

## **Lt. Col. Timothy Burchett**

### **Chief Test Pilot**

#### **Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 31**



Lt. Col. Timothy Burchett hails from Boulder, Colorado. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in May 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering and commissioned into the United States Marine Corps. He graduated from the University of Maryland in December 2007 with a Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering. He attended The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia, then flight school at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Oklahoma, and Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas, and was designated a Naval Aviator in April 2011. Upon winging, he reported to Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California, for training in the F/A-18A-D Hornet.

In 2013, Burchett reported to the “Red Devils” of Marine Strike Fighter Attack Squadron 232 at MCAS Miramar. While with the Red Devils, he completed a deployment to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan in support of the Unit Deployment Program, where he participated in numerous multilateral and bilateral exercises with allied nations throughout the Pacific theater of operation. In April 2015, Burchett deployed again to Bahrain as part of the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command 15.2 where he flew 35 combat missions totaling over 248 hours in the skies over Iraq and Syria in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

In 2016, Burchett reported to the United States Naval Test Pilot School in Patuxent River, Maryland. After graduating in June 2017, he was assigned to the “Dust Devils” of Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 31 at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California. While at VX-31, he served as the project officer for multiple programs, including the Blue Angel’s first F/A-18E/F Super Hornet Software Configuration Set (28E). He initiated the F/A-18 Automatic Ground Collision Avoidance System program in 2017 for VX-31.

Burchett reported to the F-35 Joint Program Office in Arlington, Virginia, where he served as the F-35B Military Class Desk Lead. In August 2021, Burchett became the deputy program manager for F-35 Propulsion Development, where he formally stood up the F-35 Air System Modernization Program, becoming the first F-35 Air System Modernization Program Manager.

Burchett reported back to the Dust Devils in China Lake, California in July 2023, where he now serves as the VX-31 Chief Test Pilot.

Burchett has accumulated over 1,700 flight hours in over 30 different aircraft. His personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (5 Strike/Flight Awards), Navy Commendation Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal.