Lt Col Daniel "Bud" Oakey, CAP

An active pilot and staff officer in the Virginia Wing, Civil Air Patrol, Oakey is Chairman and Founder of Advantus Strategies, LLC, and President of the Virginia Aviation Business Association (VABA). A recipient of the A. Scott Crossfield Master Educator Award for Aerospace Education, Oakey is a leading advocate for aerospace education and STEM programming in K-12, ensuring Virginia's workforce can meet industry demand. Additionally, he has established processes for internships connecting students with aviation and public policy.

As VABA President, his leadership advanced and shaped policy, including the elimination of sales tax on parts and supplies used on the maintenance of aircraft within Virginia, helping attract new businesses and bolster those already operating in Virginia. A former Virginia Aviation Board member, Oakey championed the use of rural general aviation airports for aerospace R&D and manufacturing. His decades of work continue to build the foundation positioning Virginia as a leader in aviation and aerospace.