



F-35 LIGHTNING II PAX RIVER INTEGRATED TEST FORCE

CDR Theodore Dyckman, U.S. Navy Test Pilot | VX-23

LCDR Dyckman majored in Aerospace Engineering at the U.S. Naval Academy where he graduated with distinction (51 of 949) and was ranked second in Military Order of Merit and 23 in Overall Order of Merit. He was also one of ten seniors awarded the Karel Montor leadership award and he passed the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam to become an Engineer in Training. Following his graduation, Dyckman joined a full-time fellowship program at the Draper Laboratory where he was assigned to the Guidance, Navigation and Control Division. He also holds a Master of Science degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

After Dyckman received his wings, he reported to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 125 at Naval Air Station (NAS) Lemoore for F/A-18 Hornet training.



Awarded the Top Hook and first in his class, Dyckman reported to VFA-192, one of the Navy squadrons operating with the Forward Deployed Naval Forces (FDNF) in Atsugi, Japan. Embarked aboard the USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) for more than 400 days underway, he accumulated 268 arrested landings and organized joint operations with three U.S. Air Force squadrons.

Dyckman was then selected for Class 134 of the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS). Following his graduation from USNTPS, he joined Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 23 to serve as an F-35 test pilot, landing signal officer, project officer and department head at the Patuxent River F-35 Integrated Test Force. While assigned to the Ship Suitability branch, Dyckman was responsible for managing and planning the engineering and experimental flight test of Air Traffic Control and landing systems and fixed wing fighter aircraft.

Dyckman later reported to VFA-14 for his squadron department head tour. He served as the Air Wing Safety Duty Officer, Administrative Officer, Safety Officer, Maintenance Officer, and Operations Officer. He was embarked aboard the USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) for more than 530 days underway. While he was the Operations Officer, the squadron won the RADM Wade McClusky award and the Battle "E" award, for the top Super Hornet squadron in the Pacific Fleet.

Currently assigned to Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 23, Dyckman serves as a test pilot, landing signal officer and project officer for F-35B/C flutter test flights and F-35B/C aerial refueling test plans at the Patuxent River Integrated Test Force (ITF). As the most experienced Ship Suitability test pilot in the squadron, Dyckman has taught and qualified all F-35 Shake Rattle and Roll (SRR) and demo pilots for structural survey and arrested landing testing, flown or waved 70 percent of the structural survey test points on CF-3, and completed the SRR arrested landing testing on CF-5. He was also the first test pilot to fire a live missile from the F-35C and the first to fly the F-35C with full internal and external stores.

Dyckman is a member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), Tau Beta Pi, the Golden Key National Honor Society, the Tailhook Association, and the Society of Experimental Test Pilots. He has flown more than 2,400 flight hours and 36 combat missions totaling 207 hours and has logged 667 carrier landings.