



**Commander Douglas Elkins**  
Executive Officer, Air Test and Evaluation  
Squadron NINE,  
Detachment Edwards Air Force Base  
United States Navy

CDR Elkins graduated from Illinois Institute of Technology in 2005 with a degree in Aerospace Engineering.

He was designated a Naval Aviator in 2008 and, after completing training in the F/A-18E Hornet at VFA-122, was assigned to the “Kestrels” of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 137 in 2009.

While with the Kestrels, he completed two deployments and flew combat missions in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and NEW DAWN aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72).

In 2014, he graduated from the Naval Postgraduate School and US Naval Test Pilot School (Class 146) with a M.S. in Systems Engineering. CDR Elkins was subsequently assigned as a project officer with the “Salty Dogs” of Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 23.

In 2016, CDR Elkins joined VFA-2, the “Bounty Hunters” for his Department Head tour. While with the Bounty Hunters, T-CAP completed two Western Pacific deployments aboard USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70).

In 2018, T-CAP reported to Las Vegas, NV and joined Air Test & Evaluation Squadron Nine (VX-9) detachment Nellis AFB. During his time at VX-9, he was the Range Director and Department of the Navy coordinator for Joint Special Programs.

In 2022 he then transitioned to the F-35C at VFA-125, in Lemoore, CA.

CDR Elkins has flown over 2,400 flight hours in 23 different aircraft, including over 1,700 hours in the F/A-18E/F. He has accumulated 509 carrier arrested landings on eight different aircraft carriers. His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal (two awards), Navy Commendation Medal, and various other personal and unit commendations.