



# The AVLOG Sentinel

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

Volume I | Issue 08 | Oct 2025 - Don Davis Squadron Newsletter

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Greetings Davis Squadron,

For our reunion, we'll be gathering again at the Hilton's Embassy Suites at Myrtle Beach from 12-15 March 2026. Details covering schedule, events and cost will be forthcoming in our reunion package.

For the past two years, we have augmented our corporate donations to fund our events and scholarship program by means of our \$500 Commander's Challenge. We had 18 amazing participants in that challenge, which is a true testament to the generosity of our members. We are going to continue that Challenge this year. So, please participate and spread the word. I'm pledging mine right here and now. Who else?

Sponsors are the lifeblood of our squadron. If you are aware of, or part of any corporation or business that might be willing to be part of our tremendous efforts, let us know. We have brochures and sponsor request documentation that can assist in any solicitation you may be making.

Nuff said! We have finished issuing checks to our Freeman Scholarship Program recipients. We'll now focus on our upcoming 2026 Davis Squadron reunion. Thank you to our officers who hit the ground running and continue to do great things for our community. Again, I thank each one of you. Remember, this is your organization. We need a full team to maintain our tremendous momentum.

*SF, Klutch*

## "The Plug"

**Don E. Davis Squadron**

**Why join us?**

- ✓ **MCAA Awards Program Champion-Participant**
- ✓ **MCAA Yellow Sheet and Journal Contributors**
- ✓ **Annual Reunion and Banquet Program**
- ✓ **Marine Air Wing/Training MOY Program**
- ✓ **Funded trip for 2 annual MOY award winners**
- ✓ **ASL Community Advocates - ESC Roundtable**
- ✓ **Mentoring Opportunities for Aviation Marines**
- ✓ **Defense Corporate Interface - 5 major sponsors**
- ✓ **Pete Freeman Scholarship - \$30K+ for 2024**
- ✓ **Active-Duty Membership builds bridges**

**Join Today! Donate Today!**

## AWARDS



Our 7<sup>th</sup> annual CWO-5 John Cash Award for "Sustained Achievement" was awarded to LtCol Bill Hamlin. Bill has been a plank owner of the squadron for more than 4 decades. He continues to play a pivotal role in new ideas for the conduct of our reunions.

Pictured here is Bill receiving this award from LtGen (R) Conant at the Embassy Suites in Myrtle Beach in April of this year. Kudos, Bill.

## Active-Duty Awards

The recipients of the Marine of the Year Program went to 2<sup>nd</sup> MAW Marines from MCAS New River and Beaufort Well done, Marines!

MAG 29: Sgt Timothy A. Ridgeway

MAG-31 Sgt Elizah J. Crews

## Announcements

- **The 2026 Davis Squadron reunion will be at the Embassy Suites Oceanfront in Myrtle Beach, SC. The dates are 12-15 March 2026. Please standby for registration package and details. We'll be looking for nominations for the CO and Financial Officer's positions. Please step up if you can.**
- **The Freeman Scholarship Committee has reported out and awardees are in this issue (pg 4).**
- **The 2026 Davis Sqdn Award Program will be published just after the New Year.**
- **SPONSORSHIP! Bell Flight, Boeing, Andromeda Systems Inc., Lee Perkins, Mike Kennedy, First Command (Bill Slack) and others 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 their contact info!**

## Around the “Corps”

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Christopher J. Mahoney, signed a memorandum Sept. 10 to formally establish Project Dynamis, an initiative to accelerate the modernization of Marine Corps contributions to Combined Joint All-Domain Command and Control (CJADC2) in partnership with the Department of the Navy’s Project Overmatch.

This effort is aligned with the Marine Corps’ broader Force Design concept with a specific focus on developing end-to-end, joint interoperable capabilities that enable Marines to act as the forward element of the Joint Force—sensing, making sense, and communicating weapons quality data at the speed and scale of relevance.

The memorandum established a 3-star council comprised of the Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration (DC CD&I) and the Deputy Commandant for Information (DC I) to govern the project.

“The Marine Corps has been moving fast to modernize for the future,” said Lt. Gen. Jerry Carter, DC I. “To outpace the threat, we realized we needed a dedicated cross-functional team laser focused on prioritizing and accelerating the deployment of advanced technologies to enable AI-powered decision advantage at the tactical edge. That’s what Project Dynamis does in partnership with the Navy’s Project Overmatch.”

The memorandum tasks the council to present an initial plan and a charter for governance, organization, authorities, and responsibilities within 30 days. The ACMC has also tasked the council to coordinate with the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisitions to designate a USMC Deputy Direct Report Program Manager within Project Overmatch.

Colonel Arlon Smith has been appointed as the Director of Project Dynamis.

Learn more: [http://www.marines.mil/Project Dynamis](http://www.marines.mil/Project_Dynamis)

## 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. There was no winner for our 2025 reunion in Beaufort. We’ll be selecting our next winner in time for our next reunion in Myrtle Beach, SC. Standby for that announcement.

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

### *Active-Duty Announcements*

Colonel Luke Watson, who recently transitioned from BIC, is currently assigned to MCCDI, and will eventually head the USMC Headquarters Aviation Sustainment Branch. Congratulations, Colonel!

LtCol Jesse Johnson, a panel member at our last reunion, is transitioning to become the Commanding Officer of MWSS-273. We wish them both the very best in their new roles. Well done, Sir.

### **Retirements/Transition**

No new significant transitions were reported this cycle. If necessary, we will amend this publishing in response to any notifications that we receive. The squadron always wishes all members well when they take on a new adventure in their lives.

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.



2025 Reunion: Left to right: CWO-4 Juan Beltran and Colonel “Slick” Katz. A lot of years of leadership here! Thanks for being there!

### ***Freeman Scholarship Awards***

Thanks to the many personal donations and corporate sponsors, we were able to award \$30,000 to 16 applicants. Superb work, Scholarship Board! As a reminder, when you consider a donation to the Davis Squadron, you can specify that your contribution go to the Captain Pete Freeman Scholarship Foundation.

#### **Awardees**

Ashley Chipman	Caroline Kirby
Andrea Clark	Noelle MaClaird
Sonia Fernandez-Torres	Chloe Roby
Jensen Goulette	Taylor VanMeter
William Hamilton	Ariaya Walker
Katherine Harper	Emily Williams
Rebecca Harper	Grace Wyandt
Michael Hennessy	William Wyandt IV

### *Taps*

The Davis Squadron lost way too many superb Marines and dear friends below. May we pray that they’re saving a place for us in the Lord’s great warehouse and on the flight line for us. Semper Fidelis!

LtCol Bruce Vance – 12 Sep 2025

Col John Wright – 12 Sep 2025

Sara Louise Russell – 31 Jul 2025  
(Wife of Capt Nick Russell)

Maj Elton “Dean” Williams – 15 Jul 2025

Maj Patrick Frossard – 16 Jun 2025

Maj Don Davis – 15 Jun 2025

Sgt Frances “Vigil” Cooper – 9 May 2025

Susan Manginen – 14 Apr 2025  
(Wife of Maj Bill Manginen)

CWO4 Harry Monds – 7 Mar 2025

CWO3 Dan Belote – 19 Feb 2025

SSgt Arthur (Chick) Reeves – 16 Jan 2025

LtCol James (Jim) Griffin, Jr. – 5 Jan 2025

Maj Frederick (Larry) Sherwood – 23 Dec 2024

MGySgt Malvin Haubenstein – 17 Nov 2024

LtCol Brian Kelly – 11 Nov 2024

Judy Gaugh – 9 Nov 2024

(Wife of Col Richard Gaugh)

MSgt Patrick (PW) Malone – 16 Oct 2024

Maj William (Bill) Manginen – 7 Oct 2024

## DUES REMINDER

Membership period is from 10 Nov to 10 Nov!

Gale Rodgers

@Gale-Rodgers-1



**venmo**

Use this QR Code to Pay Now!

Current Membership: Life Members: 84

Total Members: 118



Join Now!

<https://www.avlogmarines.org/join-now/>

**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.**



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