

## **Lieutenant Damon Kroes, United States Navy**

Lieutenant Damon Kroes is a native of Fremont, California, and graduated from Moreau Catholic High School in June 2000 where he lettered in soccer, swimming, and cross country. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, in September 2000.

While assigned to Alpha Company, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion at Camp Pendleton, California, Damon attended San Diego State University and graduated in May 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a Minor in History. As a reservist in college, Damon was called to active duty in May 2002 and deployed to South America as part of MARFOR UNITAS 43-02 from July to December, 2002. Selected to serve with the UNITAS Reconnaissance Detachment, Damon conducted bilateral training exercises alongside special operations units from the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, and Brazil. In February 2003, Damon was again called to active duty and deployed as a Light Armored Vehicle (LAV-25) scout in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with both Alpha and Delta Companies of the 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion from April to September 2003. In September 2005 Damon reported to Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment in San Bruno, California, and served as an infantry squad leader until February, 2007.

Damon Reported to Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida, for Officer Candidate School in May 2007 and was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. In September 2007, Damon reported to aviation indoctrination and then transferred to NAS Corpus

Christi for primary flight training in the T-34C Mentor. For advanced flight training, Damon transferred to NAS Meridian, Mississippi where he flew the T-45C Goshawk and received his wings of gold in June 2009.

Damon then reported to Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron (VMFAT) 101, the “Sharpshooters,” at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California in July 2009 for initial training in the F/A-18 Hornet. He then reported to Strike Fighter Squadron 192 (VFA-192), the “Golden Dragons,” at NAS Lemoore, California in January 2011, where he served as the Avionics/Armaments (AVARM) Division Officer, Line Division Officer, Landing Signals Officer, Schedules Officer, Air-to-Air and Air-to-Ground Weapons and Tactics Officer, and Assistant Operations Officer. Damon completed two deployments to the Western Pacific and Middle East aboard the USS John C. Stennis in Support of Operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom. Damon then reported to Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 (VMFAT-101), the “Sharpshooters,” at MCAS Miramar, California in April 2014 as an instructor pilot and also served as Schedules Officer, Assistant Air-to-Air Phase Head, and Assistant Carrier Qualification Phase Head.

Damon Joined the Blue Angels in September 2016. He has accumulated more than 1,300 flight hours and 280 carrier arrested landings. His decorations include a Strike Flight Air Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various personal and unit awards.

### **Handout Bio**

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