

LTCOL MARK MONTGOMERY | USMC

// C-130 "Fat Albert" Pilot

Lieutenant Colonel Mark Montgomery is a native of Cartersville, Georgia, and graduated from Cartersville High School in 1997, where he lettered in football, wrestling, and track. He attended the University of Georgia, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 2001. Mark earned his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps through the Platoon Leader's Course in 2002 and reported to The Basic School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, to complete training.

Mark reported to Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida, for aviation indoctrination in April 2003. He completed Primary flight training in the T-34C Turbo Mentor with Training Squadron (VT) 2 at NAS Whiting Field, Florida. He completed Intermediate and Advanced training in the T-44 Pegasus while assigned to VT-31 at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas. He earned his wings of gold in September 2004.

Mark then reported to Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Training Squadron (VMGRT) 253 the "Titans," at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point, North Carolina, for initial training in the KC-130 Hercules, where he served as a Flight Duty Officer. He reported to Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 252, "Otis," at MCAS Cherry Point in February 2006, where he served as an Adjutant, Aircrew Training Officer, and Assistant Operations Officer. While assigned to VMGR-252, Mark deployed twice to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He then reported to 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines, 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, in February 2010, where he served as a Forward Air Controller and deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Mark returned to VMGR-252 in March 2011, where he served as Operations Officer, Harvest Hercules Armament Weapons Kit Officer-in-Charge, Maintenance Officer, and deployed again to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Mark has flown more than 1,200 combat hours, to include numerous operations and exercises in Afghanistan, Iraq, Italy, Morocco, and Spain.

Mark joined the Blue Angels in September 2015. He has accumulated more than 3,000 flight hours. His decorations include sixteen Air Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, the Combat Action Ribbon, and various personal and unit awards.

