

# LOCKLEED NEWS



## Blue Angels name first female F/A-18 pilot in squadron's history

The famed Navy flight demonstration squadron, the Blue Angels, selected their first female F/A-18E/F demo pilot this year following the completion of the Pensacola Beach Air Show on July 9.

Navy Lt. Amanda Lee was named alongside five other officers as the newest members of the 2023 Show Season for the Blue Angels.

Lee, a native of Mounds View, Minnesota, will join the ranks of countless other women who have served in other capacities with the Blue Angels for the last 55 years, the Navy said in a press release. She will serve the Blue Angels alongside three other women currently on the team serving as a flight surgeon, public affairs officer and event coordinator.

Lee, who is currently assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron 106, also has another notable first attached to her resume. She participated in the first all-female flyover in 2019 as part of the funeral service for retired Capt. Rosemary Mariner, the first woman to command a naval aviation squadron.

"When I come into the ready room right now, I'm a pilot first, a person second, and my gender really isn't an issue," Lee said in a Navy press release at the time. "It's people like Capt. Mariner that have paved that way for us, so it's really a huge honor. I'm super humbled to be a part of this flyover in her honor."

The U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, selected six new officers to join the team for the for the 2023 air show season. (Chief Petty Officer Paul Archer/ U.S. Navy)

Navy and Marine jet pilots with an aircraft carrier qualification and a minimum of 1,250 tactical jet flight-hours are eligible to fly jets Number 2 through 7, while Number 8 is reserved for a naval flight officer or naval aviator who has finished their first tour.

Marine pilots selected to fly the C-130J Hercules aircraft, affectionately called "Fat Albert," must be an aircraft commander with at least 1,200 flight hours. There are currently 17 officers serving with the Blue Angels, according to the team's website.

The new Angels will report to the squadron in September and, after the completion of the 2022 show season, will complete an intensive five-month training program at NAS Pensacola and Naval Air Facility El Centro, California, in preparation for next year's show season.

**Blue Angels**  
2023 OFFICER SELECTIONS

- LCDR THOMAS ZIMMERMAN**  
F/A-18 E/F DEMONSTRATION PILOT
- LT AMANDA LEE**  
F/A-18 E/F DEMONSTRATION PILOT
- LCDR BRIAN VAUGHT**  
EVENTS COORDINATOR
- CAPT SAMUEL PETKO**  
C-130J DEMONSTRATION PILOT
- LCDR GREG JONES**  
MAINTENANCE OFFICER
- LT PHILIPPE WARREN**  
FLIGHT SURGEON



The new Angels will report to the squadron in September and, after the completion of the 2022 show season, will complete an intensive five-month training program at NAS Pensacola and Naval Air Facility El Centro, California, in preparation for next year's show season.

"We had an overwhelming number of applicants from all over the globe this year," commanding officer and flight leader of the Blue Angels, Capt. Brian Kesselring said. "We look forward to training our fantastic new team members, passing on the torch, and watching the incredible things this team will accomplish in 2023."

Also selected in addition to Lee were Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Zimmerman, F/A-18E/F Super Hornet pilot; Lt. Cmdr. Brian Vaught, events coordinator; Lt. Cmdr. Greg Jones, maintenance officer; Lt. Philippe Warren, flight surgeon; and Marine Corps Capt. Samuel Petko, C-130 Demonstration Pilot.

"The mission of the Blue Angels is to showcase the teamwork and professionalism of the United States Navy and Marine Corps through flight demonstrations and community outreach while inspiring a culture of excellence and service to country," the Navy said in the press release.

## Every Third Saturday Golf Event In Brooklyn Park, MN

The LockLeed team was once again blessed to support Every Third Saturday's (ETS) annual golf tournament that takes place to support the Veteran community. We look forward to this event annually, but this year was extra special given the progress that has been made in achieving their goals utilizing funds from last years tournament.

August 4th, 2021, a LockLeed associate had the opportunity to interview Tom McKenna (co-founder of ETS) regarding what the proceeds of that years golf tournament would be contributed to. Tom stated that the funds raised were going towards a new Veteran center, which at this point the property had only been demolished. Today, a building stands that is designated to Veterans and their families that is inclusive of a coffee shop (Rick's coffee bar; named in commemoration of a veteran who fell victim to post-traumatic stress disorder), a patio, and a fitness center that is strictly only accessible to Veterans. This building is monumental in the Veteran community as it is designated to be a safe place for Veterans that have dealt/are dealing with PTSD and/or homelessness. The funds that were raised this year will continue to be attributed to the new Veteran center as well as helping veterans get the resources that they need which include providing clothing and supplies, access to ETS' Pop-smoke mission (providing resources to veterans and their families), and the Warrior's Path Program designed as a 5 week course that support's Veterans designing and pursuing a better future.

The LockLeed team is blessed to have been invited to be a sponsor of this event, and looks forward to next years, hoping to see some familiar faces as well as new ones!



WE ARE HIRING | 

# TROUBLE FINDING EMPLOYEES? TAP INTO MILITARY GRADE TALENT TODAY!



**LockLeed International** has a proven record of bringing **TOP Talent** into Fortune 1000 companies using our unique recruiting strategies.

A partnership with LockLeed will include access to **25,000+** Military candidates locally, **Unlimited** Job Postings on our website and access to **Military Bases** nationwide.

We included in this envelope an example of the **Military/Veteran** candidates that we currently support. A partnership with **LockLeed** opens up access to these candidates and others in the Military Community locally.

Contact us today to learn how your organization can hire **Military Grade Talent** that is unmatched and ready to work.



Results Driven > Affordable Partnerships > Quality Candidates Screened By Us



**LEARN MORE**  
WWW.LOCKLEED.COM

[www.LockLeed.com](http://www.LockLeed.com) | 763-355-5789 | [info@LockLeed.com](mailto:info@LockLeed.com) | 10235 University Ave NE Minneapolis, MN 55434

Interested in learning more about LockLeed? Visit us Online at [www.lockleed.com](http://www.lockleed.com)  
LockLeed International | 10235 University Ave NE | Minneapolis, MN | 763-355-5789

