



United States Navy
Biography →

CAPTAIN RICHARD G. BURGESS
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS GERALD R. FORD (CVN 78)

CAPT Rick Burgess, a native of Bellevue, WA, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1996 with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and was designated a Naval Flight Officer in 1998.

Operational assignments include tours with Fighter Squadron (VF) 31, USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72); Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 102, USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63); and two tours with VFA-103, USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) and USS *George Washington* (CVN 73).

Shore assignments include service as Action Officer in the House Liaison Office, Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA); TOPGUN Instructor with Navy Fighter Weapons School; Strike Fighter Placement Officer (PERS-433B) with Navy Personnel Command (NPC); Branch Chief, Global Missile Defense Requirements at Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense Organization (JIAMDO), the Joint Staff (J8); and Homeland Defense Technologies Project Lead with The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL).



He completed the Air Command and Staff College Non-Resident Program, earned a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from Naval War College, and has a graduate certificate in Nuclear Engineering from Naval Postgraduate School.

He commanded VFA-103, *The Jolly Rogers*, USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69), from July 2013 to November 2014; served as Executive Officer of USS *George H. W. Bush* (CVN 77) from June 2019 to December 2020; and commanded the nation's first Expeditionary Sea Base, USS *Lewis B. Puller* (ESB 3), from May 2021 to August 2022.

Burgess has flown more than 3,500 hours in the F-14, F-15, F-16, and F/A-18. His personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and various individual and unit campaign awards.