



# The AVLOG Sentinel

News from the  
**Marine Corps Aviation Association**  
**Don E. Davis Squadron**

Volume I | Issue 02 | Jul 2019 - Don Davis Squadron Newsletter

## *Top Announcements*

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- 1) Scholarship Update
- 2) Awards
- 3) Kudos – AVLOG Engagement
- 4) New and Renewing Sponsors
- 5) Membership

## *Inside This Issue*

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### **PG. 2**

Commander's Corner

“The Plug” Join the Squadron!!

Announcements

### **PG. 3**

Log Notes

Challenges and What's New

Scholarship Awardees

### **PG. 4**

AVLOG Community of Interest Update

Taps

## Commander's Corner

Hello Davis Squadron members and friends. Boom! Our reunion in Pensacola will not soon be forgotten. What a cast of amazing Marines and families. We were truly blessed to have current and past Deputy Commandants for Aviation among our attendees and as our guest speaker. LtGen Steve "Stick" Rudder provided amazing insight on the state of Marine Aviation and what we can expect from the ever-changing defense department environment. LtGen Jon "Dawg" Davis (ret), MCAA National Commander was among our guest who provided some valuable insights about our Community of Interest and contributed immeasurably at our Executive Roundtable on Saturday morning. Thank you Cols Russ Blauw and Ryan Goulette for your leadership in providing an aviation readiness update and current transformation initiatives. I'd like to single out Maj Sean Hennessy, his family and our officers for their heroic efforts in conducting a flawless, most enjoyable reunion. There're no words that can express my true gratitude. We are about to announce our Capt Pete Freeman Scholarship awardees, so stand by for that announcement. Our concentration now is determining our location for next year's reunion. It'll likely be at New River, but we haven't finalized that. Again, I thank each and every one of you and remember that this is your organization. We need the full team to maintain the momentum.

SF, Laura

### "The Plug"

#### Don E. Davis Squadron

##### Why join us?

- ✓ MCAA Awards Program Champion and Participant
- ✓ MCAA Yellow Sheet and Journal Contributors
- ✓ Annual Squadron Reunion and Banquet Program
- ✓ Marine Air Wing/Training MOY Program
- ✓ Fully funded trip for 2 selectees from the MAWs/MATSGs
- ✓ ASL Community Advocates - ESC Roundtable
- ✓ Mentoring Professional Opportunities for Aviation Marines
- ✓ Defense Corporate Interface - 5 major sponsors
- ✓ Pete Freeman Scholarship - \$16K+ for 2019
- ✓ Active Duty Membership builds bridges

Join Today! Donate Today!

**GAKE**  
Publishing

## AWARDS

Rick Owen, Colonel, USMC Ret, received the squadron's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual CWO-5 John Cash Award for "Sustained



Achievement;" an award for his years of contributions to Davis Squadron/ALM. Colonel Owen's contributions throughout the decades are countless, and his tireless dedication and leadership is what really makes the Davis Squadron hum. This award is but a small token of recognition for his years of service.

### Active Duty Awards

The recipients of the Marine of the Year Program went to two MATSG-23 Marines:

GySgt (MSgt sel.) Juan F. Hernandez of AMS-1  
SSgt William E. Liesenfelder of AMS-1

We will solicit next year's award from 2<sup>nd</sup> MAW squadrons. Details TBD.

## Announcements

- The Freeman Scholarship Committee has convened and will report out by 4 Jul.
- The 2020 Davis Sqdn Award Program will be published just after the New Year.
- 2020 Reunion to be held in Jacksonville, NC (New River) with NATTC/MALS as host. More to come.
- SPONSORSHIP! Lockheed Martin, Andromeda Systems, Mustang Services, Robbins-Gioia, LLC continue as our steadfast sponsors in helping the Davis Sqdn flourish. If you or someone you know would like to sponsor us, please pass on the name!

## *Log Notes from Don*

I'm taking the opportunity to change the LOG NOTES this year in remembrance of what happened 75 years ago during, and after WWII. Below are a couple of articles I received about the symbolism used for the surrender of the Japanese aboard the USS Missouri, and about a WWII hero that many people probably never knew about. I think you'll find them very interesting!

Why did the US choose a US Navy Iowa-class battleship as the location for Japan's surrender in World War 2 even though they were in Tokyo Bay and could have used a building on land? Pure symbolism. Nothing says "you're utterly defeated" than having to board the enemy's massive battleship in the waters of your own capital city. A naval vessel is considered sovereign territory for the purposes of accepting a surrender. You just don't get that if you borrow a ceremonial space from the host country. In addition, the Navy originally wanted the USS South Dakota to be the surrender site. It was President Truman who changed it to USS Missouri, Missouri being Truman's home state. The Japanese delegation had to travel across water to the Missouri, which sat at the center of a huge US fleet. It's a bit like those movie scenes where someone enters a big-wig's office, and the big-wig sat silhouetted at the end of a long room, behind a massive desk. The appellant has to walk all the way to that desk along a featureless space, feeling small, exposed, vulnerable and comparatively worthless before the mogul enthroned in dramatic lighting before him. By the time he gets there the great speech he had prepared is reduced to a muttered sentence or two.

In addition, the USS Missouri flew the flag of Commodore Perry's 19th century gun-boat diplomacy mission that opened the closeted Edo-era Japan to the world and forced upon them the Meiji restoration which ended the rule of the samurai class. The symbolism here is pretty clear - "this is how we want you to be, and remember what happens to countries that defy us." It was particularly humiliating for a proud country like Japan, and that was entirely the point. The symbolism of the ceremony was even greater than that. The ship was anchored at the precise latitude/longitude recorded in Perry's log during his 1845 visit, symbolizing the purpose of both visits to open Japan to the West. Perry's original flag was also present, having been flown all the way from the Naval Academy for the ceremony. See all remainder of Don's Log Notes on Pg 5 below.

**SEMPER FIDELIS – Don**

## Challenges and What's New

### The "Kegger" Challenge Update

Kegger challenge is still on, so challenge an active duty unit or take up the challenge as an individual. Top recruiting unit/Marines will earn a host keg on the squadron. Now go get em!...new members that is.

### Recruiter of the Year (ROY) Award Program

As promised, the Recruiter of the Year was established as the Col Rick Owen Award. Our inaugural winner was LtCol Bill Slack, now the Commander at NATTC in New River. He brought in 17 new members through his engagement activities. Congratulations LtCol Slack.

Keep your innovation/ideas coming. It's how we get better!

## *Active Duty Announcements*

Thanks to our blossoming relationship with ASL, we are able to provide updates from around the fleet. **Thank you to all who helped make this happen!!**

The Davis Squadron was able to provide the 2019 graduating Warrant Officer class of 6004s with Reliability and Best Practices books thanks to the generous contributions of Mustang Services.

### Retirements

Col Clarence Bubba Harper III from FRCE  
Col Anthony Manuel from DLA Aviation  
Col (ret) Gilda Jackson from Lockheed-Martin

As a reminder, if you have a contribution to our newsletter, active duty news or otherwise, please share it with us. That's what keeps the Davis Squadron apprised of current events.



*Pensacola Reunion; LtGen Steve “Stick” Rudder provides an aviation force readiness update.*

Deputy Commandant for Aviation LtGen (Stick) Rudder provided an inspirational and targeted message to the community – emphasizing the value and influence of the logistics profession as a key enabler to combat successes as Marine Aviation moves ever forward with additional capabilities and the accompanying logistics challenges. He emphasized that Marine Aviation Logistics is now one of the principle metrics during acquisition and fielding to ensure battlefield success during the entire lifecycle of an aviation asset. The individual Marines who develop, refine and perform the tasks will continue to be a critical driver to USMC success and help ensure maximum readiness for



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*DC/A Reunion (cont)*

Marine Aviation within the air-ground task force and postured to address our nation’s challenges. DC/A went on to attribute much of the success of the ACE to our constituency.

*Taps*

The Davis Squadron lost a number of superb Marines and dear friends this last year.



Capt Joe Haley Driver (ret) was a loving husband, father, grandfather and steadfast Marine. Joe was recently retired after 21

years of service supporting the C-130J program. RIP my fine brother. You’ll be sorely missed. Semper Fidelis!

- Maj Dave Salum – 3 Jun 2019
- MSgt Jack A. Vance – 24 Jan 2019
- Capt Joe Driver – 29 Nov 2018
- Mrs Barbara Driver – 8 Feb 2018

**DUES REMINDER**

**Membership period is from 10 Nov to 10 Nov!**

**Already a member, then just send your check for \$12 and mark it for annual dues. Multiple years can be paid.**

**New: Request Membership Application from:**  
[mcaadondavisavlogsquadron@gmail.com](mailto:mcaadondavisavlogsquadron@gmail.com)

**Send applications and checks to:**  
**MCAA Don Davis Squadron**  
**P.O. Box 22**  
**Chatham, MI 49816**

**Are you affiliated with a business or industry that wants to help with sponsorship? Please communicate with us?**

**Donations can be remitted to the Don Davis Squadron at the same address above.**

## Don's Log Notes (continued)

When the Japanese delegation came aboard, they were forced to use an accommodation way (stairs) situated just forward of turret #1. The freeboard (distance between the ship's deck and the water line) there makes the climb about twice as long as if it had been set up farther aft, where the freeboard of the ship is less. NOTE: This was even more of an issue for the Japanese surrender party as the senior member, Foreign Affairs Minister Shigemitsu, was crippled by an assassination attempt in 1932, losing his right leg in the process.

The #1 and #2 turrets had been traversed about 20 degrees to starboard. The ostensible reason for this was to get the turret overhangs out of the way to create more room for the ceremony on the starboard veranda deck, but in fact this would have only required traversing turret #2 had it been the real reason. However, the turret position also put the gun tubes directly over the heads of the Japanese. They were literally boarding the ship "under the gun".

The honor guard of US sailors (side boys) were all hand-picked to be over six feet tall, a further intimidation of the short-statured Japanese. The surrender documents themselves, one copy for the Allies and one for the Japanese contained identical English-language texts, but the Allied copy was bound in good quality leather, while the Japanese copy was bound with light canvas whose stitching looked like it had been done by a drunken tailor using kite string. After the signing ceremony, the Japanese delegation was not invited for tea and cookies; they were shuffled off the ship as an Allied air armada of over 400 aircraft flew overhead as a final reminder that American forces still had the ability to continue fighting should the Japanese have second thoughts on surrender. Now you know..... Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt Jr., the son of President "Teddy" Roosevelt, was the oldest man to hit the beach on the D-day invasion. He was also the highest ranking person to directly participate in the beach landing invasion. He was supposed to be with the other command staff in England. Gen. Roosevelt knew the importance of the mission, he knew much of the invasion force were new, untried soldiers who had never seen combat. His requests to join his men were repeatedly denied, but he persisted, even when his superiors told him he faced near certain death. He was granted permission after explaining how his presence would inspire confidence in the invasion plan. The Commander of the Allied Forces, General Eisenhower wrote Roosevelt's eulogy before the invasion. On the morning of the attack, as he requested, Gen. Roosevelt was in one of the lead landing craft.

He led his men across the beach to a rally point under heavy fire. Being pinned down, it appeared they were going to be wiped out. Roosevelt took charge and led a move over the sea wall. At that time, he realized other troops were trapped back on the beach, and cut off. He returned to the beach and led these men to join the attacking force. He repeated this action several times, under heavy fire. For these actions, he received the Congressional Medal of Honor. The official citation is below:

"For gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on 6 June 1944, in France. After 2 verbal requests to accompany the leading assault elements in the Normandy invasion had been denied, Brig. Gen. Roosevelt's written request for this mission was approved and he landed with the first wave of the forces assaulting the enemy-held beaches. He repeatedly led groups from the beach, over the seawall and established them inland. His valor, courage, and presence in the very front of the attack and his complete unconcern at being under heavy fire inspired the troops to heights of enthusiasm and self-sacrifice. Although the enemy had the beach under constant direct fire, Brig. Gen. Roosevelt moved from one locality to another, rallying men around him, directed and personally led them against the enemy. Under his seasoned, precise, calm, and unfaltering leadership, assault troops reduced beach strong points and rapidly moved inland with minimum casualties. He thus contributed substantially to the successful establishment of the beachhead in France."

What the citation does not say, is that Gen. Roosevelt was a combat veteran of WWI, where he was disabled by being shot through the knee. He required a cane to walk due to his injury. Gen. Roosevelt was 56 years old at the time of the invasion. He literally stormed the beach at Normandy with a cane in one hand and a pistol in the other! When the beach was secured, later that day, command staff began to arrive. They were met on the beach by Gen. Roosevelt who gave a full report on the invasion operation.

Six days later, Roosevelt died of a heart attack. He is buried in France. He has been called "the toughest man on the longest day."