

#8 | LCDR LILLY MONTANA | USN

// Events Coordinator

Lieutenant Commander Lillian Montana is a native of Vienna, Virginia and graduated from George C. Marshall High School in 2006. She attended Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 2010 and earned her commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy.

Lilly reported to Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida, for Aviation Preflight Indoctrination (API) training in December 2010. She remained at NAS Pensacola for Primary and Intermediate Naval Flight Officer (NFO) training at VT-10 flying the T-6A and T-39N/G. In March of 2012 she began advanced student NFO training at VT-86 flying the T-45C Goshawk. On November 18, 2012, she earned her wings of gold in a ceremony at the National Naval Aviation Museum aboard NAS Pensacola.

In January of 2013, Lilly reported to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106, the “Gladiators” at NAS Oceana, Virginia, for initial training as a replacement Weapons System Officer (WSO) in the F/A-18F Super Hornet. Upon completion of that training, she reported to the “Jolly Rogers” of VFA-103 at NAS Oceana. While with the “Jolly Rogers” she served as Schedules Officer, NATOPS Officer, Aircraft Division Officer and Air to Surface Weapons Training Officer. Lilly deployed on the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) in support of joint and coalition operations in the Navy’s Fifth and Sixth Fleet area of operations.

Upon departing VFA-103 in June of 2017, Lilly returned to VT-86 as an instructor for future NFOs. She served as Public Affairs Officer, Class Advisor, All Weather Intercept (AWI) Stage Manager, AWI Standardization Officer, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocate, and Assistant Operations Officer. Her efforts at VT-86 resulted in her earning the Training Air Wing Six Academic Instructor of the Year for 2020.

From 2020-2022, while maintaining her T-45C instructor currency and qualifications, Lilly served at the Naval School of Aviation Safety (SAS) as a Crew Resource Management Instructional Model Manager (CRM IMM) for Navy and Marine Corps TACAIR platforms including the F/A-18, F-35, F-16, F-5, EA-18G, and T-34C. Her team ensured fleet-wide compliance with CRM directives thereby increasing safe operations and mission effectiveness. The four-day CRMI course was also taught on the road in fleet concentration areas and to partner nations abroad.

In June 2022, Lilly was selected to be a Department Head and returned to VT-86. She has served as the Safety, Admin, and Operations Department Head. Under her leadership, VT-86 was awarded the CNO Aviation Safety Award for 2022.

Lilly has accumulated more than 1,000 flight hours and has more than 180 carrier-arrested landings. Her decorations include a Strike Flight Air Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendations Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, an Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal, and various personal and unit awards.