

THE CLIME

Semper Sky Celebrates Four Years of Purpose and Progress

On July 12, Semper Sky marked four years of work in sustainable aviation and disaster preparedness.

This year we made significant progress on several fronts. We secured an extension under Option Year 1 of a government subcontract after positive feedback from our government customer. We continue to seek opportunities to do our mission alongside the fine folks of Eastern North Carolina, and we are working to get letters of support from several counties across several states, where we can rinse and repeat our laboratory and aerospace hub concept.



Talent development remains central to our work. This summer, nine students participated in two separate internship programs. Our STEMterns (5) and EYEterns (4) applied their skills to technical and research efforts that support Semper Sky's mission. STEMterns Ein Kim and Srinath Krishnan led patent research focused on spot fire suppression drones. All five STEMterns represented the company at EATS, the Electric Aircraft Technologies Symposium, where Deepta Bharadwaj and Celeste Rubio-Medina presented their research and received positive feedback from Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Jackson Frederick attended, representing the University of Virginia's American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Chapter for the second year in a row. Our EYEterns, participating through the Educating Youth through Employment (EYE) Program, contributed to the improvement, research, and development of our Ready Resilient Real-time Disaster Interface (R3DI) platform. Mahanth Goli built a demo version of the R3DI app for web integration.

Beyond our internship program, interest in our work continues to grow. Since mid-June, we have received unsolicited inquiries about aviation disaster response. We refined pitch materials for R3DI to align with investor expectations. Our name is increasingly linked to community-first resilience, unmanned systems, and aviation logistics. To support growth, we finalized a financial engagement with Ian Gerrard, our "Numbers Guy," to develop investor materials highlighting the return on investment potential in real estate and software. Related, our grant efforts now focus on state education programs, environmental, social, and governance (ESG) technology adoption, insurance-aligned resilience funding, and animal rescue workflows related to the Drone as First Responder (DFR) program integrated within R3DI.

Throughout this next year, Semper Sky will advance R3DI development and execute a financial forecast to guide sustainable growth. We are also preparing a state pilot proposal to demonstrate scalable impact. We're doing the work to increase our community outreach to make sure our efforts reflect actual needs. We will expand our reach to include more counties and wards while continuing our partnership with Stafford County Schools in Virginia.

Semper Sky appreciates the ongoing support of our ecopreneurs, partners, investors, and our talented team. As we celebrate four years, we want to express our utmost gratitude. Thank you!

SEMPER & HYDE

Working Together for Sustainable Solutions



Juice posed with Hyde County leaders after successfully presenting plans for Semper Sky's disaster response lab.

The collaboration that began with students imagining a better future for Ocracoke Island is now leading to a promising effort to serve Eastern North Carolina.

In 2024, Semper Sky hosted the Sustainable Island Challenge, which invited student teams to develop ecofriendly infrastructure solutions for Ocracoke Island, part of Hyde County, North Carolina. The challenge introduced Semper Sky's work to the county and brought attention to the island's environmental vulnerabilities and dependence on the mainland.

That initial connection is growing into a working relationship focused on disaster readiness and rural innovation. On August 1, 2025, Ferguson "Juice" Dale met with Hyde County leaders at the Hyde County Airport in Engelhard to present a plan for a disaster response lab. The meeting confirmed county-level interest in the proposal and opened the door to next steps.

Hyde County officials have expressed support for Semper Sky's efforts and have begun contacting state and congressional leaders to advocate for funding a community-focused aerospace lab, a mobile training unit, and the equipment and staffing needed for the first missions. They also endorsed Semper Sky's R3DI platform and a pilot phase that includes development of the platform's Minimum Viable Product (MVP), acquisition of aerial assets, and coordination exercises linked to the county's Emergency Operations Center.

Semper Sky's proposed lab in Eastern North Carolina is designed to show how rural communities can organize disaster response using people and tools already in place. The approach will apply a circular county model, meaning existing resources take on multiple roles to support disaster response. For example, a crop-spraying drone may assist with fire suppression. A high school student could lead a drone mission. A school bus route might serve as a logistics corridor.

The lab is expected to operate under real conditions, with missions that retrain local teams and test satellite-to-mobile communication to maintain coordination during power outages. The broader effort aims to establish a repeatable system that other rural counties can adopt. This work may also address emergency transport needs for remote areas like Ocracoke, where current medevac response times can exceed the Golden Hour or period right after a traumatic injury when quick treatment is most likely to prevent death. With aircraft and drones staged locally, response times could shorten during critical events.

Semper Sky and Hyde County are continuing to assess how existing assets can support this effort. The outcome has the potential to position the county as a model for locally driven, community-based disaster response across the state.



Taka Suzuki, Defne Savas, Sydney Bakir, and Aiden Winfield's efforts garnered interest from Ocracoke's Commissioner, Randal Mathews. He initiated a partnership with Semper Sky to enhance the island's sustainability.

THE CLIME

SMART STEM summer

On June 23 and 24, Semper Sky led a hands-on STEM experience for students in the Stafford County Public Schools Summer Enrichment Program alongside the <u>SMART Community STEM</u> team, a nonprofit organization dedicated to STEM educational outreach with a particular emphasis on uncrewed aircraft systems (drones). Nathan Sekinger, NBCT School Librarian at Stafford County Public Schools, directed the Smart Community STEM activities at AG Wright and Dixon Smith Middle Schools. The sessions ran from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and included approximately 10 rising middle schoolers from gifted education tracks.

Semper Sky owner Ferguson "Juice" Dale joined Nathan and helped guide the students through a series of practical simulations focused on disaster response, drones, digital mapping, and water analysis. Isaac "Ike" Beard was also on hand to support the activities as Semper Sky's resident drone expert.

Throughout the event, students explored how their actions contributed to a broader understanding of emergency response. They engaged in activities to help create a fuller picture of a simulated disaster zone. They also discussed how drones and community-shared data can help responders avoid conflict, work efficiently, and protect lives during crises.

Semper Sky's role in the program was instructional and engaging. The students rotated through seven learning stations designed to immerse them in response scenarios. At the orientation station, they practiced using their phones to find north and worked to identify their location on a printed map. At the drone station, they operated a small quadcopter to simulate collecting water from a flooded area, then examined samples under a microscope to compare clean and contaminated sources.

Although the stations were complex, the activities were approachable and age-appropriate. Students marked contamination levels on physical maps, completed short surveys, and contributed to a larger picture of the simulated emergency by the end of the session. Teachers and staff observed how invested the students were and noted that the hands-on structure helped keep the experience meaningful and organized.

Semper Sky's participation continued the growing collaboration with Stafford County schools. Last year, Semper Sky championed the continued use of drones in disaster zones. This year's program built on that foundation with new activities and a stronger emphasis on map-based decision making. The experience also demonstrated the value of local knowledge and personal technology in sharing accurate information during a crisis.



Juice assisted two learners as they explored digital mapping of disaster zones.



At the drone station, students operated a small quadcopter to simulate collecting water from a flooded area.



After the water collection simulation, Juice examined samples under a microscope, comparing clean and contaminated sources.



STEMterns Fed Their Curiosity at the 2025 Electric Aircraft Technologies Symposium

Semper Sky recently attended the 2025 Aircraft Electric **Technologies** Symposium (EATS), held June 18-20 in Anaheim, California. The event took place in conjunction with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Electrification (IEEE) Transportation (ITEC), which features Conference innovations across all modes of electric transportation. EATS, a focused track within ITEC, centers on progress in electric and hybrid aviation.

The theme for EATS 2025 was Intelligent Sustainable Electrification Transportation. The symposium covered a range of topics, including electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) and electric Short Takeoff and Landing (eSTOL) aircraft, battery



(Lto R) Deepta Bharadwaj, Srinath Krishnan, Juice, Jackson Frederick, Ein Kim, and Celeste Rubio-Medina

THE **CLIME**

systems, autonomous controls, and infrastructure planning. Presenters examined technical progress as well as the policy and market factors shaping the future of electric flight. Some breakout sessions included insights relevant to Semper Sky's ongoing work on the R3DI initiative.

Semper Sky's newest summer STEMterns also took part in the week's activities. On the first evening of the symposium, Ferguson "Juice" Dale held a winging ceremony to recognize each STEMtern for their contributions. They received name tags emblazoned with Semper Sky's official logo, name patches, and company shirts.

While attending EATS, STEMterns Deepta Bharadwaj and Celeste Rubio-Medina presented research that included a technical paper reviewing seven years of rolling recaps from aerospace expert Herb Schlickenmaier. Their project, titled Multi-Year Review of Electric Aircraft Research and Technology, addressed technical and political changes across battery and electrical propulsion, while spotlighting aviation design. Celeste initiated the policy incentive analysis for the paper, and Deepta completed the technical section, which received positive feedback from IEEE. They also created a technical poster to accompany their talk.

Deepta described presenting during EATS as the highlight of her internship, noting that the experience deepened her understanding of sustainability in electric aviation. She found the fireside chat hosted by Herb especially inspiring, as it showcased knowledgeable and passionate leaders shaping the future of the field.

In addition to Deepta and Celeste, STEMterns Ein Kim, Srinath Krishnan, and Jackson Frederick attended sessions, connected with professionals, and engaged with ongoing research shaping the field. The event marked the first in-person meeting of all five STEMterns. Jackson found the connections especially meaningful. "I've enjoyed being able to learn so much about electric aviation and sustainability within the aerospace industry," he said. "I've not only learned from this internship but from the people that I got to spend my time with."

MARGO'S IN ITFORTHE LONG RUN

Margarita "Margo" Cianchetta, Semper Sky's STEMternship Coordinator, has been with the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation since 2022. She brings more than a decade of philanthropic and development experience to the organization. In her current role, Margo is responsible for cultivating meaningful relationships between investors and the Scholarship Foundation's mission of Honoring Marines by Educating Their Children in the Northeast and Upper Midwest regions.

Margo earned her undergraduate degree in Communications, with honors, from Rutgers University and also holds the prestigious Certified Fundraising Executive credential (CFRE). Margo is a proud Marine Corps and MCSF Scholarship recipient alumna, as her late father, Sergeant Major Mario Cianchetta, USMC (Ret.), served for nearly 30 years in the Marine Corps.



Margo is an avid marathon runner, having completed more than 30 marathons, and has raised thousands of dollars for various charities through her running. She currently resides in New Jersey with her dog, Miles. When she is not running or traveling, she enjoys reading, spending time with her friends and family, and listening to the Backstreet Boys and Bon Jovi.

SEMPER SKY'S LINKEDIN WORKSHOP CENTERED SOFT SKILLS

On Tuesday, July 22, Semper Sky hosted a virtual LinkedIn Skills Session for our summer STEMterns. Internship Coordinator Margo Cianchetta led the session and focused on helping the STEMterns improve their professional presence online and understand how to use LinkedIn as a tool for career development.

Margo and Semper Sky owner Ferguson "Juice" Dale came up with the idea to complement the STEMternship program's knowledge-based classes with soft skills education. "Soft skills are very important and networking is a great soft skill for everyone to know/learn," Margo said.

The session included a shared screen walkthrough that showed interns how to update their profiles, make professional connections, and search for jobs. Margo also explained how to identify relevant connections, apply filters during job searches, and use LinkedIn to stay engaged with the industry they hope to enter. "Having an upto-date profile, being active on the platform, and making connections are important tools for continued professional development," said Margo. She encouraged the STEMterns to maintain an active profile and continue learning from others through the platform.

According to Margo, the session was necessary because "LinkedIn is a very powerful and useful tool, especially for those seeking employment, trying to build their networks, [and learning] about the industry in which they hope to be a part of/are a part of." The STEMterns responded positively to the session and described it as informative and helpful.

The LinkedIn Skills Session was one of several opportunities Semper Sky offered to help STEMterns build confidence and prepare for future roles in sustainable aerospace and emergency response.



IMPRESSIVE INPUT OPTIMAL OUTCOMES Summer STEMterns Gain, Semper Sky Grows



(L to R) STEMterns Jackson Frederick, Ein Kim, Celeste Rubio-Medina, Deepta Bharadwaj, and Srinath Krishnan

EC +

SOCIETY

Power Energy Society

IEEE INDUSTRY

Linking Research
Resear

Ein Kim and Srinath Krishnan worked on design concepts for a compact drone to support wildfire mitigation.

2025 Semper Sky's Summer STEMternship program kicked off virtually on May 27 with a team of rising high school seniors, college students, and a recent college graduate. The eight-week coordinated program, bv Margo Cianchetta, brought together interns from across the country and around the world, who were selected for their interest in aerospace, disaster response, and sustainability. They worked on projects shaped by industry, government, and academic partnerships.

Ein Kim, Srinath Krishnan, Celeste Rubio-Medina, Jackson Frederick, and Deepta Bharadwaj attended weekly virtual sessions led by Dr. Marty Bradley, a professor and expert in sustainable propulsion systems. The sessions focused

on systems thinking, electrified aviation, and the intersection of infrastructure and technology. Aaron Schmidt, who has worked in military technology and field integration, joined as a guest speaker and added valuable perspective to the team.

Some STEMterns contributed to the development of fire response technology through Semper Sky's R3DI platform. Ein Kim and Srinath Krishnan, rising high school seniors from Irvine, California, worked on design concepts for a compact drone to support wildfire mitigation. "The biggest project I have worked on throughout this internship was the creation of a fire suppression drone, called FLARE (Fire Location and Rapid Extinguishment)," said Ein. "Through this project, we started research under Chapman University professor Dr. Lyon, gained connections throughout [Orange County Fire Authority], and learned more about drones than ever before."

Srinath also appreciated the learning experiences throughout the summer. While focusing on fire suppression aid, he realized "the extent to which technology can impact the lives around us." He said that insight was the most significant takeaway from his time as a STEMtern. Srinath also emphasized the importance of using available resources and thinking practically. "I learned to think beyond the concept and focus on the implementation."

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STEMterns Reflect on Takeaways, Accomplishments, and Surprising Moments

Celeste Rubio-Medina, a college student from Southern California, centered her work on public safety communication and field coordination. She said her biggest takeaway was how much effort goes into "even the smallest pieces of field technology." Working across agencies exposed her to the urgency of developing tools that are "flexible, familiar, and fast" in a disaster. "You don't have to wait to be the expert to speak up," she said. Reflecting on her time as a STEMtern, Celeste added, "I am most proud of the work and time that was put into the IEEE conference with every intern and mentor. All showed a drive to learn about the topics discussed and used the opportunity for the better."

Deepta Bharadwaj, who recently graduated from the University of California San Diego with a Bachelors of Science in Bioengineering, participated asynchronously while preparing for a cross-country move. Along with Celeste, she worked on a technical paper about the rolling recaps presented by Herb Schlickenmaier over the past seven years. Deepta said the work they presented at the 2025 IEEE Electric Aircraft Symposium "addressed the technical and regulatory changes across battery and electrical propulsion while spotlighting aviation design." Speaking on her accomplishments as a

STEMtern, Deepta said, "I'm proud to have contributed to the Electric Aircraft Technologies Symposium and to have deepened my understanding of sustainability in this context." She also highlighted the IEEE symposium as one of the most inspiring moments of her internship.

Jackson Frederick, a rising third-year aerospace engineering student at the University of Virginia, joined the program to explore how electrical innovation is influencing the aerospace industry. Semper Sky helped Jackson broaden his experiences within his area of interest. "This STEMternship has helped me [...] get my feet wet with electric aviation," he said. "I'm proud of how we've had so many opportunities to learn and grow while being part of Semper Sky." Jackson contributed to a variety of aviation research assignments, and he hopes to continue in the field through graduate studies and future work on projects centered around electric aircraft.



Celeste Rubio-Medina and Deepta Bharadwaj proudly display their technical poster that accompanied the presentation they gave at EATS 2025.



The STEMterns received the name patches shown above, name tags emblazoned with Semper Sky's official logo, and company shirts.

The STEMterns' work furthered Semper Sky's mission and added to current efforts in sustainable aerospace and emergency response. Throughout the program, they gained practical experience, sharpened their interests, and added perspective to the team. For Jackson, that was a highlight of the STEMternship. "A main component of my experience has been being a part of a class that teaches us about what's going on in the industry and catches us up to speed," he said. "These lessons can be applied to various projects."

ABURNO DESIRE TO HELP STEMterns Lead Patent Research and Build Fire Suppression Drone

Ein Kim and Srinath Krishnan, seniors at Beckman High School in Irvine, California, have seen firsthand the destruction wildfires bring. In a shared statement, the Summer 2025 STEMterns said, "The heat from the glowing flames burns your face as smoke covers the sky." They added that fire season has become an increasingly severe problem in California, with the most recent Palisades Fire devastating neighborhoods and costing billions in infrastructure damage.

The fire, which began on January 7, 2025, during a series of wind-driven blazes across Los Angeles County, burned more than 23,000 acres, destroyed thousands of structures, and caused billions of dollars in losses before it was fully contained later that month. Motivated by the devastation, Ein and Srinath set out to design a tool that could help communities respond more effectively to the growing threat of wildfires.

Together, they led patent research for a low-cost fire suppression drone. With a targeted production cost of around \$500, they built the flight system around a Matek F405 WMN (Wing Mini) flight controller. That specific flight

To create their fire suppression drone, FLARE, Srinath and Ein started research under Chapman University professor Dr. Lyon, They also made connections throughout Orange County Fire Authority.

controller is used in fixed-wing aircraft and FPV wings, which are remote-controlled planes with a camera that sends live video to the pilot. The controller takes signals from the transmitter and adjusts the motors for smooth, accurate flight. To help keep the aircraft stable, they added an inertial measurement unit. The design follows FAA Part 107 rules, meeting legal requirements for operating near fire zones.

Ein and Srinath built the drone with modularity in mind. Quick-swap sensors and payload systems allow teams to reconfigure it for missions like aerial reconnaissance or fire suppression. That flexibility supports long term field use and simplifies logistics for emergency crews. They also designed the drone for adaptability and interoperability. It connects directly with the Incident Command System and Semper Sky's forthcoming R3DI app, delivering real-time situational data to both first responders and civilians. The drone targets spot fires, allowing firefighters to focus on larger and more dangerous areas.

For Ein and Srinath, the drone is more than a project. It's a calling. Ein said, "Both Srinath and I believe fair and equal are inconsequential in the face of such tremendous terrors, and we have a duty to act. We both have a burning desire to help those in need that have suffered. If our project helps even one person, it is a resounding success."

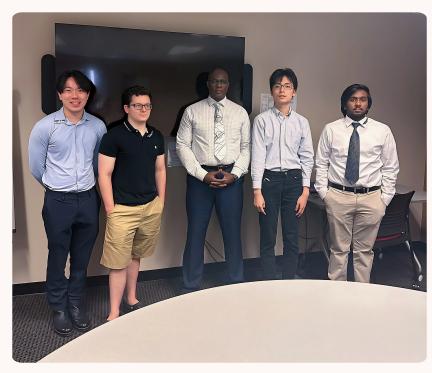


AN JOPENING EXPERIENCE

Interns Support Disaster Response Innovation and Get Field Exposure

This summer, four Fairfax County students participated in Semper Sky's internship program through Educating Youth through Employment, or EYE. The six-week experience introduced Julien Baldassari, Marcus Chan, Mahanth Goli, and Ryan Lesmana to professional-level projects in sustainable aviation and disaster response, with a focus on meaningful contribution and technical growth.

The EYE program places young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 in real job environments. Many participants come through county support systems and may bring diverse educational needs. Ferguson "Juice" Dale, Semper Sky's assigned EYE employer, provided support and coordinated participation, which required the EYEterns to attend training sessions, work weekday hours, and engage in regular performance check-ins. Semper Sky's goal was to expose them to the field and involve them directly in shaping new tools and systems for public use.



(Lto R) Ryan Lesmana, Julien Baldassari, Juice, Marcus Chan, and Mahanth Goli After complete their capstone presentation, each EYEtern received official Semper Sky wings.

The EYEternship centered on R3DI, Semper Sky's disaster coordination app. Short for Ready Resilient Real-time Disaster Interface and pronounced "ready," the innovative concept is designed to support community response, particularly when infrastructure fails. The EYEterns contributed to user research, interface planning, software demonstrations, and stakeholder engagement.

Mahanth Goli, a rising senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, focused on software development. "I worked on designing and building the early demo of the R3DI app using Flutter and Dart," he said. "I made a system to report and vote on incidents and view nearby hazards using a map interface." He worked closely with technical advisor Jim Flannery, a senior lecturer at the University of Georgia's business school and a consultant specializing in machine learning and data analytics. Jim's mentorship helped guide the app's early development and encouraged the interns to think critically about how data and design intersect in disaster scenarios. Mahanth also supported fellow EYEtern Julien Baldassari in researching how people with different needs might interact with R3DI during emergencies.

Julien, a freshman engineering student at the University of Maryland, contributed to early app diagrams and concept materials intended for potential investors. He also gathered information to support design planning and accessibility. "I have worked on collecting a lot of information that would help Semper Sky, and I have worked on diagrams that show how the planned R3DI app would work," he said. His research helped the team think more critically about user interface design and inclusivity.

Ryan Lesmana, an Information Technology major at George Mason University, focused on stakeholder discovery and community research to support disaster response planning. He also developed his communication skills through real-world engagement. "I conducted an interview with Beth Bucksot, Pamlico County North Carolina's Director of Economic Development, and translated complex insights into actionable intelligence."

EYEterns Discuss Their Involvement and Learning Experiences

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Reflecting on the experience, Ryan said he was surprised by the level of detail involved in system design. "Things like button placement or the first message someone sees really shape how people use the system," he said.

Marcus Chan, a rising freshman in Computer Science at George Mason, also had an eye-opening experience. "I did research on satellite communications," he said. "I saw firsthand how AI can be used for research. I knew it was powerful, but I never used it for this type of research before, so I didn't realize how much it could help." While analyzing studies on satellite and other communications, Marcus gained a new appreciation for the role of artificial intelligence. Using AI tools gave him a broader understanding of how information technology fits into disaster planning.

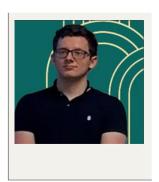
To support progress, each EYEtern completed weekly deliverables ranging from written reflections to wireframes and interview notes. One served as a progress tracker to maintain shared files and updates. The group also met regularly with Semper Sky staff and external advisors, including professionals in drone operations, emergency response, and urban planning.

The internship culminated in a visit to the Annandale District Office in Fairfax County, where the EYEterns presented their work to government and nonprofit partners. They explained their approach, walked through real artifacts, and answered questions about what they had learned. The visit served as a professional milestone and a valuable feedback opportunity.

Throughout the experience, the EYEterns expanded their technical and personal perspectives. "This is my first year working in a remote internship with Semper Sky, and it is actually a good experience so that I know what to expect for future remote jobs as well," Ryan said. Julien was most proud of the research he contributed to the team. When questioned about the importance of disaster readiness, Julien offered a short and empathetic answer. "It's important to me because I care about other people."

Semper Sky is grateful and proud to have worked with such an intelligent and ambitious group.

MEET THE EYETERNS



Julien Baldassari Fairfax, Virginia

Julien is a freshman Engineering student at the University of Maryland. He worked on early diagrams and concept materials for the R3DI disaster coordination app, focusing on accessibility and how people with different needs might use the platform. Julien says the most meaningful part of the internship was contributing research that will help communities prepare for emergencies.



Marcus Chan McLean, Virginia

Marcus, a freshman in Computer Science at George Mason University, directed his EYEtern research toward satellite communications and emergency signaling. Using AI tools for the first time in this type of work, he gained a clearer view of how technology can support disaster response. Marcus valued the chance to work with real data and apply classroom skills to a high-impact project.



Mahanth Goli Herndon, Virginia

Mahanth is a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. This summer, he focused on building an early demo of the R3DI app. He developed a system that lets users report and vote on incidents and view nearby hazards through a map interface. Mahanth appreciated the challenge of creating a tool that could be used in real-world disaster situations.



Ryan Lesmana Herndon, Virginia

Ryan is a George Mason University freshman, pursuing a degree in information technology. As an EYEtern, he conducted stakeholder interviews and researched community needs for disaster coordination, turning complex findings into clear, actionable recommendations. Ryan was surprised to discover how much thought goes into early design choices and how those decisions influence the way people interact with technology.

R3DI FOR THE WORLD

Semper Sky's EYEterns Present Their Completed Projects

After six weeks of research, design, and development, Semper Sky's EYEterns brought their work into a professional setting to present their progress. On July 30, 2025, Ryan Lesmana, Mahanth Goli, Marcus Chan, and Julien Baldassari delivered their capstone presentation at the Fairfax County Annandale District Office, briefing government officials, EYE Program staff, and nonprofit partners on a tool they built for community disaster coordination.

The project focused on R3DI, Semper Sky's Ready Resilient Real-time Disaster Interface. Pronounced "ready," the app is designed to help residents and emergency teams share information and resources when infrastructure is compromised. The interns supported the project through research, interface planning, and demonstrations of the app's capabilities. The system includes roles for public users, workers, and administrators and is expected to support field testing by Stafford County students in the 2025–26 school year.

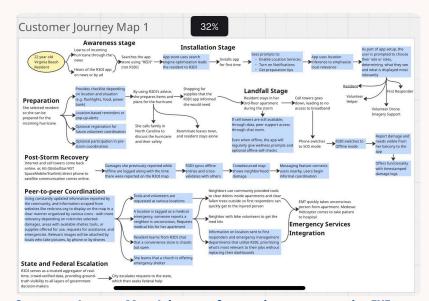
During the presentation, the team demonstrated user journeys and highlighted key features such as offline access, data syncing, and community-sourced content. Ryan, Julien, and Marcus presented customer journey

maps illustrating how different types of users could navigate the interface. Mahanth shared live code and technical implementation details, with guidance from Professor Jim Flannery of the University of Georgia. Marcus noted that preparing the demonstration helped him see how software design and communication tools can work together in an emergency setting. Mahanth emphasized the value of presenting to an audience with direct experience in disaster response.

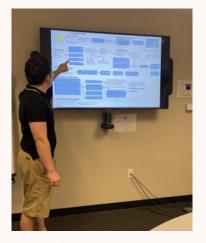
A Semper Sky winging ceremony closed the event, with Ferguson "Juice" Dale honoring each EYEtern with a wing pin. The interns completed their program and received recognition for their contributions to public safety and innovation.



EYEterns Ryan Lesmana, Julien Baldassari, Marcus Chan, and Mahanth Goli watched and listened as Juice reviewed an aeronautical map.



Customer Journey Map 1 is one of many journey maps the EYEterns designed and detailed. They reviewed multiple journey maps during their capstone presentation.





(Left) Julien shared a customer journey map and detailed the potential path of 22-year-old who selects "Resident" on the R3DI app.
(Right) Mahanth displayed and explained the live code and technical

(Right) Mahanth displayed and explained the live code and technical implementations the app requires.

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Juice Talks Career Lessons and Professional Growth

On August 8, Ferguson "Juice" Dale represented Semper Sky during a panel discussion with several other EYE Program employees. He shared insights on career development, disaster response, and professional growth. He also touched on lessons from his own experience and offered advice for young adults exploring potential career paths.

Check out the Q&A to see what Juice contributed to the conversation.

Q: Why did you choose your profession?

A: For disaster response, I think about the fact that the climate is changing. People may argue the causes, but I think we can agree that it is changing. I have two sons, ages five and three, and I want to be able to look them in the eye years from now and tell them I did what I could to make sure they had a livable environment.

Q: What was most essential in landing your first job, and did that change over time?

A: Two things: relationships matter and attention to detail. I became a professional aviator starting in 2007 and earned my license in 2012, building experience both in the military and civilian sectors. In aviation, it's easy to become complacent, but attention to detail is critical. You must remain engaged and aware, because losing focus can have serious consequences—especially in high-risk environments like disaster response.

Q: What soft or hard skills did you learn early in your career that have helped you be successful?

A: One of the most important soft skills I learned was to be the kind of employee you would want to hire yourself. Put yourself in the other person's shoes. Another is to express feelings responsibly. In aviation, before a flight we run through the I'M SAFE checklist—Illness, Medication, Stress, Alcohol, Fatigue, and Eating—to ensure we're fit to fly. Some people will say they're fine when they're not, and that can create safety risks. Being honest about your readiness and capabilities helps the team and the mission.

Q: What are some common mistakes your young employees make?

A: A common issue is misunderstanding initiative and judgment. In the Marine Corps, we learned leadership traits that include initiative and judgment as a pair. Taking initiative is important, but it must be paired with sound judgment. For example, during one internship presentation, students arrived expecting the room setup to be done for them. The lesson was to take ownership—arrive early, prepare the space, and make sure everything is ready for your audience.

Q: What advice would you give to someone just starting their career?

A: Internships are a great way to test the waters. Just jump in and try different opportunities until you find your niche. There is no perfect time to start—experience will help you figure out what you enjoy and where you can make the biggest impact.

Q: What advice do you give to your young employees at work?

A: Don't be afraid to make mistakes—these are learning opportunities. In aviation, we follow a loop of Aviate, Navigate, Communicate, and Checklist. Keep the mission or task moving forward (Aviate), know where you're going and your plan (Navigate), communicate clearly (Communicate), and use checklists to ensure nothing gets missed. If you have good leaders, they'll help guide you; if not, it may be a sign to find a better environment.

Q: What are the benefits of certifications, education, or training in your organization?

A: In my field, certifications and education can provide a baseline understanding that helps me know how to communicate with you. For example, in aviation, understanding lift, weight, thrust, and drag is essential before you can safely operate. While a degree isn't required for what I do, certifications and training build credibility and capability.

Q: How can young adults start exploring different career paths?

A: Ask people who have been where you want to be how they handled challenges. Seek out internships and job-shadowing opportunities. Programs that subsidize internships, like this one, are invaluable because they create a win-win: the employer gets needed work done, and you gain paid experience.

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