



Commander Charles E. Escher

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

CDR Escher grew up in Houston, TX and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2002 with a degree in Aerospace Engineering. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 2005 and after completing training in the F/A-18E/F Superhornet, he was assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 103 Jolly Rogers in Virginia Beach as a junior officer. There he completed two deployments in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. In 2010 he graduated from Empire Test Pilots' School in the UK and was assigned as a developmental Test Pilot and Project Officer at Air Test & Evaluation Squadron (VX) 31 at NAWC China Lake, CA. CDR Escher then returned to the operational fleet in Lemoore, CA, joining the VFA-154 Black Knights as a department head, where he again supported Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. He then transitioned from the F/A-18 to the F-35 as Operations Officer and flight instructor at VFA-101 Grim Reapers at Eglin Air Force Base, FL. In 2018 he became Executive Officer at VX-9 detachment Edwards, participating in the Initial Operational Test and Evaluation of the F-35.

CDR Escher has logged over 3,000 flight hours in 25 different aircraft, including over 2,300 hours in the F/A-18 and over 300 in all three variants of the F-35. He has accumulated more than 640 carrier arrested landings on five different aircraft carriers. His personal decorations include the Navy Commendation Medal, Strike Flight Air Medal (four awards), and various other personal and unit commendations.