



Dr. Michael J. Dreikorn Biography



As a first generation American, Michael Dreikorn grew up in a household grounded in hard work, determination, and respect. Michael was raised with the conviction that an individual's word has a direct link to their honor and integrity, and that without honor and integrity a person has little value. Growing up in California, Michael is a product of Governor Reagan's public school system, at the time one of the best in the nation.

In 1980, Michael enlisted in the U.S. Army (President Reagan was the Commander and Chief), trained in helicopter mechanics and quality control, he served seven years in West Germany, protecting against those who might do America harm. As a result of an unfortunate accident on duty, Michael spent six months in military hospitals recovering from injuries and ultimately honorably retiring as a Sergeant. While in the military, Michael started a family and pursued a Bachelors degree of Science in Professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, in his off-duty time.

Returning home in 1987, Michael re-entered the civilian workforce working for defense contractors and commercial aircraft manufacturers such as Northrop and McDonnell Douglas. Moving wherever his duties required him, Michael and his family lived in California, Switzerland, Kansas, Iowa, and Virginia. While he was developing a new factory in Kansas, Michael obtained a Masters in Science degree in Management from Friends University and authored his first book, which described organizational systems and best practices within the regulated aviation industry.

With a passion to serve his industry, in 1995 Michael joined the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in Washington, D.C., as the Assistant Division Manager for Production and Airworthiness. Michael went to Washington with the objective of learning the regulatory processes, provide the FAA practical with experience and knowledge, and then return to industry where he could continue to provide value. While in D.C., Michael participated in Congressional inquiries and reviews, development of international safety treaties, establishment of government and industry best practices panels, and oversight of the safety systems of the U.S. civil aviation system. In his free time (what little there was), Michael pursued a Doctorate of Education in Human Resource and Organizational Development from The George Washington University.

Staying true to his commitment not to become a career bureaucrat, Michael left the FAA in 1998 and joined Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, Connecticut as the Vice President of Quality and Product Integrity. Pratt & Whitney is one of world's largest manufacturers of propulsion systems, providing engine power to helicopters, private and commercial airplanes, military aircraft, and spacecraft. His responsibilities were global and 24/7, requiring pragmatic and decisive troubleshooting and decision-

making skills. During this time, Michael authored his second book, *The Synergy of One*. This book outlines the importance of having organizational systems that work and which are complied with; performance measures that are meaningful and measureable; and transformational leadership that is capable to ensure the organizational system sustainably meets consumer requirements. Also while at Pratt & Whitney, Michael completed an Executive Leadership program at the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia.

In 2002, it was time for Michael to try his hand at entrepreneurship and formed The IPL Group, LLC. The IPL Group is a consulting, engineering, auditing, and training firm providing services to the aviation, space, defense, and nuclear industries. Essentially, Michael took his abilities to resolve big complex problems, and made a business of helping others. Realizing success, and seeking a higher quality of life, in 2004 Michael moved his business and employees to Lee County. Michael chose Lee County for both its uniqueness and its potential. He lives in the eclectic area of Bokeelia on Pine Island. Since moving to Florida, Michael has formed a couple of other businesses, all focused on the aviation, space and defense industry, to include a not-for-profit with the objective to ensure a sustainable knowledge base in the industry. While running his businesses, Michael has participated on independent Blue Ribbon investigation panels and was personally requested by the Secretary of the Navy to advise him on matters of acquisition reform (waste elimination). While enjoying the Southwest Florida life, Michael authored his third book, describing processes of knowledge management within an industry and establishing professional bodies of knowledge.

Michael also holds various professional certificates and licenses, including from the FAA and a journeyman certificate from the U.S. Department of Labor. He is frequently called upon various documentary film productions to provide expert perspective to aviation safety matters. Michael is also a Fellow of the American Society for Quality.

At the local community level, Michael has been the President of the Bokeelia Civic Association for the past nine years and very active championing issues related to Pine Island. Michael has one biological son, Shawn (32); daughter-in-law Syrivanh, and three beautiful grandchildren. And, with his long-term partner, Darlene, he has two step sons Pierce (17) and Seth (22). Pierce (LaPrey) is in his senior year at Bishop Verot and was recently voted MVP at the John Carrigan Rotary South All-Star Classic football game and looks forward to attending college and playing football. For fun, Michael enjoys riding his Harley, enjoying the water of SW Florida, various sports, and time with his dogs.

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