

# JASON THOMAS TAVARES

SECOND IN COMMAND CANDIDATE • TROPIC OCEAN AIRWAYS

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## Tropic Ocean Airways Pilot Hiring Team

Re: Second in Command

I am writing to introduce myself for Tropic Ocean Airways' Second in Command opportunity with a background that is unusual for an early-career commercial pilot. My professional pilot time is still developing, but my aviation career began in 2009 and has already spanned U.S. Air Force F-16 maintenance, defense aviation operations, Part 135 aircraft maintenance, Part 145 quality assurance and inspection, crew leadership, and FAA Airframe & Powerplant certification.

That experience changes the way I approach the flight deck. I do not see an aircraft only from the controls forward. I understand the systems behind it, the maintenance and inspection standards supporting it, the significance of discrepancies, and the discipline required to place an aircraft safely into service. My current flight experience includes 349.9 total hours, 222.0 PIC, 74.8 instrument, and 86.4 hours in G1000-equipped aircraft.

Tropic is particularly compelling because your operation appears built around the same principles that have shaped my career: disciplined procedures, two-pilot coordination, conservative decision-making, strong technical standards, and a safety culture supported by in-house maintenance. A Cessna Grand Caravan EX amphibian operation in Florida and The Bahamas demands pilots who respect both the airplane and the operating environment. My maintenance and QA background gives me a perspective I believe can add value in that kind of operation from day one.

Throughout my career, I have been trusted in environments where preparation, communication, and judgment mattered. I led night operations teams, coordinated maintenance with U.S. Army personnel, supported Department of State missions, returned Part 135 aircraft to service, and maintained F-16s under exacting military standards. Those roles taught me to remain calm, follow disciplined processes, communicate clearly, and deliver a professional product to the people depending on the mission.

Since December 2024, I have focused on translating that technical foundation directly into the cockpit through commercial pilot development at Alpha One Flight and continued glass-cockpit training. I also serve as Maintenance Officer for South County Flyers, keeping me actively engaged in fleet condition, airworthiness, and operational readiness while I progress through the final pieces of the published SIC qualification path.

My professional pilot career is in its early stages; my understanding of professional aviation is not. I would bring Tropic an established record of aircraft-systems knowledge, maintenance discipline, operational leadership, safety accountability, and a willingness to learn from an experienced two-pilot operation. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how that combination can contribute to your team.

*Respectfully,*

**Jason Tavares**

FAA A&P • Former F-16 Crew Chief • SIC Candidate