



CDR DARREN B. GUENTHER COMMANDING OFFICER TRAINING SQUADRON 22

CDR Darren B. Guenther hails from Honolulu, Hawaii and is a graduate of Punahou School. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1994 from the University of California at Berkeley, and was commissioned through the NROTC program. He was winged at NAS Kingsville, Texas in 1997. He then reported to the Vikings of VAQ-129, the EA-6B Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS), where he was named FRS Student Pilot of the Year for 1998.

He joined the Wizards of VAQ-133 in 1998 and completed a six month deployment to Incirlik AB, Turkey in support of Operation NORTHERN WATCH. He then reported to the Patriots of VAQ-140 in 1999 and immediately deployed in support of Operation ALLIED FORCE. He completed a follow-on deployment in 2000 onboard USS EISENHOWER (CVN 69) and was designated a Wing Qualified Landing Signals Officer.

In late 2001, CDR Guenther reported for a short tour with VX-9 in China Lake, CA where he flew the EA-6B and F/A-18C. In 2002, he rejoined VAQ-129 to complete his shore tour as an FRS instructor pilot. In 2004, CDR Guenther departed the FRS to attend the Naval War College in Newport, RI. He was a Mahan Scholar at Newport and graduated with highest distinction receiving his M.A. in National Security and Strategic Studies.

In 2005, CDR Guenther reported to the Rooks of VAQ-137 for his department head tour. He completed two deployments onboard USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) and flew in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM over Iraq and Afghanistan at which time the squadron was awarded the "Battle E". He served as squadron Operations Officer and Maintenance Officer on respective deployments.

In 2008, CDR Guenther reported to the newly formed US Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany. He worked as a strategist and was charged with developing the command's first comprehensive Combating Terrorism Plan for the African continent. He reported to VT-22 in July, 2010.

CDR Guenther has accumulated over 2,700 flight hours, 2100 EA-6B hours, and 400 carrier arrestments. His awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, six Strike Flight Air Medals, and two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals.

