

Lieutenant Lance Benson, United States Navy

Lieutenant Lance Benson is a native of McPherson, Kansas, and graduated from McPherson High School in 2002, where he lettered in football. He attended Kansas State University (KSU), Salina, Kansas, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Airway Science with a Minor in Business in May 2006. After serving as a Flight instructor at KSU for three years, Lance reported to Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida, for Officer Candidate School and was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy.

Lance Reported to NAS Pensacola for aviation indoctrination in November 2006. He completed primary flight training in the T-6 Texan II at Vance Air Force Base, Enid, Oklahoma, and completed intermediate and advanced flight training in the T-45C Goshawk at NAS Meridian, Mississippi. He received his wings of gold in March 2009.

Lance then reported to Training Squadron (VT) 9, the “Tigers,” at NAS Meridian as an instructor pilot. He reported to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106, the “Gladiators,” at NAS Oceana, Virginia, in April 2010 for initial training in the F/A-18F Super Hornet.

Lance reported to Strike Fighter Attack Squadron (VFA) 22, the “Fighting Redcocks,” at NAS Lemoore, California, in February 2011, where he served as Landing Signals Officer (LSO), Aircraft Division Officer, Personnel Officer, Mess Officer, and Joint Mission Planning System Subject Matter Expert. While assigned to VFA-22, Lance completed two deployments aboard USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), and flew in support of Operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom.

Lance then reported to Training Squadron (VT) 7, the “Eagles,” at NAS Meridian in March 2014 as an instructor pilot, and also served as LSO, Public Affairs Officer, Mess Officer, and Formation Stage Head.

Lance joined the Blue Angels in September 2015. He has accumulated more than 2,100 flight hours and 200 carrier-arrested landings. His decorations include a Strike Flight Air Medal, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and various personal and unit awards.

Handout Bio

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