



**Captain Matthew L. Klunder**  
**United States Navy**  
**83rd Commandant of Midshipmen**  
**United States Naval Academy**



Captain Matthew L. Klunder, a native of Alexandria, Virginia graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1982. After completing a short assignment at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington D.C., he entered pilot training and received his "Wings of Gold" on 26 September 1984 in Meridian, Mississippi.

Captain Klunder's first squadron tour was with VAW-112 from May 1985 to May 1988. While a member of the "Golden Hawks", he made two Western Pacific/Indian Ocean Deployments aboard USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63), including a round-the-world cruise.

Assigned to VAW-110, in May 1988, Captain Klunder served as flight instructor, Pilot NATOPS Officer, and COMNAVAIRPAC Evaluator. During this time he was awarded the "1988 Hawkeye of the Year". In June 1989, he reported to Patuxent River, MD where he completed one year at the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School and two years with the Force Warfare Test Directorate. During this assignment, he was awarded the "1991 Test Pilot of

the Year", established 21 world flying records, and obtained a Masters in Aerodynamics and Aviation Systems from the Univ. of Tennessee. From October 1992 to February 1995, he served in Japan as the Safety Officer and Maintenance Officer for the "Liberty Bells" of VAW-115. His tour included one Operation SOUTHERN WATCH deployment and multiple surge operations to the Western Pacific. He next served as the Senior Operations Officer and SIOF Officer for the Joint Staff J-3/National Military Command Center in the Pentagon. During this tour, he was involved in such operations as JOINT ENDEAVOR, DESERT STRIKE, and the O'Grady Rescue.

In October 1997, Captain Klunder again reported to Japan and VAW-115 as Executive Officer and continued with command of the "Liberty Bells" from January 1999 to May 2000. During his command tour, VAW-115 received the Battle E, AEW Excellence and Golden Anchor awards. Following command, he reported to the National War College and graduated with a Masters in Strategic Studies in June 2001.

Captain Klunder was then assigned as a Joint Staff Liaison Officer to the U.S. State Department. There he was the Middle East Section Chief for Political-Military Affairs and heavily involved in diplomatic and coalition efforts for Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. During this tour, he received the "2002 George C. Marshall Statesman" award and screened for command of CVW-2. He completed an assignment as CAOC Deputy Director from August 2003 to November 2003 at Al Udeid AB in Qatar and reported as Deputy Commander, Carrier Air Wing TWO in November 2004. He assumed command of Carrier Air Wing TWO in February 2006. During his tour, he completed two CVW-2 Western Pacific/Indian Ocean deployments with highlights including Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina Relief and Exercises VALIANT SHIELD, FOAL EAGLE, RIMPAC, and JADED THUNDER.

In September 2007, Captain Klunder reported to OPNAV staff where he served as Deputy Director for Information, Plans and Security under N3/5. In May 2008, he was selected as the 83rd Commandant of Midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Captain Klunder has accumulated over 5,800 flight hours and 750 arrested landings while flying over 45 different aircraft. His awards include the Legion of Merit (2), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2), Meritorious Service Medal (2), Joint Commendation Medal (2), Navy Commendation Medal (4), and various unit and campaign awards.