



Cmdr. James Carver, USN
Chief Test Pilot
Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 23

Cmdr. James Carver was born in Nashville, Tenn. He enlisted in the Navy under the delayed entry program in December 1987. In November 1988, he went to recruit training in Orlando, Fla., and subsequently to Pensacola, Fla., for Cryptologic Technician Maintenance "A" school and wideband acquisition "C" school.

Upon completion of "A" and "C" schools in November 1990, he was assigned to U.S. Naval Security Group Activity Sabana Seca, Puerto Rico. While there, he maintained high frequency direction-finding and wideband acquisition computer/cryptographic equipment. Additionally, he earned his associate degree in general studies from Central Texas College. In January 1994 he was transferred to Naval Security Group Detachment Crane, Ind., where he provided "O level" maintenance on computer

circuit cards for security group field sites around the world. He was promoted to petty officer 1st class while stationed in Crane.

In May 1996, after being accepted into the Enlisted Commissioning Program, he attended the University of Memphis and graduated summa cum laude in December 1998 with a Bachelor of Science degree in electronic engineering. He was commissioned as an Ensign in the Navy following graduation.

He then reported to Naval Flight Officer training in Pensacola, Fla., and received his wings of gold in April 2000. In August 2001, following his initial training in the EA-6B Prowler, he reported to the Gray Wolves of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 142 at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash. While assigned to VAQ-142, he made two combat deployments in support of operations Northern and Southern Watch and served as the 1st lieutenant division officer, line division officer and assistant maintenance officer.

In January 2004, he reported to Commander, Electronic Attack Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet in Whidbey Island, Wash., for staff duty and was assigned as the Improved Capabilities (ICAP) II projects officer and assistant requirements officer. While assigned, he flew with VAQ-129 as an instructor and was selected to the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (TPS) at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md. He transferred to TPS in May 2005 and graduated from class 129 in June 2006.

In September 2006, he reported to the Salty Dogs of Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 23 as an EA-6B projects officer. While assigned to VX-23, he served as the lead project officer for the EA-6B ICAP III upgrade and numerous other projects including USQ-113 dual jam mode and the low band transmitter upgrades. Additionally, while assigned to VX-23, he deployed on a seven-month individual augmentation billet to Al Asad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In June 2009, he reported to the Cougars of VAQ-139 as an operational department head. While assigned to VAQ-139, he served as the administrative officer and maintenance officer and made three deployments in the U.S. 7th Fleet and U.S. 5th Fleet areas of responsibility in support of the Rim of the Pacific exercise, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn on board the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76).

Following his department head tour in May 2011, he attended Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Al. He graduated in 2012 and then reported to the staff of Commander, United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). While assigned to USSOCOM, he served in the counter-terrorism and counter-proliferation branch of the J5 directorate as a planning officer for countering weapons of mass destruction. In 2014, he was selected for aviation command and returned to VX-23 in October 2014.

During his career, Cmdr. Carver has accumulated more than 1,700 flight hours in 23 different types of aircraft. He holds a Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) level III certification in test and evaluation and level II in systems engineering. He has been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, five Air Medals (Strike/Flight), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, four Navy Commendation Medals, three Navy Achievement Medals and three Good Conduct Medals. He earned a Master of Science degree in aviation systems from the University of Tennessee in 2009 and a Master of Arts degree in military operations from the U.S. Air Command and Staff College in 2012.