

## **Commander Matt Kaslik, United States Navy**

Commander Matt Kaslik is a native of The Woodlands, Texas, and graduated from McCullough High School in 1991, where he was captain of the varsity football team. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, where he lettered in varsity football, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Oceanography in 1995, and was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy.

Matt reported to Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida, for aviation indoctrination in January 1996. He completed naval flight officer training in the T-34C Turbo Mentor, T-1 Jayhawk, T-39G/N Saberliner and the T-A4 Skyhawk. He received his wings of gold in June 1997.

Matt then reported to Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 129, the “Vikings,” at NAS Whidbey Island, Washington, for initial training in the EA-6B Prowler. He reported to Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 135, the “Black Ravens,” at NAS Whidbey Island in August 1998, where he served as the Avionics/Armament Division Officer and Personnel Officer. While assigned to VAQ-135, Matt completed a Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf deployment with USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) in support of Operation Desert Fox and flew in support of Operation Southern Watch in Iraq in 1999.

Matt made an expeditionary deployment to Incirlik Airbase, Turkey, and flew in support of Operation Northern Watch in Iraq in 2000. He deployed again with USS Carl Vinson to the Arabian Sea in 2001 to conduct the first strikes during the opening days of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, for which VAQ-135 earned the Battle “E” and Safety “S” awards.

Matt was then selected as a Personnel Exchange Officer to serve with the German Air Force and reported to the Defense Language Institute at the Presidio of Monterey, California, in April 2002. He reported to the German Air Force Flying Training Center at Holloman Air Force Base, Alamogordo, New Mexico, to fly the Panavia 200 Tornado in January 2003. Matt then reported to Fighter Bomber Squadron 321, the “Tigers,” at Lechfeld Airbase, Bavaria, Germany, to fly the Electronic Combat Reconnaissance Tornado as a Weapons Systems Officer in July 2003.

Matt reported to Naval Station Mayport, Florida, and served as an Assistant Air Operations Officer and on the Bridge Team aboard USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67) in August 2005. He returned to VAQ-135 in November 2006 as a Department Head and served as the Safety, Administrative, and Operations Officer for two Western Pacific deployments aboard USS Nimitz (CVN 68) with Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 11 in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Matt then reported to Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) Pacific, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, as a Program Manager in 2009. He deployed to Iraq as Officer-In-Charge of the DISA Support Element-Iraq’s long range telecommunications team, which served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and soon after served as DISA Pacific’s Chief of Staff.

Matt reported to USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) at Naval Base Kitsap Bremerton, Washington, in June 2012 and served as the Assistant Air Officer, lead a 650-personnel department, and completed an eight-month combat Western Pacific and Arabian Sea deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Matt then reported to the U.S. Naval Academy to serve as the Military Deputy Director of Athletics in August 2014. He also served as a military instructor of Ethics and supported the Naval Academy in earning

the Patriot League President's Cup for the third straight year. He received his Master of Arts in International Relations from the University of Oklahoma in 2011.

Matt joined the Blue Angels in September 2016. He has accumulated more than 2,230 flight hours and 530 carrier-arrested landings. His decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, five Strike Flight Air Medals, four Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, one with Combat "V," three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and numerous unit, campaign, and service awards.

### **Handout Bio**

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