

#1 | CDR ADAM BRYAN | USN

// Flight Leader / Commanding Officer

A native of Canton, Connecticut, Commander Bryan graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in Economics. Following his commissioning, he attended flight school in Pensacola, Florida, and continued his training at NAS Corpus Christi and NAS Kingsville. In July 2007, he earned his designation as a Naval Aviator and joined the VFA-106 "Gladiators" for initial fleet training as an FA-18C pilot.

CDR Bryan commenced his operational flying in June 2008 with the "Blue Blasters" of VFA-34. During his tenure, he completed two deployments aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), participating in Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and New Dawn.

In March 2011, CDR Bryan reported to the Naval Air Warfare Development Center, where he graduated from TOPGUN as a Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor (SFTI). He subsequently remained on the TOPGUN staff, becoming the U.S. Navy's subject matter expert on Surface-to-Air Threats and Countertactics for FA-18 employment. In 2013, he was appointed as the TOPGUN Training Officer, leading the training of SFTIs for both the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps.

In 2014, CDR Bryan returned to the fleet as the Training Officer for VFA-81 "Sunliners," completing a deployment aboard the USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) in support of Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR). He later joined the "Wildcats" of VFA-131 in 2016, serving as Safety Officer, Maintenance Officer, and Operations Officer. During this time, he deployed aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) in support of OIR and led the squadron's transition to the FA-18E Super Hornet.

After his department head tour, CDR Bryan served as an action officer at U.S. AFRICOM in the J-8 Directorate, where he led the Command's Integrated Priority List and Budget Review process, directly supporting warfighter requirements and influencing future Department of Defense budgets. In March 2019, he was selected for squadron command, assuming the role of Executive Officer for the "Kestrels" of VFA-137 in December 2021, and later serving as Commanding Officer from March 2023 until May 2024. During this period, he deployed aboard the USS Nimitz (CVN 68) in support of U.S. 7th Fleet operations.

CDR Bryan has logged over 3,200 flight hours across five aircraft, with 625 carrier arrested landings and 92 combat missions. His accolades include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Strike/Flight Air Medal (five awards), Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), and the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal, along with various service awards and ribbons. He is a qualified Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor, and both squadron and air wing qualified Landing Signal Officer and Air Wing Mission Commander.

In April 2024, he was selected to command the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, assuming command in November 2024. CDR Bryan was recognized as the George Bush First Tour Naval Aviator of the Year in 2011 and as the Commander Naval Air Force Atlantic Pilot of the Year in 2016.