

#4 | LCDR JAMES PERKINS | USN

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Lieutenant Commander James Wesley Perkins is a native of Pordenone, Italy, grew up in Georgetown, Texas, and graduated from Hutto High School in 2009. He attended Texas A&M University graduating with a degree in Ocean Engineering in 2014. Perkins commissioned as an Ensign through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

Wesley reported to Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida for Aviation Preflight Indoctrination in August 2014. He completed Primary flight training in the T-6B Texan II at NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Florida, and completed Intermediate and Advanced flight training in the T-45C Goshawk at NAS Meridian, Mississippi. Wesley earned his Wings of Gold in January 2017.

Wesley reported to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 122 "Flying Eagles", the west coast Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) at NAS Lemoore, California. While assigned to VFA-122 he completed his initial training in the F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet. Upon graduating the FRS, Wesley reported to VFA-25 "Fist of the Fleet" at NAS Lemoore in February 2018.

While onboard VFA-25, Wesley completed an airwing workup cycle that culminated with a record length deployment aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) in support of coalition operations in the Navy's Fifth Fleet area of operations. In VFA-25 Wesley served as Schedules Officer, Wardroom Mess Officer, Mission Planning Officer, Line Division Officer, Aircraft Division Officer, Assistant Operations Officer and Landing Signals Officer. Additionally, Wesley earned his Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization Instructor (NATOPS-I) qualification, Instrument Instructor qualification and F/A-18E Functional Check Flight (FCF) qualification.

Wesley then reported back to VFA-122 "Flying Eagles" in June 2021 as an Instructor Pilot, where he also served as a Schedules Officer, F/A-18E/F and E/A-18G NATOPS Evaluator, Instrument Instructor, Crew Resource Management Instructor, F/A-18E/F FCF Pilot, Landing Signals Officer, and Class Advisor. Additionally, he was the Low Altitude Tactics Training (LATT) program manager, a Fighter Weapons and Tactics (FWT) standardization instructor, and the team lead for the West Coast Super Hornet Tactical Demonstration Team.

Wesley joined the Blue Angels in September 2023. He has accumulated more than 1,400 flight hours and has 205 carrier arrested landings. His decorations include a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, four Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and various other unit and personal awards.