

#5 | CDR BEN WALBORN | USN

// Lead Solo

Commander Ben Walborn was born in Reading, Pennsylvania and graduated from the United States Naval Academy earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science in 2001.

Designated a Naval Aviator in April of 2004, he reported to VFA-122, in Lemoore, California for initial training in the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet.

In January 2005, he reported to the Royal Maces of VFA-27 forward deployed in Atsugi, Japan. While assigned to VFA-27, he completed multiple Western Pacific deployments aboard USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63). He served as the Public Affairs Officer, Schedules Officer, Aircraft Division Officer, Air to Air Weapons and Tactics Officer, Assistant Operations Officer and Landing Signals Officer and contributed to the Royal Maces receiving the 2005 and 2006 Battle "E" for sustained superior performance in an operational environment.

In January 2008, he reported to the Flying Eagles of VFA-122 as an Instructor Pilot, Assistant Intelligence Officer, and Landing Signals Officer.

In September 2008, he was selected to join the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron "Blue Angels." He served as the Narrator and VIP pilot in 2009, Opposing Solo and Applicants Officer in 2010, and Lead Solo and Operations Officer in 2011.

After completing his tour with the Blue Angels, he reported to the War Party of VFA-87 as a Department Head and served as Safety Officer, Administration Officer, Maintenance Officer and Operations Officer. He completed a combat deployment onboard USS GEORGE H. W. BUSH (CVN 77) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve.

In January of 2015, Ben reported to Naval Special Warfare Development Group where he served as the command's Fleet Liaison Officer. He reported to the Ragin' Bulls of VFA-37 as the Executive Officer in October 2017 and took command as the Commanding Officer in January 2019 until April 2020. He then reported to USS HARRY S TRUMAN (CVN 75) in June 2020 as Air Officer until October 2020, when he returned to the "Blue Angels" as the Lead Solo and Operations Officer for the 2021 season.

Ben has accumulated more than 3,800 hours and over 500 carrier arrested landings. His personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2 Awards), Strike Flight Air Medal (2 Awards), Navy Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2 Awards) and various personal and unit awards.