

Lieutenant Dave Steppe, United States Navy

Lieutenant Dave Steppe is a native of Birmingham, Alabama, and graduated from Vestavia Hills High School in 2004, where he lettered in football. He attended Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Logistics through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps in 2008, and was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy.

Dave then reported to Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida, for aviation indoctrination. He completed Naval Flight Officer training in the T-6 Texan, T-1 Jayhawk, T-39 Saberliner, and the T-45 Goshawk. He received his wings of gold in August 2010.

Dave reported to Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 129, the “Vikings”, at NAS Whidbey Island, Washington, for initial training in the E/A-18G Growler. He then reported to Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 141, the “Shadowhawks,” at NAS Whidbey Island, in October 2011, where he served as Electronic Warfare Officer, Quality Assurance Officer, Avionics/Armament Division Officer, Schedules Officer, and Joint Mission Planning System Subject Matter Expert.

While assigned to VAQ-141, Dave deployed with USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) and flew in support of Operation New Dawn. He also served in Atsugi, Japan, and deployed with USS George Washington (CVN 73), to complete three cruises in the Western Pacific. He also participated in the joint force exercises Valiant Shield, Cope North, Keen Sword, and other multinational exercises. Dave returned to VAQ-129 in February 2015 as an Electronic Warfare Officer instructor and also served as the Air to Air Phase Head, Schedules Officer, and Naval Air Training and Operation Procedures Standardization (NATOPS) Evaluator.

Dave joined the Blue Angels in September 2016. He has accumulated more than 1,400 flight hours and has more than 300 carrier-arrested landings. His decorations include a Navy and

Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various personal and unit awards.

Handout Bio

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