



## **Steven A. Smits** **President**



Steven A. Smits is one of the founders and President of Patriot Taxiway Industries. He provides leadership, vision and management expertise in the area of manufacturing, plant maintenance, quality assurance and product development. He brings over 24 years of product manufacturing, development and customer service experience. Smits is responsible for the daily operations at Patriot Taxiway. Being a service disabled veteran, he has advocated recruiting veterans onto the Patriot team.

Smits has 31 years of military avionics experience in the United States Air Force. He is currently serving in the Wisconsin Air National Guard as Avionics Guidance and Control Craftsman for the 128<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing. He is responsible for training and qualification of new airmen in Avionics career field on the KC-135 Stratotanker. During his military career, Smits was deployed supporting several major military operations including Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Restore Hope (Somalia), Bosnia, Noble Anvil (Kosovo), Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. Smits has been awarded the Presidential unit citation with Valor (as part of the 128<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing), the Air Force Achievement Medal (4 times), the National Defense Medal, the Armed Force Expeditionary Medal and the Southwest Asia Service Medal. He served as the Human Resource Advisor to the commander of the 128<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing before returning to the Avionics section to train newly enlisted Air Force members.

Smits is a graduate of the United States Air Force Non Commissioned Officer Academy, Maxwell AFB Alabama. He is a graduate Human Resources Advisor Academy at Patrick AFB, Florida. Smits has earned an associate degree in Aircraft Electronics at Blackhawk Technical College Janesville WI. He also holds FCC License with Radar Endorsement. Smits is a member of the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) and American Legion. He volunteers for Young Eagles Flights and Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA).