

#5 | LCDR JULIUS BRATTON | USN

// Lead Solo

Lieutenant Commander Julius Bratton is a native of Woodlawn, Tennessee and graduated from Northwest High School in 2007, where he lettered in football and track & field. He attended the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Oceanography in 2011, and was commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy.

Julius reported to Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida, for aviation indoctrination training in June 2011. He completed primary flight training in the T-34C Turbo Mentor at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas in June 2012. He subsequently completed intermediate and advanced flight training in the T-45C Goshawk at NAS Meridian, Mississippi, and received his wings of gold in June 2013.

Julius then reported to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 122, the "Flying Eagles," at Naval Air Station Lemoore, California, in June 2013 for initial training in the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet. In May 2015 he reported to the "Sidewinders" of VFA-86 at NAS Lemoore. While there he served as the Schedules Officer, Wardroom Mess Officer, Mission Planning Officer, Avionics/Armaments Division Officer, Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization (NATOPS) Officer, Assistant Operations Officer, and Weapons and Tactics Officer. Julius completed a deployment aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) and flew in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Julius then reported to the "Gladiators" of VFA-106 at NAS Oceana, Virginia in December 2018 as an Instructor Pilot, where he also served as NATOPS Deputy Program Manager, Assistant Command Fitness Leader, Assistant Mission Planning Officer, and Class Advisor.

Julius joined the Blue Angels in September 2019. He has accumulated more than 2,500 flight hours and has 207 carrier arrested landings. His decorations include a Strike Flight Air Medal, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and various other unit and personal awards.