



Commander Michael Huntsman

**Officer in Charge, Air Test and Evaluation
Squadron NINE,
Detachment Edwards Air Force Base
United States Navy**

CDR Michael “Hairy Fun Meter” Huntsman enlisted in the US Marine Corps in December 1994. After completing recruit training at MCRD San Diego, he completed Basic Engineer Equipment Mechanic Course and was stationed with 7th Engineer Support Battalion at Camp Pendleton, CA. While in the Marine Corps, he was promoted to Corporal (Meritorious) and completed the Engineer Equipment Journeyman’s course at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO.

CDR Huntsman received his commission in June 2002 after graduating from the University of California, Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. His first assignment was as a student at the Naval Aviation Schools Command in Pensacola, FL.

CDR Huntsman earned his wings as a Naval Aviator while at NAS Meridian, MS in 2005 where he flew the T-45C Goshawk. His next assignment was to Sea Control Squadron FOUR ONE at NAS North Island, CA for initial training in the S-3B Viking. He graduated as the last ever S-3 aviator and reported to Sea Control Squadron TWO TWO based at NAS Jacksonville, FL in July 2006. While a member of the Checkmates, he deployed aboard the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON and participated in the last and only shore based deployment of the S-3B Viking to Al Asad AB, Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Upon returning from Iraq and subsequent deactivation, he received his next assignment to Strike Fighter Squadron ONE TWO FIVE for initial training in the F/A-18C.

After completion of transition to the Legacy Hornet, CDR Huntsman reported to Strike Fighter Squadron ONE NINE FIVE, forward deployed to NAF Atsugi, Japan where he held the position of Assistant Operations Officer. He deployed three times with the Dambusters to the 7th Fleet AOR aboard the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON, twice post transition to the F/A-18E.

CDR Huntsman’s next assignment was with Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN, based at NAS Oceana, VA where he held the position of Operations Officer. He deployed with the Valions in 2014 aboard the USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH flying the F/A-18C in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and INHERENT RESOLVE where he distinguished himself as the first ever to destroy an ISIS controlled T-72 Soviet-designed main battle tank.

His next assignment took him to China Lake, CA where he ran the Tactics Branch for Air Test and Evaluation Squadron NINE, ensuring the validity of all Operational Test for the Hornet, Super Hornet and Growler. While there he completed numerous detachments and ran multiple weapons programs ensuring the US Navy maintains the advantage in lethality for years to come.

His next assignment took him back to NAS Lemoore as the Operations Officer for Carrier Air Wing TWO. Leading eight combat ready squadrons through Sustainment, Maintenance Phase and the start of the Basic Phase, he completed numerous detachments and afloat periods while integrating the Joint Strike Fighter, Advanced Hawkeye and Osprey aircraft creating The Air Wing of the Future. He next reported back to Strike Fighter Squadron ONE TWO FIVE for training in the F-35C, after which he reported to his current assignment with Air Test and Evaluation Squadron NINE, Detachment Edwards.

CDR Huntsman has held many billets including Air Wing Operations Officer, Branch Head, Operations Officer, Maintenance Officer, Command Fitness Leader and Squad Leader. He has flown over 3,000 flight hours and logged over 500 arrested landings. He has distinguished himself as the Viking Pilot of the Year in 2008 and his personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, five Air Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals. He is married to the former Gabriela Frausto and has daughters Nicole and Natalia.