

John S. Thackrah

Biography



John Thackrah is the founding Principal of Sextant Solutions LLC, an aerospace, maritime and government acquisition consultant.

Prior to his current role, John was the Vice President of Washington Operations for Pratt & Whitney, an aircraft engine provider (2017 – 2019), where he led Pratt & Whitney’s federal, state and international government and customer relations activities, advised senior management on government relations matters and communicated the company’s business interests to key public policymakers and organizations.

Previously, John served as executive director for the U.S. Navy’s Military Sealift Command beginning in 2011. He was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 2005 and served in several roles for the Navy including; Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development & Acquisition), and principal deputy, Strategic Systems Programs. He was twice awarded the Department of the Navy’s Superior Civilian Service Award.

John’s career began in 1979 at Pratt & Whitney, where he held several positions in project and test engineering, program management, model management, commercial flight test activities and as general manager of a joint venture startup. He was promoted to vice president Commercial Engines and moved to the Otis Elevator division of UTC as the vice president Worldwide Engineering. He returned to Pratt as vice president Aftermarket Services, and later vice president/general manager for one of Pratt’s strategic business units.

He is a graduate of the University of Delaware, where he earned a Bachelor of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, and a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a Master of Business Administration.

He has been a member of the National Defense Transportation Association (NDTA) and a past board member from 2011 to 2017. He has also held membership at Aerospace Industry Association (AIA), 2017 to present and Navy League of the United States, 2011 to 2017. John also served the College of Engineering, Chairman’s Advisory Council and the Parent Board at the University of Delaware, 2001 – 2017.