



F-35 LIGHTNING II PAX RIVER INTEGRATED TEST FORCE

CDR J. Ryan Murphy, U.S. Navy
Director of Test & Evaluation | F-35 Naval Variants

Commander J. Ryan “Flopper” Murphy — a native of Athens, Georgia — graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in May 1996. He was designated a Naval Aviator at Naval Air Station (NAS) Kingsville, Texas in March 1998 and completed F/A-18 replacement pilot training at Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106 aboard NAS Cecil Field, Florida in 1999.

Murphy’s first operational assignment was with the Marauders of VFA-82 at NAS Cecil Field. During this assignment, the squadron executed a homeport change to Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort and two deployments, the first aboard USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67) in support of Operation Southern Watch and the second aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) immediately following 9/11. While supporting Operation Enduring Freedom with VFA-82, he was selected to attend the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS) at NAS Patuxent River, Maryland.



Upon graduation from USNTPS Class 123 in 2003, Murphy reported to the Salty Dogs of Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 23 at NAS Patuxent River. He served as the T-45 Department Head and project pilot for various F/A-18 A-F test projects.

Following his test tour at VX-23, Murphy reported to U.S. Central Command Air Forces (USCENTAF) at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina. While there, he served as the Chief of Close Air Support/ Killbox Interdiction and as the Assistant Weapons Officer. In 2006, he deployed with the U.S. Air Force Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) 9/10 to the Combined Air Operations Center as Chief of Master Air Attack Plans.

Returning to the U.S. in 2007, Murphy joined the Wildcats of VFA-131 for his department head tour. He served as the Maintenance and Operations Officers and deployed aboard USS George Washington (CVN 73) in support of Partnership of the Americas 2008 and aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Murphy reported to USNTPS as an instructor pilot in 2010. He also served as the Operations Officer, the aircraft monitor for the T-38C and T-6B, and as the exercise monitor for various syllabus exercises. During this tour, he earned a Masters of Science in Systems Engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School.

Joining the Pukin’ Dogs of VFA-143 as Executive Officer in February 2013, he deployed aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and assumed command of VFA-143 in May 2014.

In 2015, Murphy reported to the Naval Test Wing Atlantic aboard NAS Patuxent River as the Director of Test and Evaluation for F-35 Lightning II Naval Variants at the VX-23 Pax River Integrated Test Force.

Murphy’s personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, nine Air Medals (one Individual Action with Combat Distinguishing Device, 8 Strike/Flight), four Navy Commendation Medals (with Combat Distinguishing Device), a Navy Achievement Medal, and various campaign and unit citations. He has logged more than 630 arrested landings and 3,700 hours in 42 aircraft type/model/series.