



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MITCHELL INSTITUTE



**Douglas A. Birkey** is the Executive Director for the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Power Studies. The Institute seeks to educate the public about aerospace power's contribution to America's global interests; cultivate the next generation of air-minded leaders; and inform policy and budget decisions in an independent, authoritative fashion. Activities include hosting academic forums, organizing symposiums, publishing research papers, and providing mentorship opportunities for emerging national security professionals.

Prior to this position, Birkey served as the Air Force Association's Director of Government Relations. He was responsible for developing strategies to advance policy positions with Members of Congress, their staffs, officials within the Air Force, and the broader defense industry.

In addition to his formal duties at the Mitchell Institute, Birkey is the co-founder of the Washington, D.C. Airpower Working Group. The organization seeks to positively shape the national security debate so that the Nation's leaders are empowered with air-minded policy options and strategies that advance US interests effectively, prudently, and sustainably. Activities include roundtable forums, lectures, educational fieldtrips, and mentorship opportunities. Members include senior officials at the Department of Defense, Capitol Hill staffers, select members of the media, think tank experts, and rising uniformed talent—the common denominator is a desire to enhance the national security decision making process.

Birkey began his Washington DC career as a defense staffer in the office of Senator Lieberman (D-CT), assisting the Senator with his duties on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

He received his undergraduate degree from the College of Wooster, majoring in history, and was awarded a graduate degree in international affairs from Georgetown University. He is also active in the restoration and operation of vintage aircraft for several private organizations, including the National Air and Space Museum.

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