

Bio for Jeff Kanarish

When anyone asks Jeff Kanarish what he does, he will say he is a creative obsessive with a chronic flying problem. While writing books, developing software, designing websites, hosting a popular podcast show, and speaking to audiences from the stage, Jeff has logged over 16,000 hours of flying time in military and civilian aircraft. He might add, if pressed, that he flies for a major airline in his spare time.

Having learned to fly in a Cessna 152 at the University of Florida Flying Club in Gainesville, Jeff went on to earn his U.S. Air Force wings at Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, Texas. He served as an Air Force instructor pilot in the T-37 "Tweet" in Lubbock, and then advanced to the A-10A Thunderbolt II, more commonly known as the Warthog.

Tours in the Warthog took Jeff to assignments in Suwon, Korea and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. From Myrtle Beach, Jeff's squadron deployed to Saudi Arabia in response to Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait during the summer of 1990.

Jeff and his combat partner flew the first two A-10s into Kuwait at the beginning of the First Persian Gulf War, at night, with no night vision devices, no radar, no autopilot, and lights out. Before departing on that first mission, he thought about a flightsuit patch some joker in his unit had created, which read, "We can't see you either."

Jeff fought in 33 night combat missions over Kuwait and Iraq, and earning 3 Air Medals for combat valor. He returned to Myrtle Beach at the end of the war to finish out his tour of duty. He transitioned from military to civilian life during one of the worst downturns in the airline industry.

A pilot has got to fly, but the airlines were not hiring. Jeff filled a need to yank and bank with a company called Sky Warriors in Atlanta, Georgia. There he took people airborne for simulated air combat missions in T-34B trainer aircraft. He also worked in co-pilot time in a Mitsubishi Diamond Jet for a medium-sized corporation.

Scraping by as a journeyman pilot continued for more than 4 years until the major airlines began returning to profitability. Jeff was hired by a small airline and moved into the captain's seat after only 9 months with the company. When that airline discontinued operation after a highly-publicized aircraft accident, Jeff got the call from one of the largest airlines in the U.S.

Currently a co-pilot on both the Boeing 757 and the 767, Jeff finds he has enough time to pursue his other passion: teaching pilots the fundamentals of radio communication. He says, "While experience is a great teacher, pilots need a good foundation before building experience. Unfortunately, as it stands now, the foundation of radio communication for new pilots ranges from thin and weak to virtually non-existent. My goal is to change that, even if I have to do it one pilot at a time."

Flying Time Summary

Military: 2000+ hours
Civilian: 14,000+ hours

Aircraft Flown

Cessna 152/172
Piper Warrior
T-37
T-38/AT-38
A-10A
Mooney Mk20
T-34B (USAF modified)
Mitsubishi Diamond Jet

Aircraft Flown (Type Rated)

Cessna 550 Citation II
DC-9
MD-88
B-757-200/300/ER
B-767-200/300/ER