



Former NASA Mission Leader | Analyst on Mission Risk and Failure Prevention

Signature Insight:

*Major programs rarely fail because risk is invisible.
They fail when risk begins to feel acceptable.*

About Mike

Mike Ciannilli is a former NASA mission leader who provides analysis on how complex missions prevent failure under pressure. He supported high-visibility human spaceflight programs where operational decisions carried real consequences for crew safety, mission success, and public confidence.

Today he helps media audiences understand how risk evolves as programs gain momentum. His commentary focuses on mission readiness, certification discipline, autonomy validation, and leadership judgment in safety-critical environments.



Contact

Available for live or recorded commentary

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Commentary Topics

Human Spaceflight and Mission Readiness

- signals that a program is entering a higher risk phase
- certification discipline and unresolved safety assumptions
- launch anomalies and mission integration challenges

Preventing Failure in Complex Programs

- how confidence reshapes risk decisions
- maintaining verification standards under schedule pressure
- leadership responsibility in high-stakes operations

Autonomous and Safety-Critical Systems

- validating software-driven systems before crews depend on them
- decision authority in complex mission environments
- lessons for aviation, logistics, healthcare, and financial systems

Sample Interview Questions

- ▶ What is the real risk facing a mission program right now
- ▶ What do infrastructure or procurement decisions signal about readiness
- ▶ When does growing confidence create new failure risk
- ▶ How do leaders prevent catastrophic outcomes in complex systems

Fast Facts

- Former NASA mission leader supporting human spaceflight
- Expert on preventing failure in complex technical programs
- Commentary on mission readiness, autonomy, launch risk, and program governance
- Works with leadership teams managing safety-critical operations



Media Appearances

Media Clips: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLik0N9QiUwm5_ddgqmOXgDIyY4oQeHMe4

Stage Reel: <https://youtu.be/2pNRcBP1mQ8>

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