

#5 | CDR THOMAS ZIMMERMAN | USN

// Lead Solo

Commander Thomas Zimmerman is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He graduated from St. Paul's School in 2004 lettering in football, wrestling and lacrosse. After graduation, he attended the United States Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island for one year prior to attending the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He lettered in lacrosse at both schools and graduated from the Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science in ocean engineering, earning his commission as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy in 2009.

Thomas was designated a Naval Aviator in March 2012 and was selected to remain at the "Tigers" of Training Squadron Nine as an instructor pilot until May 2013. After completing his instructor tour, Thomas reported to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106, the "Gladiators," at NAS Oceana, Virginia, for initial training in the F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet. Upon completion in May 2014, he reported to the "Kestrels" of VFA-137 at NAS Lemoore, California, where he served in multiple capacities. While with the Kestrels, he participated in the 2014 "Rim of the Pacific" exercise aboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76), the 2015 "Southern Seas" deployment aboard USS George Washington (CVN 73) and deployed aboard USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) in support of operations in the Western Pacific.

Upon completing his tour with the Kestrels, Thomas was selected to attend the Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN). After graduating in August 2017, he reported to Strike Fighter Weapons School Atlantic, at NAS Oceana, Virginia, where he served as a Strike Fighter Tactics instructor, the Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness program director, and East Coast Maritime Employment subject matter expert.

In November 2019, Zimmerman reported to the "Red Rippers" of VFA-11, where he served as the Administration, Maintenance and Operations department head, completing two deployments onboard the USS Harry S Truman (CVN-75) in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel in 2019-2020, and in support of Sixth Fleet operations in 2021-2022.

Thomas joined the Blue Angels in September 2022. He has accumulated more than 3,100 flight hours and 542 carrier-arrested landings. His decorations include a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medals, and various other unit and personal awards.