



CAPT Thomas Tennant, USN
Commanding Officer
Air Test and Evaluation Squadron TWO THREE

Captain Thomas “Lou” Tennant was raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and was commissioned through the NROTC program at the University of Notre Dame in May 1990, where he earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He was designated a Naval Aviator in October 1993. After initial F/A-18 training at VFA-106, he was assigned to VFA-136 in Cecil Field, Florida. He served with the “Knighthawks” from 1994 until 1997, deploying to the Mediterranean/Adriatic Seas and the Arabian Gulf aboard USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN-73).

Captain Tennant was selected for the Naval Postgraduate School / Test Pilot School cooperative program and attended the Naval Postgraduate School from 1997 through 1998. He attended the US Naval Test Pilot School in 1999 as a member of class 116, earning his Test Pilot Designation and Masters Degree in Aeronautical Engineering upon graduation. He served two years at the Strike Aircraft Test Squadron as the lead F/A-18E/F Weapons Integration Team test pilot and project officer. He served as project officer and test pilot for numerous programs including F/A-18 loads envelope expansion, carrier suitability, and the Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System. He was named the 2001 National Defense Industrial Association Navy Military Tester of the Year and was granted membership into the Society of Experimental Test Pilots.

From 2002 until 2004, Commander Tennant served as the Safety, Maintenance, Operations, and Administrative Officer with the VFA-27 “Royal Maces,” forward deployed from NAF Atsugi, Japan. During this tour, he completed five Western Pacific and Sea of Japan patrols aboard the USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63) and one deployment to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. During this tour VFA-27 earned the 2002 CNO Safety Award.

Captain Tennant reported to the VX-31 “Dust Devils” in 2004, where he served as the Military Deputy at the F/A-18 and EA-18G Advanced Weapons Laboratory. While serving at VX-31, he oversaw development and testing of eight F/A-18 Software Configuration Sets and numerous F/A-18 hardware acquisition programs, including the APG-79 Active Electronically Scanned Array Radar.

He served as the Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of the VFA-105 “Gunslingers” from 2007 through 2009, deploying to the Arabian Gulf aboard the USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN-75) in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Following his command tour with VFA-105, Captain Tennant deployed to the CENTCOM Combined Air and Space Operations Center, where he served as the FIFTH Fleet Naval and Amphibious Liaison Element Director.

In September, 2010, Captain Tennant reported to the VX-23 “Salty Dogs” as the Chief Test Pilot.

Captain Tennant has accumulated over 3,200 hours of flight time in 27 models of military and civilian aircraft and has over 600 carrier landings. His awards include Meritorious Service Medals, Air Medals with “V”, Navy Commendation Medals, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and other campaign and unit awards.