



Meet CAPT Matt Army (Ret),

Managing Partner, Growingly

Senior Vice President, Industrial Automation

Chair of Airport Commission, Paine Field Airport

Matt is a transformational leader with over 30 years of experience in operations, strategy, leadership development, partnership building, and digital transformation across aerospace, defense, manufacturing, and tech industries. A retired **U.S. Navy Captain, former U.S. Diplomat**, and seasoned business consultant, he has driven high-impact initiatives across military, corporate, and international sectors.

As the **Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island**, Matt managed a **\$55M annual budget**, led 1,000 personnel, and oversaw operations for 11,000+ personnel across 50 organizations. He spearheaded strategic initiatives, including multi-million-dollar infrastructure projects and a **5G private network pilot that integrated AI and AR/VR for aviation maintenance**. His leadership spanned aviation readiness, facilities management, emergency services, and security, overseeing firefighting, EMS, law enforcement, and NCIS operations. As the primary liaison to government and community leaders, Matt strengthened strategic partnerships, aligning military operations with civilian interests.

Internationally, Matt served as a **U.S. Diplomat and Naval Attaché to the Kingdom of Sweden**, where he advanced U.S. security, aerospace, and defense strategies across 25 nations. His expertise also extends to the **Middle East**, particularly **Abu Dhabi**, where he played a key role at the **U.S. Embassy in the United Arab Emirates**, shaping military strategy, defense contracting, and international cooperation on emerging aerospace technologies.

Matt is the **Managing Partner of Growingly**, where he co-leads strategic consulting, business development, and digital transformation solutions for nonprofits, local businesses, and government entities. His expertise in financial strategy, leadership development, and operational optimization helps organizations scale and drive sustainable growth.

Additionally, he serves as **Senior Vice President of Growth & Business Development at Industrial Automation**, leading defense-sector expansion, digital innovation, and real estate development. Matt's prior roles at **KPMG, Roosevelt Group, and The Arnold Group** focused on commercializing AI-driven B2B solutions, digital transformation, and financial forecasting, unlocking 2x revenue growth for clients. He also **founded CAS Enterprise Management**, advising aerospace, defense, and manufacturing firms on go-to-market strategies, business development, and operational transformation.

A recognized thought leader, Matt is the **Chair of the Airport Commission at Paine Field**, where he influences aviation infrastructure and policy. He is also the **host and public face of the Fighter Pilot Podcast**, the nation's top-ranked aviation podcast, with **30+ episodes and over 15 million views**, further solidifying his influence in the aerospace and defense community.

Matt holds an **MBA from the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business**, a **Master's in National Security & Strategic Studies** from the Naval War College, and a B.S. in Naval Architecture from the **U.S. Naval Academy**. He is also a **Certified Scrum Master (CSM)**, **Certified Scrum Product Owner (CSPO)**, and a **Resilience-Building Leadership Professional Trainer (RBLP-T)**.

With unparalleled expertise in strategic leadership, financial governance, digital transformation, and international defense, Matt continues to drive innovation, operational excellence, and sustainable growth across the industries he serves.