

James Simmons Bio

James L. Simmons Jr., founder of Avolatus Holdings LLP, brings nearly 30 years of combined military and civilian aviation experience to the foundation of the company. His career began in the U.S. Army as a Blackhawk Crew Chief and Technical Inspector, where he developed a deep commitment to safety, precision, and team leadership in high-stakes environments.

Transitioning to the civilian sector, James advanced through quality and compliance leadership roles across FAA Part 135, Part 145, OEM, and government aviation programs. He has overseen maintenance and inspection operations on multiple military and civilian fixed and rotary-wing aircraft, earning a reputation for bridging technical execution with regulatory excellence.

James holds multiple FAA certifications, including Airframe & Powerplant Mechanic (A&P), Inspection Authorization (IA), and Remote Pilot Certificate under Part 107. He is also a certified FAA instructor, delivering approved training in IA renewal, SMS, Root Cause Analysis, and Human Factors across the aviation industry. As the former Chair of the Vertical Aviation International (VAI) Workforce Development Working Group and a current member of the VAI Workforce Development Industry Advisory Council, James remains a national voice in aviation workforce advancement. His leadership and insight are the driving force behind the vision and structure of Avolatus' four strategic pillars—consulting, education, publishing, and nonprofit outreach.

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A lifelong passion for aviation has shaped my mission and vision—to lead with precision, elevate through excellence, and serve with purpose. Avolatus was built to train and inspire the next generation of aviation professionals while expanding access, raising standards, and shaping the future of the industry.

— James L. Simmons Jr., Founder, Avolatus Holdings