WILLIAM "DREW" LAWRENCE, CD

Ottawa, ON | 705-358-8508 | drew@walawrence.ca | https://www.linkedin.com/in/walawrence585/

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Defence, space and telecommunications operations leader with 23 years of Royal Canadian Air Force service and current private-sector responsibility for 24/7 network and field operations. Experienced in NORAD, multinational space integration, electronic warfare, deployed satellite intelligence capabilities, and translating military mission requirements into executable operational plans. Brings senior stakeholder engagement, mission assurance, technical integration and operational leadership experience across government, allied and industry environments.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Defence Space & Space Operations
- DND/CAF Stakeholder Engagement & Public Sector Governance
- Operational Requirements & CONOPS Development
- Technical Integration & Operational Readiness
- Program Risk Management & Operational Governance
- Defence & Allied Partner Collaboration
- Telecommunications & Network Operations
- Cross-Functional Leadership
- Secure Information Governance & Classified Operations

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MANAGER, NETWORK & FIELD OPERATIONS

SSi Canada, Ottawa, ON
August 2026 – Present

- Lead the 24/7 Network Operations Centre (NOC) and field operations supporting telecommunications services and geographically dispersed infrastructure across northern Canada
- Oversee incident management, operational escalations, service restoration, workforce planning, and operator development to maintain service continuity and operational readiness
- Drive improvements in operating procedures, knowledge management, change coordination, and cross-functional collaboration with engineering and technical teams
- Strengthen operational risk management and service delivery governance through structured escalation procedures, change controls, and reporting to executive leadership

SPACE INTEGRATION ADVISOR (S5 PLANS)

3 Canadian Space Division HQ, Ottawa, ON
September 2025 – August 2026

- Translated senior strategic direction and emerging operational requirements into executable headquarters plans, stakeholder engagement activities, decision-support products, and mission-aligned outputs for subordinate and partner organizations
- Shaped ambiguous multinational space integration challenges into clearer problem statements, planning assumptions, requirements, risks, dependencies, and recommended next steps for senior leaders and partner organizations
- Provided strategic advice to senior leadership and policy staff, informing decisions on partner integration, capability development, and operational planning
- Developed and coordinated multinational operational plans supporting Multinational Force Operation Olympic Defender (MNF-OOD), aligning Canadian capabilities with allied mission timelines
- Represented Canada in stakeholder engagements with Five Eyes partners, France, Germany, and Special Operations Forces, contributing to the coordination of integrated, cross-domain mission planning and execution

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Canadian Forces Electronic Warfare Centre (CFEWC), Ottawa, ON
October 2023 – September 2025

- Coordinated operational planning and integration activities for CFEWC and Five Eyes Electronic Warfare partners, aligning operational requirements with technical capabilities
- Supported organizational transformation initiatives that realigned core business functions, improved coordination across operational and technical teams, clarified internal structures, and positioned the unit for emerging F-35 and rapid reprogramming requirements
- Identified operational risks, capability gaps, dependencies, and coordination issues, developing mitigation strategies to support mission continuity, senior decision-making, and delivery against operational priorities
- Led development and delivery of training and standardization activities, improving operational readiness and shared understanding across technical, operational, and senior leadership audiences

CAMP SERGEANT MAJOR

Ceri Military Base, Latvia
January 2025 – June 2025

- Directed operational support activities at a multinational military base, ensuring alignment with Canadian Armed Forces standards and mission requirements
- Provided advisory input to senior leadership forums, delivering recommendations to improve operational effectiveness and coordination
- Oversaw establishment and transition of operations at Lielvārde Air Base, including planning, coordination, and execution of operational timelines

UNIT WARRANT OFFICER

Eastern Air Defense Sector (EADS), Rome, NY
July 2022 – October 2023

- Advised leadership on personnel, operational, and organizational matters within a geographically dispersed multinational unit
- Managed a $75K operational budget, ensuring effective allocation of resources
- Strengthened cross-border relationships with U.S. partners, supporting coordinated aerospace defense operations

DETACHMENT COMMANDER – URSA

Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) / USNAVCENT, Manama, Bahrain
June 2020 – January 2021

- Commanded a four-person team operating and sustaining a $20M RADARSAT-2 satellite downlink and processing capability supporting Combined Maritime Forces and U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (USNAVCENT) maritime security operations
- Directed mission planning, operational employment, maintenance, and sustainment activities to ensure continuous availability of space-derived intelligence products for coalition decision-makers
- Supported on-site installation and operational integration of an MDA-delivered midlife upgrade during COVID-19; led the detachment in identification and correction of post-installation deficiencies
- Managed a $4M operational budget while coordinating with Canadian, U.S., and multinational partners across a complex coalition environment
- Awarded a Commander CJOC Commendation for operational leadership and mission impact during deployment

EARLIER CAREER EXPERIENCE

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE (2003 – 2022)

- Extensive experience in NORAD operations and aerospace surveillance delivering RAP
- Supported Space Object Identification (SOI), Overhead Persistent Infrared (OPIR), and space-enabled mission support activities throughout multiple operational assignments
- Held multiple operational and instructional roles, including Air Surveillance Technician, Mission Crew Chief, and Senior Instructor
- Delivered training and mentorship to Canadian and allied personnel

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bachelor of Commerce, Business Technology Management (In Progress)
Athabasca University | 4.0 GPA

Certificate in Information Technology (In Progress)
Thompson Rivers University | 3.6 GPA

Rotman Senior Leadership Program – 2025
Rotman MBA Essentials Program – 2024

Space 200, Orbital Warfare 100, Joint Space Target Course – National Security Space Institute (NSSI) – 2026