

LT BENJAMIN BUSHONG | USN

// Public Affairs Officer

Lieutenant Benjamin Bushong is a native of Hagerstown, Maryland. He attended North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina as a part of the Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Oceanography; earning his commission in the U.S. Navy in May 2016.

After graduation, Ben reported to Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida, to begin training as a Naval Pilot. After completing Aviation Preflight Indoctrination (API), Ben joined the "Boomers" of VT-27 for Primary Flight Training in Corpus Christi, Texas in September 2016, learning to fly the T-6B Texan II.

Upon completion of Primary, he selected rotary wing and moved to Pensacola to join the Hellions of Helicopter Training Squadron (HT) 28 in June 2017. Ben earned his wings of gold in April 2018, and selected to fly the MH-60R. He reported to the Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) in San Diego, California as a part of the "Seahawks" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 41. Upon completion of the FRS, Ben joined the Flying Scorpions of HSM-49 in March of 2019 at Naval Air Station North Island, California. With the Scorpions, he served aboard USS Makin Island (LHD 8) as the detachment's training officer during the ship's Initial Ship Aviation Training Team, Amphibious Squadron Marine Expeditionary Unit integration, and Amphibious Ready Group/Marine Expeditionary Unit Exercise. Ben was a part of the first Romeo detachment to get underway with a Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD).

In June 2021, Ben re-designated to be a Public Affairs Officer. He graduated from the Public Affairs Qualification Course at Fort Meade, Maryland in March 2022. After graduation, Ben reported to the USS Nimitz (CVN 68) in Bremerton, Washington to serve as the Assistant Public Affairs Officer and Media Division Officer. Throughout 2022, he was a part of the successful completion of Carrier Strike Group 11's Surface Warfare Advanced Tactical Training (SWATT), Tailored Ships Training Availability (TSTA)/Final Evaluation Problem (FEP), Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX), and deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet (C7F) Area of Operations.

Ben joined the Blue Angels in September 2023. His decorations include a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and various other personal and unit awards.