

**Ivan Pupulidy is the Human Performance Specialist for the US Forest Service, a position earned through a multi-faceted career path. After receiving a Geology B.S. Degree in 1984, Ivan worked as a mine geologist and exploration geophysicist (for companies such as Newmont Exploration, Ltd. and Quintana Minerals Corp.). With a desire to go from the earth to the sky, Ivan joined the Coast Guard and progressed from Officer Candidate School to Flight School, where he was winged as a Naval Aviator in 1987.**

**Flying HU-25 Falcon Fan-Jets at Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas, Ivan engaged in rescue and law enforcement missions until the Coast Guard selected him for a very competitive Maintenance Officer and Pilot position. Assigned to the HC-130 Hercules aircraft (at Coast Guard Air Station Sacramento) Ivan flew one of the most challenging humanitarian missions in the military, often taking him directly into the eye of a hurricane, or low over stormy water to rescue ships in distress.**

**Following a successful ten year career with the Coast Guard, Ivan traded water for fire and became a Lead Plane Pilot for the US Forest Service. Flying low level over forest fires across the United States, Ivan was led to develop safety programs that would impact all levels of his organization.**

**Ivan also remained active in the US Air Force Reserves and has flown the Hercules in combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan and humanitarian support missions throughout central Africa.**

**Ivan completed a Master's of Science Degree in Human Factors and Systems Safety at Lund University, Sweden and is currently working on a PhD in System Safety.**