

COLONEL EDWARD A. CABRERA, USAF (RET)

After graduating from the US Air Force Academy with an Astronautical Engineering degree, Colonel (Ret) Eddie Cabrera became a USAF fighter pilot and experimental test pilot, accumulating 4,000 hours in 70 different aircraft types. As Operations Officer, he led the Joint Strike Fighter Test Force during the flyoff between the X-32 and X-35 concept demonstrators, helping the test team earn the national Collier Trophy and setting multiple “X-aircraft” world records. Afterwards, he commanded the first F-22 Raptor squadron becoming the only USAF pilot in history to fly both the X-32 and F-22. As a colonel, he served as a Division Chief in the Pentagon, deployed to Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and completed military service as a Test Wing Vice Commander.

Later, he led a global national security program for Lockheed Martin Skunk Works as a program manager and experimental test pilot. Eddie currently works at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory leading a portfolio of advanced space research programs supporting the DoD and various government agencies.

Eddie is co-founder and President of the non-profit Hispanic Veterans Leadership Alliance and has served on numerous corporate & nonprofit boards/councils enabling educational opportunities for youth, especially those from underserved communities. He holds an MBA from Pepperdine University, an MS in Mechanical Engineering from California State University-Fresno, and a MA in Strategic Studies from the Air War College. He is also a graduate and former instructor at the US Air Force Test Pilot School.