



United States Navy Biography

Captain Rodney A. Thomas



Captain Thomas hails from Alma, AR. He holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Mathematics and Physical Science from Arkansas Tech University; a Master's of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College; is an International Naval Staff College graduate and has taught Mathematics at the Secondary and Collegiate level.

He enlisted in the Navy in June 1987, attending enlisted boot camp at RTC Orlando, FL and SEABEE Equipment Operator "A" school in Gulfport, MS. He served with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion TWENTY EIGHT, reaching the rank of Equipment Operator First Class before receiving a commission via Officer Candidate School in August 1996. He completed his initial flight training with VT-10, Pensacola, FL and was designated a Naval Flight Officer upon completion of intermediate flight training at the 562nd FTS, Randolph AFB, TX.

His first operational tour was with VQ-3, Tinker AFB, OK serving as an E-6B Mission Commander, Airborne Communications Officer Instructor, Navigator Instructor, Avionics Branch Officer, Legal Officer and NATOPS Navigator Evaluator. His first shore duty assignment was a major staff tour at HQ USEUCOM Stuttgart, Germany where he served as the HQ USEUCOM Information System Security Manager.

His disassociated sea-duty tour was aboard USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) homeported in San Diego, CA where he served as ship's company Assistant Operations Officer and Command Security Manager while earning his Officer of the Deck Underway and Force Protection Action Officer qualifications.

His department tour was with VQ-4, Tinker AFB, OK where he served as Admin Officer, NATOPS/Training Officer, Operations Officer and VQ-4 Patuxent River, MD Detachment Officer-in-Charge. He completed a second major staff tour at HQ USSTRATCOM Offutt AFB, NE serving as the E-6B Platform Manager and Chief, Secretary of the Joint Staff Division.

In May 2013, he returned to VQ-3, Tinker AFB, OK serving as Executive Officer and Commanding Officer. From August 2015 to September 2017, he served as the USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN-76) Navigator while assigned to Forward Deployed Naval Forces Yokosuka, Japan.

From October 2017 to October 2019, he served as the Executive Assistant to Commander, Naval Education and Training Command Pensacola, FL. He joined Carrier Strike Group NINE embarked aboard the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) in October 2019, serving as the Strike Group Operations Officer from October 2019 to June 2021 before fleeting up and serving as the Strike Group Chief of Staff from July 2021 to November 2022.

He assumed his current position as Director, US Navy Element, Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS, in Dec 2022.

Captain Thomas has over 3,300 flight hours in the E-6B Nuclear Command and Control aircraft, a Middle East deployment aboard the USS NIMITZ (CVN 68), four Forward Deployed Naval Force Japan Patrols aboard the USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN-76), and two Western Pacific deployments aboard USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71).

Awards include: Legion of Merit (2), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (3), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2), and various other personal and unit awards.