



CDR R. Michael Masica, USN
Commanding Officer
Air Test and Evaluation Squadron TWO THREE

CDR Mike Masica was born in Pensacola, FL, and grew up in Sarasota, FL. He graduated with distinction from the United States Naval Academy in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean Engineering. Selected for pilot training, he completed fixed-wing advanced jet training in the TA-4J Skyhawk and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1997.

After completing initial training in 1998 in the F/A-18C Hornet while assigned to the Rough Raiders of VFA-125, he served a three-year operational tour with the Royal Maces of VFA-27 as part of Carrier Air Wing FIVE (CVW-5), the Navy's only permanently forward-deployed air wing. While assigned to VFA-27, he served as Schedules Officer, Line Division Officer, and NATOPS Officer and deployed aboard the USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63) in support of numerous Seventh Fleet exercises and Operation Southern Watch.

He was selected for test pilot training in 2001 and next attended the United States Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS) in Patuxent River, MD, graduating as a member of Class 122 in December 2002. Following USNTPS, he served 2 years as an F/A-18 developmental test pilot and Ordnance Support Team (OST) Project Officer with the Salty Dogs of VX-23. While assigned to VX-23, he worked on numerous F/A-18 Hornet and Super Hornet weapon system integration (WSI) projects, precision approach and landing system (PALS) detachments, and F/A-18E/F Transonic Flying Qualities Improvement (TFQI) flutter testing.

In 2005, he rejoined the Forward Deployed Naval Forces (FDNF) in Atsugi, Japan, on a disassociated sea tour where he served as a CVW-5 staff officer. While on CVW staff, he was selected for operational department head. He remained in the FDNF where he served as Administrative Officer, Safety Officer, and Operations Officer with the World Famous Golden Dragons of VFA-192 and deployed throughout the Seventh Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR) aboard the USS KITTY HAWK.

Following his department head tour, he resumed developmental test pilot duties at VX-23 in 2008, serving as the F/A-18 Project Team Department Head where he supervised a number of aeromechanical, WSI, and mission system projects to sustain and improve Hornet and Super Hornet combat capability and reliability. In 2009, he was selected for lateral transfer to Aerospace Engineering Duty Officer (AEDO). In 2010, he reported to the Air-to-Air Missiles Program Office (PMA-259) where he served as the Military Class Desk, managing all engineering activities to develop and sustain the AIM-9X, AIM-9M, and AIM-7 missiles for the U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and foreign military partners. In 2011, he was selected for aviation command and returned to VX-23 in 2012 as the Chief Test Pilot.

Throughout his military career, he has flown more than 2,650 hours in 20 different types of aircraft and completed 586 aircraft carrier arrested landings. He is a member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and earned a Master of Science degree in Aviation Systems from the University of Tennessee in 2009.