

## **JAMES M. GOURDE**

Senior Manager in Business Development

Collins Aerospace

Jim Gourde was born in Salt Lake City, Utah. He earned a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the United States Air Force Academy and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1995. In 1997, he graduated from Undergraduate Pilot Training as a C-130 Pilot. While on active-duty Jim participated in Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and the Global War on Terrorism. Jim joined the Arkansas Air National Guard in 2005 and worked for CAE as a C-130J Simulator instructor. There he was qualified to teach all phases of qualification from initial qualification to complex mission and night vision goggle certification and taught a myriad of international students. In 2011, Jim was brought on full time to author the C-130 Avionics Modernization Program (AMP) operations manual and served as C-130AMP subject matter expert and initial cadre. As a leader in the Air Guard Jim's offices captured nationwide accolades with National Guard Bureau's Mission Support Trophy, Air National Guard Safety Office of the Year award and Major General John J Pesch Flying Safety Trophy. He personally flew 5 Boeing C-130AMP aircraft into retirement and continued to work USAF C-130 avionics modernization. He served as the only operational pilot subject matter expert advising and evaluating on the \$500M source selection for the revised C-130 avionics upgrade. Jim Gourde retired as a command pilot with over 4000 hours. He continues work with congressional staff in Arkansas and has served on Senator John Boozman's Air Force Academy cadet selection panel for 11 years.

Jim Gourde retired in September of 2019 and transitioned to Collins Aerospace March 2020. There he serves as a senior manager in business development. He specializes in USAF military avionics modernization and military obsolescence abatement. His portfolio includes C-130 systems upgrades and modernization, as well as specializing in Air National Guard and Air Mobility Command networking and advanced battle-space management systems and projects. He helped with the C-130 AMP Increment 2 program and ARC-210 engineering change proposal as the business development

lead. He has worked C-130J Head Up Display, Enhanced Vision System (EVS) integration and demonstration for AFSOC, ANG and AMC assets. He is currently executing a Congressional inject for demonstration of EVS on ANG C-130Js for firefighting. Jim advises and participates on efforts modernizing legacy and J model C-130s in the international market as well.