



# The AVLOG Sentinel

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

Volume I | Issue 07 | Oct 2024 - Don Davis Squadron Newsletter

## *Top Announcements*

---

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

## *Inside This Issue*

---

### **PG. 2**

Commander's Corner

“The Plug” Join the Squadron!!

Awards & Announcements

### **PG. 3**

Around the “Corps”

Challenges and What's New

Active-Duty Assignments/Transitions

### **PG. 4**

Scholarships Awardees

Taps

Greetings Davis Squadron,

For our reunion, we'll be gathering again at the Hilton's Embassy Suites at Myrtle Beach from 3-6 April 2025. Details covering schedule, events and cost will be forthcoming in our reunion package.

Last year, Randy McGee initiated what would become the \$500 Commander's Challenge. We had 16 amazing participants in that challenge, which helped us raise much needed resources to fully fund our scholarship and awards program. 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! Our efforts going forward are squarely focused on issuing checks to 26 Freeman Scholarship Program recipients and piecing together the details of the 2025 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!**

**GAKE**  
Publishing

## AWARDS



Our 6<sup>th</sup> annual CWO-5 John Cash Award for "Sustained Achievement" was awarded to MGySgt Rob McCutcheon. Rob has been our Communications Officer for more than 5 years and is heavily involved in recruitment and retention. He continues to play a pivotal role in reunion site-selection and coordination. He keeps our social media current and fresh content. Pictured here is Rob receiving this award at the Embassy Suites in Myrtle Beach in March of this year. Congratulations, Rob.

## Active-Duty Awards

The recipients of the Marine of the Year Program went to Marines from CNATTs at New River and Cherry Point and MALS-26. Well done, Marines!

MALS 26: CWO-3 Elizabeth Pottmeyer  
CNATT New River: GySgt Corey Carlson  
CNATT Cherry Point: SSgt Jared Landis

## Announcements

- **The 2025 Davis Squadron reunion will be at the Embassy Suites Oceanfront in Myrtle Beach, SC. The dates are 3-6 April 2025. Please standby for registration package and details.**
- **The Freeman Scholarship Committee has reported out and awardees are in this issue (pg 4).**
- **The 2025 Davis Sqdn Award Program will be published just after the New Year.**
- **Mr. Russ Blauw is promoted to the Executive Director of Marine Corps Systems Command. Congratulations, sir!**
- **SPONSORSHIP! Boeing, Andromeda Systems Inc., Lee Perkins, PKL & Sam Flores, 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”

**YANBU, Saudia Arabia.** The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the United Arab Emirates, and U.S. Marine Corps Forces, USMARCENT launched Exercise NATIVE FURY 24 (NF 24) at a Saudi Naval Port in May 2024. In its 8th iteration, NF24 will showcase U.S. and partner forces engaging in on-load and off-load operations using commercial maritime shipping, long-distance convoys, urban combat training, and various dynamic training events in both Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

More than 600 U.S. Marines, sailors, soldiers, and airmen from 2d Marine Logistics Group, Marine Corps Forces Reserve, 1st Theater Sustainment Command, U.S. 5th Fleet, 378th and 380th AEW, and partner nations will participate in. Exercise Native Fury 24 occurs simultaneously with multiple other CENTCOM-sponsored exercises across the region.

The exercises happening in multiple countries at once demonstrate USCENTCOM's capability to project power abroad and conduct advanced training in cooperation with our partners across the region. The primary objective of Exercise Native Fury is to enhance interoperability with our partners and collectively strengthen our ability to plan and execute complex and realistic operations across multiple domains. Native Fury aims to underscore the interoperability of combined forces in conducting large-scale and intricate operations, utilizing the Trans-Arabian Network (TAN). NF24 represents a significant milestone in the U.S. military's collaboration with the Royal Saudi Armed Forces and United Arab Emirates Armed Forces.

Learn more: <http://www.marines.mil/NativeFuryBegins>

## 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 2024 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

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

Tony Lyons relinquished command of MATSG-23 to Colonel Carl Punzel. We thank Col Lyons for his participation and contributions to the Davis Squadron over the years and wish them both the very best in their new roles. Well done, Colonels.

## 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.



The "Legends." 2024 Reunion: Left to right: Col Pat Garrett, Col Don Davis and LtCol Bill Hamlin, in classic Dress Mess uniforms! A lot of years of mentorship here! Salute!

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

Thanks to the many personal donations and corporate sponsors, we were able to award \$30,000+ to 26 applicants. Superb work, Scholarship Board!

#### **Awardees**

- |                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Calbough, Ania          | Hennessy, Michael |
| Carney, Hannah          | Hennessy, Paige   |
| Chipman, Ashley         | Kirby, Caroline   |
| Consford, Seyenna       | Lyons, Zoe        |
| Crisp, Amy              | Maclaird, Noelle  |
| Fernandez-Torres, Sonia | Seigh, Ariana     |
| Flatau, Alexandra       | Seigh, Marissa    |
| Flatau, Paige           | St Clair, Marilyn |
| Goulette, Jensen        | Takahashi, Mia    |
| Goulette, Meaghan       | VanMeter, Taylor  |
| Hamilton, William       | Winkenhofer,      |
| Harper, Katherine       | Savanna           |
| Harper, Rebecca         | Wyandt, Grace     |
|                         | Wyandt, William   |

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.

### *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!

Joanne Denn – 26 July 2024  
(Wife of Maj Skip Denn)

MGySgt Steve Foster – 26 Jun 2024

CWO4 Albert Reynolds – 8 Jun 2024

Capt Dennis Springer – 13 May 2024

GySgt Dave Ciresi – 10 May 2024

SSgt Burnell Pond – 9 May 2024

Maj Clyde Aromond Jesse – 2 May 2024

MGySgt James (Mi) Payne – 21 Apr 2024

CWO4 Gary Lynn Baumer – 28 Mar 2024

MGySgt William Lightsey, Jr. – 19 Mar 2024

MSgt Dennis Englert – 27 Feb 2024

GySgt Dennis Dodson – 21 Dec 2023

Janette Poling – wife of Maj Larry Polin

CWO5 Dwayne Lewis – 13 Oct 2023

One bright spot is the wonderful story of how one of our own, Mike Welter, overcame adversity and illness to live on to share his most blessed story. See YouTube herein. <https://youtu.be/LaK-FtZCII>

### **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.**

**Current Membership: Life Members: 76  
Total Members: 114**

**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**



[Our FB Link](#)



[Our Website Link](#)



[MCAA Link](#)



[Marines.com](#)

**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.**