

Donald Willis

Don is a long time pilot and aviation enthusiast. He soloed at 16 and is still an active pilot and aircraft owner. He holds degrees in Aeronautics/Mathematics from Miami University and a graduate degree in Computer Science from Georgia Tech. Don was an Air Force Officer, a Viet Nam veteran, and has 30 years of technical and management experience in the aerospace industry following his military career.

As a technical and intelligence officer in the Air Force, Don was a NASA flight controller in Houston during the Apollo program and later an Assistant Professor of Astronautics and Computer Science at the Air Force Academy. Following military service he spent 5 years as a special consultant to the government on assignments in U.S. and Europe. Don then joined industry in middle management and worked to develop computer image recognition systems for Honeywell, holding various positions and ending as a VP and Business Director. As a corporate executive, Don is one of the co-founders and the initial strategist of Alliant Techsystems (ATK), a spinout of Honeywell Aerospace which became a fortune 500 company doing business in defense related products. He was most recently a corporate VP of Motorola, doing strategy and business development for their Networks Business internationally, and he retired from Motorola in 2005.

Today Don lives in Troy and devotes his time to various non-profits and charities. Don headed up WACO's recent building project and is currently Treasurer of WACO Historical Society. He has been on the Board of Trustees for 3 years.