



Candidate Bio: Jarid Watson

Jarid Watson is a former U.S. Air Force combat correspondent with extensive experience in public affairs, video and audio production, and storytelling. He's an accomplished leader with a track record of success in managing teams and projects, and producing award-winning content.

As a former executive producer for Air Force Television's flagship short-documentary program "BLUE," Jarid led a three-person team and produced "Out of Vietnam," a story of reconciliation based on the book, "My Enemy, My Friend," by former Air Force pilot Dan Cherry.



He also supervised the Air Force radio news office for three years, managing daily operations and producing more than 1,500 radio headlines that served a 3.5 million global audience.

As a public affairs and media production specialist for the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, Jarid has a proven ability to coordinate high-profile events that generate significant publicity. He coordinated and led a visit by actor Anthony Mackie, Disney Motion Pictures, and Entertainment Tonight to the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds hangar, which generated immeasurable earned media for the Thunderbirds team while cross-promoting the movie *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*.

He also managed the team's "Fallen Warrior" program, recognizing and honoring at air shows more than 20 families who lost loved ones while in service.

Jarid's skills as a multimedia journalist, radio disc jockey, videographer, editor, and writer have earned him numerous awards, including Broadcast Journalist of the Year, Television Sports Report of the Year, Television Feature Report of the Year, and Radio Entertainment Program of the Year at various Department of Defense media contests. He also received the John Levitow Award, the highest award presented at Airman Leadership School, for demonstrating outstanding leadership and scholastic qualities.

In February 2023, Jarid and his wife, Priscilla, founded Calliope Media. Shortly after, the pair spent the following months producing a limited series podcast covering the East Palestine train derailment and are currently wrapping up a documentary film on the disaster. In August 2023, Calliope Media was invited to host a seminar on news and storytelling at Podcast Movement, the largest podcast conference in the world.

Jarid is a counseling psychology student at Chatham University. He holds a BA in Communication from Thomas Edison State University, a Certificate in Advanced Motion Media from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University, and an AAS in Public Affairs from the Community College of the Air Force.

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