

#5 | LCDR CONNOR O'DONNELL | USN

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Lieutenant Commander Connor O'Donnell is a native of Freeport, Maine and graduated from Yarmouth High School in 2011. Following high school, he attended the United States Naval Academy and graduated in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in Operations Research.

After commissioning and completing Aviation Preflight Indoctrination aboard NAS Pensacola, Connor joined the VT-2 "Doerbirds" in Milton, Florida. Upon completing primary flight training in the T-6B Texan II, he moved west to Kingsville, Texas where he remained for 2 years while

completing intermediate and advanced training in the T-45C Goshawk. In May of 2018, LT O'Donnell received his Wings of Gold and orders to the "Vikings" of VAQ-129 in Whidbey Island, Washington for training in the EA-18G Growler. One year later, Connor completed VAQ-129's syllabus and joined the "Cougars" of VAQ-139.

During his three years with VAQ-139, LT O'Donnell participated in two full workups and one deployment to Southeast Asia, the Persian Gulf, and East Africa. While attached to the USS Nimitz (CVN-68), VAQ-139 and Carrier Air Wing 17 (CVW-17) flew in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. In conjunction with flying, LT O'Donnell worked as a Scheduling Officer, Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization (NATOPS) Officer, AV/ARM Division Officer, Senior Watch Officer, Head Landing Signal Officer, and Assistant Operations Officer.

Upon departing VAQ-139, Connor moved to Pensacola, Florida in December 2022 and served as an Instructor Pilot at VT-86, teaching student Naval Flight Officers in the T-45C Goshawk.

Connor joined the Blue Angels in September 2023. He has accumulated over 1,200 flight hours and more than 200 carrier-arrested landings. His personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and various unit and service awards