

PURPOSE BEYOND THE UNIFORM: GREG L. DAVIS CONTINUES A MISSION THROUGH AVIATION

From documenting the military's response following Sept. 11 to capturing the future of flight at Textron Aviation, Greg L. Davis has built a career defined by service, aviation and purpose



▲ Greg L. Davis

On Sept. 11, 2001, as uncertainty spread across the nation and military installations locked down, Greg L. Davis received a call from his commander requesting him by name to document Operation Noble Eagle. In the days that followed, Davis flew alongside F-15 and F-16 crews tasked with defending America's airspace. His mission was to capture the aircraft and service members who stood ready to protect the nation's skies during a pivotal moment in history.



▲ USAF photo by former SSgt. Greg L. Davis | Combat Air Patrol over Washington, D.C. 2001

"It was an honor to be in a position to document history and help show the American people how our military responded during a difficult and uncertain time," Davis said.

The photographs appeared in military publications, recruiting campaigns and national media outlets. More than two decades later, his images continue to serve as a reminder of a moment that shaped a nation.

For Davis, the assignment represented more than a career milestone. It reinforced the values that had drawn him to military service in the first place: service, teamwork and contributing to something larger than himself.

Davis served eight years in the United States Air Force as an aerial photographer, often flying in military aircraft to document operations, training missions and overseas deployments.



▲ USAF photo by former SSgt. Greg L. Davis



The role required far more than technical skill. Success depended on careful planning, clear communication, attention to detail and the trust of aircrews operating in demanding environments. That trust and preparation opened the door to opportunities throughout his

military career, including documenting Operation Noble Eagle. These experiences helped him develop skills and perspectives he continues to use today.

Finding the next mission

Aviation has been a constant throughout Davis' life. After leaving the United States Air Force, he built a career in photojournalism and public affairs while continuing to pursue his passion for flight. As a pilot and owner of a Cessna 172 Skyhawk, that passion eventually led him to Textron Aviation.

During the past three and a half years, he has continued his mission of telling aviation stories through imagery as the senior aerial photographer at Textron Aviation. He creates photo and video content that supports teams across the company and documents the people, aircraft, programs and innovations that are advancing the aviation industry. While his mission looks different today, his purpose remains the same: contributing to something bigger than himself by helping tell the stories behind the people, products and innovations advancing aviation.

"Whether documenting military operations or capturing the work being done at Textron Aviation, I've always enjoyed being part of something meaningful."

Greg L. Davis



▲ Greg L. Davis at Textron Aviation



The value of military experience

For many service members, transitioning from the military means more than changing jobs and uniforms. It often means finding new ways to apply the teamwork, discipline and

mission focus developed through service. Greg's career is a powerful demonstration of how military experience can create opportunities long after service ends.

"The goal isn't to translate military experience," said John Buckley, senior manager of Military Programs at Textron Aviation. "It's to recognize it, articulate it and connect it to opportunities where it creates value."

Davis' time in the Air Force helped him develop technical and storytelling expertise, adaptability, accountability and the ability to perform effectively in complex environments. Those capabilities continue to serve him today. While some veterans find a direct connection between military service and their civilian careers, every transition is unique. What remains constant is the value of the skills, experiences and mindset gained through military service, which can create opportunities across a wide range of careers.

For Davis, Textron Aviation provided an opportunity to combine two passions that have defined his career: the joy of flight and meaningful work. More than two decades after documenting a defining moment in American history, he continues to help tell the story of aviation's future while bringing the same dedication to service that shaped his military career.

Ready for your next mission?

Learn more about how veteran skills are valued at Textron Aviation and download the Textron Aviation Military-to-Civilian Transition Guide at txtav.com/careers/military.

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