification, upgrade, and standardization efforts supporting hundreds of aircrew members across distributed autonomous operations. Experience spans combat operations, training system development, workforce readiness, and integration of emerging autonomous technologies.

Core Expertise

Autonomous Systems Operations
Human-Machine Teaming
Training & Readiness Management
Standards & Evaluation
Mission Qualification Programs
Operational Test & Evaluation
MQ-9 ISR & Strike Operations
Instructor Development
Crew Resource Management
Mission Planning & Execution
Curriculum Development
Workforce Development

Professional Experience

Founder & CEO

Remote Warrior LLC — North Dakota
May 2025 – Present

Founded an organization focused on workforce readiness, operator development, and human-machine teaming within military and civilian autonomous systems communities.

- Developed policy briefs and operational analysis examining distributed ISR systems, remote exposure dynamics, and human-machine decision architectures.
- Engaged universities, veteran organizations, and industry stakeholders to align workforce development with operational realities of remote and autonomous systems.

- Built partnerships supporting research initiatives focused on future distributed combat architectures.
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Assistant Professor, Aviation

University of North Dakota — Grand Forks, ND
Sep 2021 – May 2025

Delivered undergraduate instruction across operational UAS systems, autonomy integration, and counter-UAS domains.

- Delivered undergraduate instruction to 120+ students per semester across UAS operations, autonomy, mission planning, and airspace integration.
 - Modernized curriculum to incorporate autonomy systems, regulatory developments, and emerging operational risk frameworks.
 - Bridged academic training with industry requirements through partnerships supporting workforce deployment pathways.
 - Developed structured instructional architectures translating MQ-9 operational systems into scalable learning environments.
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MQ-9 Evaluator Sensor Operator

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems — Grand Forks, ND
Sep 2018 – Sep 2021

Evaluator responsible for qualification, upgrade, and operational evaluation of MQ-9 aircrew.

- Conducted qualification, upgrade, and instructor evaluations across eight MQ-9 training syllabi supporting operational readiness and mission certification.
 - Delivered instruction and operational debriefs across multi-crew ISR environments.
 - Designed instructor upgrade academics and evaluation criteria improving operator readiness.
 - Contributed to development and testing of new training systems and syllabus improvements.
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United States Air Force — MQ-9 Remote Piloted Aircraft Enterprise

Sensor Operator | Instructor | Evaluator | Weapons & Tactics Leadership

Aug 2011 – Aug 2018

Creech AFB, NV | Holloman AFB, NM

Served across operational, instructional, and tactical leadership roles within the MQ-9 remotely piloted aircraft enterprise, supporting combat ISR and strike missions while developing training architecture for distributed RPA operations.

- Accumulated 3,000+ operational flight hours and supported more than 1,000 combat missions across ISR and strike operations.
 - Conducted MQ-9 combat operations supporting persistent ISR and precision strike missions within distributed command environments.
 - Managed multi-sensor ISR exploitation and human-machine workflows supporting real-time targeting decisions.
 - Operated in persistent ISR environments producing continuous sensor data streams within distributed decision architectures.
 - Designed operational training architecture modeling real MQ-9 mission environments and multi-crew workflows.
 - Led instructor standardization and tactical training development across multi-squadron MQ-9 qualification programs.
 - Managed instructor standardization and evaluation programs supporting 100+ instructors and 450+ operators annually.
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Education

M.S. Aeronautics

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

B.S. Aeronautics

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

A.S. Aeronautics

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

CCAF AAS – Instructor of Technology & Military Science

CCAF AAS – Air & Space Operations Technology

Additional Graduate Study

Doctoral Coursework (15 credits)

University of North Dakota

Certifications

FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot

HONORS & AWARDS

Honor Graduate USAF Basic Military Training (2010)

MQ-9 Top Gun Award (2012)

Sensor Operator of the Quarter (2013)

Instructor Sensor Operator of the Quarter (2014)

Instructor Sensor Operator of the Quarter (x2) (2016)

Instructor Sensor Operator of the Year (2017)

USAF Weapons School Finalist (2018)

26 Aerial Achievement medals