



The AVLOG Sentinel

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

Volume I | Issue 03 | Oct 2020 - Don Davis Squadron Newsletter

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Commander's Corner

Hello Davis Squadron members and friends. Damn COVID!! Having to cancel our reunion in Jacksonville, NC this year was a bitter pill to swallow, but it came at a time when the consequences of COVID-19 were not clearly understood. In retrospect, we made the right decision. My sincerest thanks to Gale Rodgers, LtCol Slack and Juan Beltran for their work in planning what would've been a memorable reunion. Thank you all for understanding and for your amazing generosity as almost all who had registered left their monies in our care, knowing that we'd put it to good use. With this windfall, we were able to increase our Freeman Scholarship this year by a handsome sum. In July, we awarded 21 recipients with over \$18K. My sincere thanks goes out to the Scholarship Committee for their flawless efforts in the conduct of their deliberations. Awardees are listed in this publication. Now, as for our next reunion, we are still trying to figure this. We're not optimistic about a March event, knowing that there'll be lingering effects of COVID, and the military activities are under the most rigid restrictions, so as to keep them warfighter-ready. We get that. That said, we have an offer on the table to from MCAA National to join forces and have a reunion in P-Cola later in the summer or early fall. We'll have more details next month and will let our members know what we've concluded. 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
- ✓ 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 - \$18K+ for 2020
- ✓ Active Duty Membership builds bridges

Join Today! Donate Today!

GAKE
Publishing

AWARDS

Our 3rd annual CWO-5 John Cash Award for "Sustained Achievement;" was selected, but never awarded because our



reunion was cancelled due to COVID. We'll make that announcement at our next event scheduled for P-Cola. We'll be providing details about that very soon. Pictured here is Rick Owen

receiving his award last year in P-Cola.

Active Duty Awards

The recipients of the Marine of the Year Program went to one CNATT New River Marine and one MALS-31 Marine:

Capt Felix Vasquez MALS-31
SSgt Justin Rivenburgh CNATT New River

We will solicit next year's award from P-Cola training squadrons. Details TBD.

Announcements

- The 2021 Davis Squadron reunion will likely be in at The Pensacola Grand Hotel Pensacola, FL. Date is TBD as explained in CO's notes. Please standby.
- The Freeman Scholarship Committee has reported out and awardees are in this issue (pg 4).
- The 2021 Davis Sqdn Award Program will be published just after the New Year.
- Colonel (ret) Russ Blauw assumes duties as Assistant Deput Commandant for Aviation Sustainment replacing Mr. Bill Taylor
- SPONSORSHIP! Lockheed Martin, Andromeda Systems Inc., Bell Flight, Richard Packard, Vertex, Sam Flores, Mustang Services 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”

South China Sea. The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and America Amphibious Ready Group executed a simulated visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS) mission, here, September 6. The exercise began with detailed planning across all three ships assigned to the America ARG. During the execution, dock landing ship USS Germantown (LSD 42) posed as a foreign ship that had been identified as a non-compliant vessel transporting illicit cargo, while amphibious transport dock ship USS New Orleans (LPD 18) and amphibious assault ship USS America (LHA 6) carried out the simulated mission.

Marines with the Maritime Raid Force, 31st MEU assaulted LSD 42 from the air, fast roping to the deck from Navy MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopters assigned to the Archangels of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 Detachment 6 and a CH-53E Super Stallion assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262.

MRF Marines cut through simulated barriers and entered the ship, clearing through the ship’s narrow passageways to detain hostile forces and locate the notional cache of illegal weapons. The 31st MEU’s MRF is made up of a Force Reconnaissance Platoon, an Amphibious Reconnaissance Platoon, and a security element. Force Reconnaissance Platoons are trained and certified through multiple courses and many hours of instruction, ensuring they are tactically-technically proficient at maritime interdiction operations.

Every MEU trains to this mission, however, as the only continuously forward deployed MEU, the 31st MEU must be prepared to execute VBSS in the Indo-Pacific region at any time, including contested waters in the South China Sea. The ability to execute VBSS is a key part of the 31st MEU’s role in ensuring security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

The United States remains committed to supporting freedom of navigation and international law of the sea, and the 31st MEU’s ability to execute VBSS missions contributes to these broader objectives.

[-http://www.marines.mil](http://www.marines.mil)

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. We’ll be selecting our next winner in time for our next reunion in Pensacola. Standby for that announcement.

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!!**

Our own Col, retired, Russ Blauw has been assigned an SES position as the Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation Logistics. He works directly for LtGen Wise, the DCA. What an amazing advocate for the Davis Squadron and for all things aviation logistics that matter. Congratulations Mr. Blauw!

Retirements/Transition

Col Rob Peterson has taken the helm from Col Russ Blauw as ASL-1. He’s a strong advocate of our mission and supports the value we bring to his innumerable challenges.

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.



LtGen Mark Wise (right) will replace LtGen Steve Rudder as Deputy Commandant for Aviation.

Freeman Scholarship Awards

Thanks to the many personal donations and corporate sponsors, we were able to award \$18,000 to 21 applicants. Biggest award yet. Great work! **Thank you to all who helped make this happen!!**

Awardees

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Viktoria Alston | Paige Horvath |
| Anthony Calbough | Lisette LaFontant |
| Hunter Chipman | Natalie LaFontant |
| Caroline Driver | Percie Lyons |
| Owen Dunne | Zoe Lyons |
| Chase Flatau | Jeremy McCutcheon |
| Hunter Gilbreath | Curtis Oakley |
| Jensen Goulette | Robyn Payton |
| Kyle Grimm | Bianca Razo |
| Arika Horvath | Zaria Smith |
| Mia Horvath | |

As a reminder, when you consider a donation to the Davis Squadron, you can specify that your contribution go to the Freeman Scholarship Foundation.

Taps



The Davis Squadron lost way too many superb Marines and dear friends below On Sep 28th we lost Capt Randy Belcher (ret) Randy loved God, his family and his country and will be remembered as a loving husband, father and grandfather and was a steadfast Marine. RIP my fine brother. Along with so many others, You'll be sorely missed. Semper Fidelis!

- Maj Bill Berotte May 2020
- Bill Featherston (son of Joe Featherston) 29 Aug 2020
- Marilyn Linehan (wife of Mike Linehan) 14 May 2020
- MGySgt Larry Wohlford – 21 Sep 2020
- MGySgt John A Ford – 23 Aug 2020
- MGySgt Greg Pankey – 17 Aug 2020
- Capt Ray Redford – 9 July 2020
- GySgt Karl Eugene Waldhauer – 13 May 2020
- SgtMaj Paul Simkonis – 18 Mar 2020
- Gilda Miranda – 27 Feb 2020
(Wife of CWO4 Toni Miranda)
- GySgt Friedrich (Fritz) Hill – 5 Jan 2020

DUES REMINDER

Membership period is from 10 Nov to 10 Nov!

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

New: Request Membership Application from:
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 a sponsorship? Please communicate with us?

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



[Our FB Link](#)



[Our Website Link](#)



[MCAA Link](#)



[Marines.com](#)