

Captain Ryan Bernacchi, United States Navy

Captain Ryan Bernacchi is a native of Los Altos, California and graduated from Mountain View High School in 1992, where he lettered in water polo and swimming. He attended the University of California, San Diego, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1996, and was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy.

Ryan reported to Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida, for aviation indoctrination in November 1996. He completed primary flight training in the T-34C Turbo Mentor at NAS Whiting Field, Florida, and completed intermediate and advanced flight training in the T-2C Buckeye and T-45C Goshawk at NAS Meridian, Mississippi. He received his wings of gold in April 1999.

Ryan then reported to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 125, the “Rough Raiders,” at NAS Lemoore, California, for initial training in the F/A-18 Hornet. Ryan reported to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 113, the “Stingers,” at NAS Lemoore, in January 2000, where he served as the Aircraft Division Officer, Air-to-Air Weapons Training Officer, Assistant Operations Officer, and Landing Signals Officer. Ryan completed two Western Pacific/Arabian Gulf deployments with USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and flew in support of Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

Ryan was selected to attend the U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN), NAS Fallon, Nevada, in July 2003 and graduated in September 2003. Ryan then joined the TOPGUN staff as an instructor pilot and served as the Navy and Marine Corps subject matter expert in GPS guided weapons.

Ryan returned to the fleet in May 2006 as the Training Officer for Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 87, the “Golden Warriors,” at NAS Oceana, Virginia. In November 2007, Ryan reported as a Department Head for Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 81, the “Sunliners,” at NAS Oceana, where he served as Safety Officer, Operations Officer, and Maintenance Officer. Ryan deployed with USS Nimitz (CVN 68), to the Western Pacific while assigned to VFA-81.

Ryan attended the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, and graduated with distinction with a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies in 2010. In November 2010 he reported to the Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group as a Director Fellow, where he worked on advanced operational concepts for the Navy.

Ryan reported as Executive Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 192, the “World Famous Golden Dragons,” at NAS Lemoore, California, in March 2012, and deployed to the Western Pacific/Arabian Gulf aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He then commanded VFA-192 through a transition to the F/A-18E Super Hornet.

Following his command tour with VFA-192, Ryan served as a Federal Executive Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Ryan joined the Blue Angels in September 2015. He has accumulated more than 3,500 flight hours and 600 carrier-arrested landings. His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, one Individual Air Medal with Combat “V” (three Strike Flight), four Navy Commendation Medals, one with Combat “V,” and numerous unit, campaign, and service awards.

Handout Bio

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