

Commander David Hafeman

VX-31 Chief Test Pilot

Cmdr. David Hafeman is a native of Sunnyvale, California, and received his Bachelor's Degree in Aerospace Engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. After graduation, he attended Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida and flight school in Enid, Oklahoma and Kingsville, Texas, where he was designated a Naval Aviator in November 2005. He then reported to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 125 for initial F/A-18C/D Hornet training.



During his first operational tour assigned to the VFA-151 “Vigilantes” at Naval Air Station Lemoore, California, he served as the Aircraft Division Officer, NATOPS Officer, A/A Weapons Training Officer, and Assistant Operations Officer. He deployed in 2008 onboard the USS Abraham Lincoln in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

In 2010, Hafeman reported to Class 138 of the US Naval Test Pilot School in Patuxent River, Maryland. After graduating in December 2010, he was assigned to the “Salty Dogs” of Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 23 in Patuxent River, Maryland, where he was a Ship Suitability Project Officer for various developmental efforts to include the Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS). While at VX-23 Hafeman also received his Master's Degree in Systems Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Following his tour with VX-23, Hafeman reported to Naval Support Activity Bahrain in May 2013 and served as the United States Naval Forces Central Command's Security Manager. In May 2015, Hafeman reported to the VFA-83 “Rampagers” and served as the squadron's Admin and Safety Department Head, Maintenance Officer, and Operations Officer. He deployed onboard the USS Harry S. Truman in 2016 in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Hafeman reported back to the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School in June 2018 as an F/A-18 and T-38 instructor and served as the Operations Officer and Senior Fixed Wing Instructor. In June 2021, Hafeman reported to the VX-31 “Dust Devils” as the Advanced Weapons Laboratory Military Deputy. He assumed his current duties as Chief Test Pilot in November 2022.

Hafeman has accumulated 3,300 flight hours in 44 different aircraft and 304 carrier arrested landings. He is a member of the Defense Acquisition Corps and is certified as a DAWIA Test and Evaluation Practitioner. His personal decorations include Air Medals, Navy Commendation Medals, and Navy Achievement Medals.