

Russell O. Stark, C.M.
Deputy Director, Aviation
Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
(BNIA and NFIA)

Russell O. Stark is an aviation professional providing domestic and international aviation experience and innovative leadership for his tenants, customers and staff. He retired from the U.S. Army with almost 32 years of active-duty service. In his military career he attained the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Five (CW5) and held various positions including Company Commander, Battalion Operations Officer, Standardization Instructor Pilot, Airfield Operations and Safety Officer and Deputy Chief of Airspace Command and Control, Aviation Operations and Plans. During his time in the military, he received qualifications on the UH-1, OH-58 and CH-47D&F helicopters as well as the C-12 (King Air) and the Dash 7 fixed wing airplanes. He attended the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Flight Training Program, numerous Army Aviation qualification courses and has received a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and an MBA from City University.

Mr. Stark's previous positions, include Airport Director for Stockton Metropolitan Airport and the Commissioner of Aviation for Griffiss International Airport as well as Operator of one of six FAA designated UAS test sites. During his time at these positions, Mr. Stark was a member of the California Airports Council (Board of Directors), New York Aviation Management Association (NYAMA) Board of Directors and a member of the Academic Outreach and Training committee and Chairman of the NYAMA UAS Committee.

Mr. Stark is currently the Deputy Director, Aviation for the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA). The NFTA is responsible for the operation and oversight of the Buffalo Niagara International Airport and the Niagara Falls International Airport.

Mr. Stark is also a Certified Member and Accredited Airport Executive (AAE) Candidate of the American Association of Airport Executives and also served as an adjunct instructor for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.