



Commander Jim Kidrick, USN, Retired President & CEO San Diego Air & Space Museum

A former naval aviator, Jim Kidrick is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego Air & Space Museum where he is responsible for the fundraising and management of one of our nation's most significant aero-themed institutions. The Museum is American Alliance of Museums accredited, a Smithsonian Affiliate and California's

“Official Air & Space Museum and Education Center.”

Kidrick joined the Museum as the Foundation's Executive Director in January of 2006 and still fills that role, and is also the President of the San Diego Air & Space Technology Center (Wind Tunnel), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Museum. He became President & CEO of the Museum in March of 2007.

Kidrick has over 25 years of non-profit leadership as an Executive Director or President and led the most successful family festival/powerboat competition in the country, San Diego Bayfair's World Series of Powerboat Racing. He also founded the Fallon Air Show as its Director for five years and was Event Manager for the Kern County Air Show for six years. Mr. Kidrick also produced the San Diego Grand Prix and the Jet Ski World Championships.

He has an extensive aviation background, and is a retired Navy Commander, a fighter pilot for 21 years with over 4,250 accident free hours of military flight time flying from our Navy's aircraft carriers. During his naval career he flew air combat with and against Navy Top Gun students as an adversary in the Douglas A-4 Skyhawk.

In addition to his naval flying, he is an FAA rated commercial, instrument and multi-engine pilot. Kidrick has a significant background in aviation, and the aerospace industry. He worked as Senior Program Manager for L3/Titan Corporation as a member of the company's Defense Programs Division - Senior Leadership Team and as Director of the Electronic Combat Range, China Lake, California. He also is an experienced defense and corporate consultant, representing military consultant, Booz Allen Hamilton before he accepted the position with the San Diego Air & Space Museum.

Kidrick is a native of Washington State, and holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Puget Sound and advance courses on aviation safety from the Navy Post Graduate School, Monterey. He has lectured and consulted on special event development and operation, including sponsorship creation and return-on-investment strategies. Kidrick is a proponent of advancing programs, which encourage our nation's youth to pursue the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) academic disciplines.