

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Business operations, program management, and technology leader with 20+ years of experience managing complex operations, leading cross-functional teams, improving processes, training personnel, managing risk, and implementing technology in high-accountability environments. Retired United States Navy officer and air traffic control leader, co-owner of Our Nation Realty, and founder of Nina Buruca-Nation Photography | Thru My Lens. Currently pursuing a Master of Science in Business Analytics & Artificial Intelligence at NYU Stern, combining operational leadership with analytics, machine learning, generative AI, UI/UX design, and human-centered technology. Hands-on experience with LLMs, cloud platforms, coding, data analysis, digital design, and AI-assisted workflows. Maintains an Active Top Secret/SCI Security Clearance.

- Leadership | Collaboration
- Strategic Planning
- Regulatory Compliance
- Program | Project Management
- Technology | AI Integration
- Data Analysis | Research
- Training | Development
- Risk | Crisis Management
- Budget | Resource Management

EDUCATION | CERTIFICATIONS | LICENSURE

Master of Science (MS), Business Analytics & Artificial Intelligence | NYU Stern School of Business | Expected May 2027

Master of Arts (MA), Interaction & UI/UX Design | Academy of Art University | May 2026

Bachelor of Arts (BA), Criminal Justice | Columbia College

Certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt (LSSGB)

Federal Aviation Administration Certified Control Tower Operator (CTO) |

Enroute RADAR Controller | Federal Aviation Administration/United States Navy

Air Traffic/Airspace Manager

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Technology & AI-Driven Operator: Combines business operations, analytics, UI/UX, machine learning, and hands-on use of ChatGPT, Claude, Claude Code, generative AI platforms, Python, R, SQL, Tableau, Stata, GitHub, GCP, and Notion to improve workflows, analysis, documentation, and decision-making.

Astute Project Manager: Identified inefficiencies and created a Microsoft Excel program to manage and track 15 departments and 8 rehabilitation teams, supporting more than 7,100 man-hours and 720 ship compartment jobs and contributing to a 30% increase in operational efficiency and quality assurance.

Proactive Leader: More than 20 years of experience operating and evaluating tower and radar simulators, leading training and certification, and supporting technology modernization, including a \$2M Standard Terminal Automation Replacement System (STARS) upgrade.

Articulate Executive: Supported FAA and Department of State positions in international airspace policy discussions and communicated Department of Defense impacts of modernization, policy changes, and future training requirements to senior stakeholders.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Our Nation Realty | Tampa Bay, FL

Jan 2026 - Present

Co-Owner | Business Operations & Technology Manager

- Co-own and support business operations, technology, and process improvement for a multi-state real estate brokerage serving Florida, Georgia, and California.
- Develop and streamline workflows across brokerage and property-management functions to improve efficiency, consistency, operational visibility, and client experience.
- Apply data analytics, LLMs, generative AI, and automation tools to support research, lead generation, marketing, business decision-making, documentation, and performance tracking.
- Design and implement CRM workflows, digital platforms, process documentation, and technology solutions while partnering with brokerage leadership on strategy, vendor management, operational planning, and scalable growth.
- Apply UI/UX and human-centered design principles to client-facing experiences, internal systems, and digital business processes.

Nina Buruca-Nation Photography | Thru My Lens | Greater Tampa Bay Area

Jan 2023 - Present

Owner | Professional Photographer

- Own and operate a creative photography business producing portraits, real estate photography, video, and digital content from client consultation through final delivery.
- Manage project planning, scheduling, creative direction, photography, videography, post-production, asset management, client communication, and delivery.
- Create visual content for personal brands, properties, social media, and marketing using Adobe Lightroom, Photoshop, Premiere Pro, and other creative technologies.

- Integrate visual storytelling, UI/UX principles, and emerging generative AI tools into creative ideation and content-production workflows.

United States Navy | San Diego, CA

Jul 2002 - Apr 2024

Regional Airspace Coordinator/Airspace Manager

Jun 2022 - Apr 2024

- Managed airspace utilization for the San Diego region, optimizing flight paths and coordinating with civilian authorities, resulting in a 15% reduction in flight delays and a 20% increase in on-time arrivals.
- Directed 50+ annual safety inspections and achieved a 98% compliance rate while ensuring safe military and civilian operations.
- Oversaw training and certification of 65+ air traffic controllers, maintaining a 100% qualification rate and continuous operational readiness.
- Analyzed airspace usage data and implemented corrective measures that increased capacity by 10% and reduced military-civilian conflicts by 25%.
- Built collaborative relationships with FAA, airport authorities, and other stakeholders to coordinate policy, operations, and complex airspace requirements.

Air Traffic Control Facility Officer/Manager

Jun 2019 - Jun 2022

- Supervised a team of 20 air traffic controllers supporting 24/7 operations and mission readiness.
- Implemented training programs that achieved a 95% certification rate within six months and reduced operational errors by 25%.
- Conducted 50+ performance evaluations annually and coached personnel to improve proficiency, accountability, and career development.
- Coordinated across adjacent facilities to reduce holding times by 30% and fuel consumption by 15%, while sustaining 98% equipment availability.
- Ensured compliance with FAA regulations and Navy directives, maintaining a 100% regulatory compliance record.

Air Traffic Manager

Apr 2014 - Jun 2019

- Directed airspace management operations, staffing, resource allocation, safety, budgeting, and continuous improvement supporting more than 100,000 aircraft annually.
- Led operational analysis and enhancements that reduced airspace conflicts by 20%, decreased potential safety incidents by 15%, increased capacity by 10%, and decreased delays by 25%.
- Managed budgetary allocations with 95% expenditure accuracy while optimizing resources to meet operational demands.
- Collaborated with military and civilian stakeholders to develop procedures, protocols, and operational priorities.

Operations Manager

Mar 2006 - Apr 2014

- Directed daily air traffic operations supporting more than 500 aircraft per day and managed 50+ controllers and support personnel.
- Developed training programs and standard operating procedures that reduced operational errors by 20% and procedural errors by 30%.
- Coordinated external agencies, equipment upgrades, maintenance schedules, audits, and regulatory evaluations to sustain operational readiness.

SPECIALIZED MILITARY TRAINING

Leadership and Management School | LDO/CWO Officer School | Airspace Management School | Air Traffic Control Management/Specialist School | Air Traffic Control Terminal Instrument Procedures (TERPS) School | Air Traffic Control Terminal Radar Approach Control School | Amphibious Air Traffic Control Approach Control School

TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES

AI & Large Language Models: ChatGPT, Claude, Claude Code, Adobe Firefly, generative AI platforms, prompt development, AI-assisted research, workflow design | **Data Analytics & Machine Learning:** Python, R, SQL, Stata, Tableau, Microsoft Excel, statistical analysis, data modeling, machine learning, visualization | **Cloud | Development | Version Control:** Google Cloud Platform (GCP), GitHub, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Java, JSON, Markdown | **UI/UX | Product | Web:** Figma, Webflow, user research, interaction design, prototyping, usability, human-centered design | **Creative | Media:** Adobe Creative Cloud, Photoshop, Lightroom, Premiere Pro, After Effects, InDesign, Acrobat Pro, photography, videography, content creation | **Business | Collaboration:** Notion, Microsoft 365, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Teams, Access, SharePoint | **Aviation & Airspace:** National Airspace System (NAS), Special Use Airspace (SUA), Altitude Reservations (ALTRV), Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) | **Languages:** Spanish - Proficient (Defense Language Proficiency Test)