



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **VAI Congratulates Michael Graham and Daniel Edwards on Senate Confirmations**

#### **Experienced Aviation Leaders Confirmed to Advance Safety, Infrastructure, and Global Competitiveness**

**Alexandria, VA (May 18, 2026)** -- VAI congratulates Michael Graham on his reappointment as a member and vice chair of the National Transportation Safety Board, and Daniel Edwards on his confirmation as Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Aviation and International Affairs.

“VAI congratulates Michael Graham and Daniel Edwards on their Senate confirmations,” says VAI president and CEO François Lassale. “Both bring substantial aviation experience and a clear understanding of the safety, operational, and policy issues facing vertical aviation. Their leadership will be important in strengthening aviation safety, advancing modern infrastructure, and supporting a strong, competitive vertical aviation sector in the United States and around the world.”

Graham brings extensive safety and operational experience, including his prior service at Textron Aviation and as a naval aviator. Edwards brings more than 30 years of aviation experience, including service as a military pilot, civil engineer, private aviation executive, and FAA associate administrator for airports.

VAI looks forward to working with both leaders in support of a safe, efficient, and competitive aviation system.

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Vertical Aviation International (VAI), formerly Helicopter Association International (HAI), is the world’s leading membership association dedicated to the vertical aviation industry, which encompasses all aircraft capable of vertical or short takeoff and landing.

Throughout its 76 years of fueling industry growth through connection, advocacy, safety, education, and support for its members’ success, VAI has leveraged the power of vertical flight to strengthen communities worldwide. The association welcomes all facets of the vertical aviation industry, including manufacturers, operators, suppliers and vendors, pilots and maintenance technicians, and other aviation professionals. For more information about VAI, please visit: <https://verticalavi.org>.

**Vertical Aviation International**

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