Daniel K. Elwell



In June 2017, President Trump announced the appointment of Daniel K. Elwell as the Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Elwell was sworn in to office on June 26, 2017. As Deputy Administrator, he is the second highest-ranking official at the agency and is responsible for ensuring the safe and efficient operation of the largest aerospace system in the world, a system that operates more than 50,000 flights per day. He is also responsible for regulating the safety of equipment and operators of the U.S. aviation industry. Elwell also serves as the Chief NextGen Officer and is responsible for FAA's modernization of the air traffic control system.

Elwell previously served at the FAA as the Assistant Administrator for Policy, Planning, and Environment from 2006-2008. Most recently, he was Senior Advisor on Aviation to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao. Earlier in his career, he served as a legislative fellow for the late Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska).

From 2013-2015, as Senior Vice President for Safety, Security, and Operations at America for Airlines (A4A), Elwell was responsible for leading the advancement of commercial aviation safety and security excellence for major U.S. air carriers.

Prior to A4A, Elwell was Vice President of the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) from 2008-2013. In this role, Elwell represented civil aerospace manufacturers and led policy development and advocacy for the civil aerospace manufacturing interests of more than 300 AIA member companies.

Elwell was a commercial pilot for 16 years with American Airlines, flying DC-10, MD-80, and B-757/767 aircraft. While maintaining his proficiency as an MD-80 Captain, he served as Managing Director for International and Government Affairs at American Airlines.

Dan earned his pilot wings at Williams Air Force Base in Arizona after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in International Affairs. Lieutenant Colonel Elwell retired from military service as a Command Pilot with more than 6,000 hours combined civilian and military flight time in the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Air Force Reserve, including combat service during Operation Desert Storm.