



Lieutenant Commander Spencer Abbot is a native of Yorktown, VA. He is a 1995 Distinguished Graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, where he served as Brigade Commander and Plebe Summer Regimental Commander. He then attended the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, receiving a Master's Degree in International Relations (MALD). During the summer of 1996 he served as an intern at NATO Headquarters in Brussels. He is currently a PhD candidate with the Fletcher School.

Subsequent to graduate school he completed U.S. Navy flight school and initial FA-18 Hornet training, receiving the Daedalians' *Orville Wright Award* and the VFA-106 *RADM Morin Award* for the highest overall flight grades of the year for each program. During his initial squadron tour with the "Valions" of Strike-Fighter Squadron 15, he flew missions in support of the U.N. No-Fly Zones in Iraq as part of Operation Southern Watch. Deployed aboard *USS Enterprise* in the Indian Ocean on September 11th 2001, he participated in the initial phases of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. During a 2003 deployment to the Mediterranean Sea aboard *USS Theodore Roosevelt*, he served as a flight lead during combat missions at the outset of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As his squadron's community service coordinator, he organized a Partnership in Education with a local school for at-risk youth in 2003.

He then studied Spanish at the Defense Language Institute, and while living in Monterey worked as a volunteer scuba diver at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. He subsequently served as an exchange FA-18 pilot with the Spanish Air Force, and during that tour completed an in-residence Executive MBA, taken in Spanish, at Instituto de Empresa in Madrid.

LCDR Abbot then served as a Department Head with the "Ragin' Bulls" of Strike-Fighter Squadron 37 in Virginia Beach, VA. In early 2007 he was selected by the Office of the Secretary of Defense to lead a team of 15 military officers in administering the U.S. Senate Youth Program. He worked as the squadron's Operations Officer during a 2007-08 deployment to the Persian Gulf aboard *USS Harry S Truman*, and served as a flight lead during numerous Close Air Support missions in conjunction with Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was awarded the Carrier Air Wing 3 *Top Hook Award* for the highest overall carrier landing performance during the deployment. He was selected by

Commander Naval Air Forces for the 2008 *Order of Daedalians Exceptional Pilot Award*, and was nominated by Commander Naval Air Forces Atlantic for the 2008 *American Legion Valor Award*. His military decorations include the Air Medal and Navy Commendation Medal with combat “V” devices, and four Strike/Flight Air Medals.

LCDR Abbot has worked as an election supervisor for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) during several elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. He has participated in leadership programs with the French-American Foundation, the U.S.-Spain Council, the German Marshall Fund and Atlantik-Brücke. He was selected as a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and is a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies. LCDR Abbot is currently a Military Fellow with the Center for a New American Security (CNAS).