JOSEPH J. SWANN III

San Diego, CA • Joseph.Swann.2027@Marshall.USC.Edu • (619) 980-1171 • linkedin.com/in/joseph-swann • Active TS/SCI

PROFILE

Autonomous Systems Operations Leader • Program Manager (PMP) • Cross-Functional Team Builder
Proud Military Veteran

Operational leader with 20+ years directing complex SONAR and autonomous systems programs in high-stakes defense environments. Seeking a management position to formalize business and strategic leadership capabilities, with the goal of transitioning into executive roles that bridge emerging technology and organizational management. Brings a proven record of leading cross-functional teams, managing multi-million-dollar programs, and driving measurable performance outcomes across global operations.

EDUCATION

University of Southern California, Marshall School of Business – Los Angeles, CA **May 2027**
Master of Business for Veterans
- Membership: USC Marshall Product Club

Thomas Edison State University – Trenton, NJ **June 2026**
Bachelor of Science, Military Technology Leadership
- Honors: GPA 4.0

U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy – Newport, RI **June 2023**
Organizational Leadership

EXPERIENCE

Unmanned Surface Vessel Squadron 3 – San Diego, CA **May 2025 – Present**
Experimentation & Operations Manager, Autonomous Systems
- Lead end-to-end technical operations for an experimental autonomous surface vessel (USV) program, integrating hardware, software, and sensor fusion systems to deliver fleet-ready capabilities
- Serve as primary liaison between product engineering and deployed operations teams; collect stakeholder inputs across defense contractors and research institutions and translate them into executable technical solutions
- Direct high-stakes independent missions requiring real-time problem-solving, hardware/software troubleshooting, and on-site decision-making in dynamic, resource-constrained environments
- Manage multi-stakeholder program initiatives ensuring on-time delivery of milestones across geographically dispersed organizations

Naval Special Warfare Advanced Training Command – Coronado, CA **Nov 2023 – May 2025**
Technology Operations Manager, UAV/ISR Systems
- Managed operations, maintenance, and sustainment for an advanced UAV platform portfolio; sustained 100% operational readiness across all assigned systems
- Designed and implemented technical training programs for operators and maintainers; standardized procedures improving operator proficiency and mission efficiency
- Applied data-driven root cause analysis using telemetry logs and system data to resolve recurring mission-impacting faults on complex autonomous systems

Surface Development Group One – San Diego, CA **Nov 2020 – Nov 2023**
Director of Technology Integration & Operations
- Led a department of 15 technical professionals overseeing autonomous systems maintenance, training curriculum, and operational readiness across multiple geographically dispersed units
- Championed integration of emerging autonomy technologies with research and engineering partners; reduced operational costs by 25% while accelerating capability delivery
- Established IP network architecture and MANET/SATCOM communications infrastructure supporting forward-deployed operations in austere environments
- Directed international technology demonstration program coordinating logistics and stakeholder engagement across 63 partner nations for a multi-million-dollar capability portfolio

- Received executive-level commendation for technical leadership and measurable improvements to autonomous systems operational performance

Various Forward-Deployed Operations – Global **Aug 2006 – Nov 2023**
Senior Technical Operations Manager, UAV/ISR/SONAR/MANET

- 17 years of progressive leadership managing UAV/UAS/USV/SONAR platforms and autonomous systems in operationally relevant, austere, and deployed environments worldwide
- Maintained 99.8% operational uptime across pre/post-flight inspections, sensor payload management, and real-time systems monitoring
- Established forward-deployed operations from the ground up in austere environments: IP networking, MANET communications, SATCOM backhaul, and autonomous systems sustainment under resource-constrained conditions
- Trained and mentored cross-functional teams of 20+ operators and maintainers on UAV/UAS/USV/SONAR systems while consistently achieving superior readiness

PROJECTS

USV Attack – Naval Drone Arcade Shooter (usvattack.com) **Oct 2026 – Present**

- Founded, designed, and built a free arcade game drawing on my Navy USV background: 40 waves, 8 worlds, a live global leaderboard, and offline play on any device.

MilBudget – Military & Veteran Financial Planning App (milbudget.org) **Oct 2026**

- Built a free budgeting dashboard for service members and families: military pay by rank, taxes, debt payoff, TSP, and High-3/BRS/VA retirement scenarios (React, TypeScript, Cloudflare)

Battle of the Sexist – Game-Theory Learning Platform (gametheory.stream) **Oct 2026**

- Built a learning game for my USC cohort: 300 challenges on Nash equilibrium, the Prisoner's Dilemma, and pricing, with solo practice, head-to-head matches, and a shared leaderboard

Get Out Get Well – AI Post-Surgical Recovery App (getoutgetwell.com) **Oct 2026**

- As product manager and developer on a USC Marshall Product Club team, researched post-op non-adherence (~26% miss follow-ups) and co-authored a PRD with SMART goals and a clinic pilot plan
- Vibe coded and launched an app that turns discharge instructions into daily plans, dose and visit reminders that notify family, home-safety setup, and a voice assistant

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Professional & Campus Organizations

- Treasurer: *USVRON Three CPOA* – San Diego, CA (Oct 2025 – present)
- General Member: *USC Marshall Product Club* – Los Angeles, CA (Oct 2026 – present)

Volunteer Activities

- Global Leadership Program Event Facilitator: *University of Southern California* (Oct 2026 – present)
- Constructor: *American Red Cross* (Apr 2016 – present) – Mazatlán, Mexico's first women's rehab center
- Community Art Advocate: *YMCA of San Diego County* (Sep 2023 – Nov 2024) – Silver Strand YMCA
- Organizer: *Kadena Air Base* (Apr 2014 – Apr 2016) – Special Olympics, Easter events
- CPR Instructor: *American Red Cross* (Nov 2012 – Nov 2014)
- Package Handler: *San Diego Biking* (Mar 2021) – clothing for the homeless
- Volunteer: *USS Midway Museum; Habitat for Humanity; Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank*

SKILLS & INTERESTS

- Certifications: PMP; Lean Six Sigma Green Belt; Professional Scrum Master & Agile Leadership; CompTIA Security+ & Network+; HBS Non-Profit Management; Resilience-Building Leadership Trainer; Rutgers Supply Chain Logistics; USDOL Counselor; OSHA 30
- Publication: Blessed and Highly Favored (published book, 2026)
- Leadership & Management: Cross-functional team leadership, program management, Agile/Scrum, Lean Six Sigma, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement
- Technology: Autonomous systems (UAV/UAS/USV), MANET/SATCOM, SONAR, ISR, Python, GenAI
- Business: Risk management, mission planning, cost reduction, international operations
- Interests: Golf, writing children's books, boxing, cutting hair, vibe coding