

William “Wes” Shields

Operations Research & AI | Strategy, governance, and delivery

U.S. Navy Supply Corps Lieutenant Commander | MS · MBA · CAIS · AIGP

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Operations research analyst and active-duty Supply Corps officer with two decades directing global supply networks under geopolitical and material constraint. Has established AI governance in a defense training command, a venture-backed technology platform, and a consulting portfolio, aligned to NIST AI RMF and ISO/IEC 42001. Builds the systems alongside the strategy: multi-agent orchestration, evaluation harnesses, and fine-tuned models. Graduate training in optimization, stochastic modeling, and network science.

Clearance Active DoW Secret security clearance.

AI strategy & governance · Agentic systems engineering · LLM evaluation & fine-tuning · Operations research · Global supply chain · AI education & enablement

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Director — Innovation & Digital Transformation

Dec 2025–Present

U.S. Navy Supply Corps School · Newport, RI · Active duty

- Own the AI and digital-transformation roadmap for a graduate logistics school training **250+ officers annually**; rebuilding an **800-hour curriculum** around a measured, student-centric model.
- Integrated approved AI capabilities and analytics automation across 250 staff and students, recovering **2,000+ instructor-hours per year**.
- Built the NIST AI RMF-aligned approval path every capability clears before fielding; **five-plus capabilities approved and fielded** to date.

Founder & Principal

Jan 2023–Present

Synthminds.AI · Mystic, CT · Remote

- Built a top-five Upwork AI consultancy to **\$400K+ cumulative revenue** across **50+ engagements**, taking enterprise AI programs from concept to shipped product.
- Embedded as fractional AI partner to a **venture-backed technology platform** through a 7-to-18-person scale-up and platform rebuild; established governance, acceptable-use policy, and the approval workflow supporting Series A diligence.
- Designed and shipped an **eight-agent operations orchestrator** with confirm-by-default gates, human approvals, and audit logging across finance, HR, supply, legal, and compliance; built its **36-month cash-runway scenario model**.

Fractional Chief Technology Officer

Nov 2023–May 2024

Voice technology startup · Los Angeles, CA · Remote

- Led technical strategy, model development, and security architecture with a senior engineering team, delivering a working end-to-end voice-AI prototype.
- Fine-tuned and deployed **10+ consented voice models**, from corpus construction to synthetic voice; built provenance through key management, signature imprinting, and an immutable ledger.

Director / Officer-in-Charge — North Division

2022–2025

NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center Norfolk · Norfolk, VA

- Led a **200+ person** enterprise logistics division across three U.S. regions and the Mediterranean, sustaining **150 ships and submarines**, 40 partner commands, and 700 DoW activities.
- Delivered a flawless 2025 SECNAV inventory-validity audit and built the process that passed flawless again in 2026; led a **16,700-line inventory realignment** supporting submarine operations.

Operations Director — Distribution Pearl Harbor

2017–2020

Defense Logistics Agency · Pearl Harbor, HI

- Directed up to **208 personnel** across **eleven distinct supply chains** in the Pacific theater, exceeding **97.5% of DLA Distribution KPIs**.
- Posted the highest on-time-per-transaction average in ten fiscal years, anchoring the site's 2019 Distribution Center Excellence award in a 24-center, 10,000-person agency.

EARLIER LEADERSHIP & RESEARCH

Operations Research, Naval Postgraduate School · 2020–2022. Monte Carlo thesis on additive-manufacturing fulfillment of aviation consumables: approximately 10% lead-time reduction with additive manufacturing filling only 0.5% of orders.

Logistics & Supply Department Head · 2014–2017. Coastal Riverine Group TWO: logistics across five countries for a 452-person squadron; \$2M in defense contracting.

Aviation Support Division Officer · 2012–2014. NAS Whidbey Island: \$250M repair-parts portfolio, 165 aircraft, 25 squadrons.

Single Ticket Program Manager · 2011–2012. U.S. CENTCOM CDDOC, Kuwait: synchronized 150,000+ passenger movements.

Materials Officer / Principal Assistant for Logistics · 2009–2011. USS Dwight D. Eisenhower: 75-person division and \$250M inventory; consecutive Blue “E” awards.

TECHNICAL ENVIRONMENT

Engineering Python, SQL, TypeScript / Node, HTML & CSS; pandas, NumPy, SciPy, NetworkX, scikit-learn, PyTorch; React, Streamlit, Git, Docker.

AI systems Evaluation harnesses, LLM-as-judge, fine-tuning, RAG, embeddings, supervisor/worker orchestration, tool calling, human approvals, MCP and guardrails; LangChain, LangGraph, LangSmith; local inference.

Quantitative & data Optimization, stochastic and queueing models, Monte Carlo and discrete-event simulation, network science, Bayesian inference, probabilistic forecasting, counterfactual analysis; PostgreSQL, BigQuery, vector stores, Neo4j; GCP and AWS.

Enterprise transformation Led two SAP-based inventory and financial ERP migrations, each spanning 10,000+ line items and \$250M+ inventory, over 12–18 months without shutting down operations. Governance to NIST AI RMF and ISO/IEC 42001; model risk, AI usage policy, audit logging.

TEACHING & EDUCATION

Adjunct Professor, AI & Prompt Engineering — Rutgers Business School and Upright Education, 2025–present. **AI Instructor & Course Architect, Uplimit** — highest-rated of 100+ educators; 10,000+ learners.

M.S., Operations Research — Naval Postgraduate School, 2022 · Beta Gamma Sigma

M.B.A. — William & Mary, Mason School of Business, 2018 · Beta Gamma Sigma

B.S., Economics — United States Naval Academy, 2007

CREDENTIALS & RECOGNITION

Certified AI Scientist (**CAIS**), 2024–2027 · AI Governance Professional (**AIGP**), IAPP · Claude Certified Architect (**CCA-F**) · LOGTECH IDB Advanced, UNC Kenan-Flagler · Complex Network Science, NPS · Upwork Expert-Vetted, invitation-only top 1% of agencies · OpenAI Expert Consultant, among the first 18.

DLA Field Grade Officer of the Quarter, Q3 2019 · CENTCOM DDOC Company Grade Officer of the Year, 2012 · LinkedIn AI Top Voice, 2023–2024.

SELECTED PUBLIC RESEARCH

The Great Rewiring: Pricing Modern Mercantilism and AI on the World Trade Web — Forecasting the Future 2026, competition submission. [Public code: Synthminds/GreatRewire](#).

Simulating Consumable Order Fulfillment via Additive Manufacturing Technologies — Master's thesis, Naval Postgraduate School, 2023. hdl.handle.net/10945/72054.

Building a Reliable, Dynamic and Temporal Synthetic Model of the World Trade Web — Co-author, CompleNet 2022.