

**Annual Report of the Quantico Area Chapter of the
U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association**

1 June 2016 – 31 May 2017 (Year 5)

This annual report is compiled to record events and activities that have taken place during the fourth year of the Quantico Area USNA Alumni Chapter. The narrative is followed by the financial report prepared by the Chapter Treasurer.

Officers and Council Members (volunteers)(Approved on 12 Oct 2015 by silent acclamation):

President: Geoff Pomroy '69, Maj USMC (Ret.)

Vice President: Bob Taylor '74, CAPT USN (Ret.)

Secretary: Dan Morio '90, CDR USN (Ret.)

Treasurer: Bob Taylor '74, CAPT USN (Ret.)

Council Members: '60s and Before: Walt Giralidi '69

'70s: Steve Ritacco '73, LtCol USMC (Ret.)

'80s: John Keene '81, LCDR USN (Ret.)

'90s: Greg Lane '94, LtCol USMC (Ret.)

'00s: Jason Sebastian '01

'10s: Ryan Steenberge '10, Capt USMC

Appointed Positions:

Council Member Emeritus: Michael Cathey '67, Col USMC (Ret.)

Senior Enlisted Advisor: J. D. Baker, MSgt USMC (Ret.), honorary member of '05,
appointed by Geoff Pomroy on 1 June 2015.

Membership Committee Lead: CDR Bob Dulin, '61, USN (Ret.)

Active Members: 86

Associate Members:

1. Judd D. Baker – 2013

Honorary Members:

1. The Honorable Rob Wittman (R-VA), who represents the first Congressional District in Virginia
- 1 Mar 2013

2. Mrs. Joanne MacMurray, widow of member Chris MacMurray '74 and maintainer of the Chapter website.

Objectives/End of Year Status:

- Continue the speaker series. Status: Accomplished (see activities below).
- Grow the Chapter regular membership. Status: Regular membership numbers stayed constant. All alumni, whether chapter members or not, are invited to all activities/events.
- Obtain two seats on Congressman Wittman's Academy Candidates Evaluation Board. Status: Five members submitted application letters to the Congressman's office. Though all were qualified, the submissions were a bit late for the year. All will be considered for the next cycle in November 2017. Our member Don Schmieley '84 is now the point of contact for Congressman Wittman.
- Continue to update the accuracy of email addresses found in the USNA Alumni database. Status: Several reviews were conducted to update email addresses for use by the QAC. This will continue to be problematic as changes occur and are not reported by individuals.
- Rehost and update the Chapter website. Status: A new webmaster and backup have been identified and actions are underway to rehost through USNA. Updates are made 3-4 times per year.
- Renew the drive for new nametags. Status: Some research was performed but the action remains open.
- Develop a Chapter logo. Status: Some preliminary designs were submitted. Further efforts are expected in the coming year.
- Identify and submit the name of a nominee for a Distinguished Graduate Award. Status: Several people were considered as nominees, but most have been submitted, or will be submitted, by classmates. We will continue to try to identify likely candidates.
- Re-engage and encourage support of our Four Pillars of our Chapter Strategy. Status: Accomplished our annual review at the 19 May 2016 at the membership meeting.

Chapter Events:

3 Jun 16: Monthly breakfast guest speakers, RADM Margaret Klein, USN '81, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Defense for Military Professionalism, and BGen Lori Reynolds, USMC '86, in celebration of 40 years of Women at USNA. Both speakers did an outstanding job by telling their career stories and how USNA affected them during their times as midshipmen as well as in their careers. They gladly answered several questions from the large crowd in attendance. MJ Pallotta '94 also attended from the Alumni Association staff. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 52

21 Jun 16: Three members of the Chapter represented the chapter and the alumni association at the Tuesday evening Sunset Parade, conducted at the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington cemetery. The hosting officer for the parade and reception in the Women's World War II Memorial was Lieutenant General Robert S. Walsh '79 USMC, Deputy Commandant, Combat Development and Integration, and Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command. The guest of honor was VADM Ted Carter '81 USN, current Superintendent of USNA. The reception took place, as planned, but inclement weather forced the cancellation of the performance by the 8th & I team.

Jun 2016: Article published in the May-June 2016 Shipmate.

Jul 2016: Article published in the July-August 2016 Shipmate.

4 Aug 16: Several members of the Chapter attended a reception at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, VA, from 1700-1900. The event was hosted by the Alumni Association, with MJ Palotta '94 (former QAC member now on staff at USNAAA) executing the event. 20-25 members of the staff from Annapolis came down as a group as many had never seen or visited the museum. Craig Washington '89 was among the staff who toured. The general comments included, "This is magnificent!" Around 120 staff and alumni with guests attended, with some coming from PA, NoVA, Richmond, MD and the Tidewater area.

5 Aug 16: Monthly breakfast guest speaker, CAPT Tim Disher, USN '81, Director of International Programs at USNA. CAPT Disher did an outstanding job relaying the history and current status of the highly successful program that continues to grow as funding permits. He readily answered several questions from the assembled group in attendance. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 26

Sep 2016: Article published in the Membership Services, Fall 2016 Shipmate.

8 Sep 16: Monthly breakfast guest speaker, CAPT Mary Feinberg, USN, the Commanding Officer of Naval Support Facility Dahlgren. CAPT Feinberg, a P-3 pilot, did an outstanding job speaking on what goes on at Dahlgren, including tenant command work. She readily answered several questions from the assembled group in attendance. Due to other commitments, CAPT Feinberg had to leave early. Group discussion and passing the word after her departure led to a lively introduction of members. Geoff Pomroy '69 took the helm as the current President of the Chapter, and Jim Gferer's '87 extended Presidency came to an end. Held at the Wingate by Wyndam, Fredericksburg, VA. Attendance: 26

Oct 2016: Article published in the Sep-Oct 2016 Shipmate.

11 Oct 16: The following QAC members stepped up to serve on Congressman Wittman's academy evaluation board for annual applicants convened during November: Tom Taylor '63, Andy Wehrle '72, Bob Taylor '74, Joe Bertoldi '90, Greg Lane '94, and Ryan Steenberge '10. Each member completed a one page 'resume' which included why they desired to serve. All six names were submitted to Congressman Wittman's office for evaluation and possible selection.

14 Oct 16: Monthly breakfast guest speaker, CAPT Mike Michel, USN '89, Deputy Commandant for Leadership Education and Development, at USNA. CAPT Michel provided his view of the challenges he faces, particularly in the area of 'moral development', part of the USNA mission statement. His insights and candid thoughts were much appreciated as USNA continues to evolve and ready midshipmen to be leaders in the future Navy and Marine Corps. He readily answered several questions from the assembled group in attendance. The Chapter also celebrated the 241st birthday of the Navy with a cake cutting ceremony. Bob Dulin '61 was the oldest Navy officer, Joe Bertoldi '90 the youngest, and CAPT Michel the guest of honor. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 30

4 Nov 16: Monthly breakfast, guest speaker Col Robert Fulford USMC '92, who spoke to us about his experiences in uniform as a recent MEU commander and his current responsibilities as Director, Expeditionary Warfare School (EWS). Several EWS students, all USNA grads, also contributed to the large crowd in attendance. Col Fulford provided interesting insight into the education of Marine officers at the Captain level, and also addressed his experiences in the distributed environment that is now the norm for MEU operations. Col Fulford wove into his experiences the amphibious side of the Navy and how Amphibious Ready Groups are now functioning. He was forthright in his answers to questions put forth during and after his presentation. The Chapter also celebrated the 241st birthday of the Marine Corps with a cake cutting ceremony. Dennis Lister '67 was the Marine present, Capt Brittany Steenberge '10 the youngest, and Col Fulford the guest of honor. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 61

2 Dec 16: Monthly breakfast guest speaker, Dr. Bruce Latta '78, CAPT USN (Ret.) and the Dean of Admissions at USNA. Dean Latta provided a briefing on the functions of the admissions directorate, along with interesting insights into what goes in to determining how appointments are made for each class. Statistics for the Class of 2020 were shown to give the alumni in attendance an idea of how to reach out to young people and help them become competitive for an appointment to USNA. Dean Latta stayed afterwards to answer questions one-on-one for those who didn't have to leave immediately. Held at the Wingate by Wyndam, Fredericksburg, VA. Attendance: 36

3 Dec 16: Several members participated in a Wreath Laying Ceremony at Quantico National Cemetery, put on by the Sgt. Mac Foundation.

7-8 Dec 16: Bob Sonnenberg attended the Board of Trustees meeting in Annapolis.

Dec 2016: Article published in the Nov-Dec 2016 Shipmate.

13 Jan 17: A breakfast meeting of the QAC Council was convened at the Montclair Family Restaurant, per the requirement stated in the chapter bylaws. Five Council members (chapter officers and one decade advisor), along with three past presidents, the Senior Enlisted Advisor, and two engaged members met to discuss ongoing initiatives and develop plans for the future. A quorum was not achieved. Discussions about our speaker program, strategic plan, upcoming chapter elections, payment of funds to the Semper Fi Fund (donations in the name of our speakers), and status of the treasury were all covered. Use of the Board of Advisors (our decade reps) for various standing committees, as spelled out in the bylaws, was also discussed. Highlights of the recent Board of Trustees meeting were briefed. These included the SIG pilot program, the 'new' Shipmate, and the Alumni Association building proposal. The meeting also served as a mid-year review for the current leadership.

3 Feb 17: Monthly breakfast, guest speaker Col Art Athens '78, USMC (Ret.), the Director of the USNA Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership, who gave a very well-received talk on approaches in use at USNA, and the challenges of presenting useful information to the midshipman of today. He also related useful leadership lessons that focus on developing leadership, with some of the 'old' maxims still true, though imparted in different ways than when most of those in attendance were midshipman. Art stayed around after the conclusion of the breakfast and engaged numerous people in discussions of various topics. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 49

Mar 2017: Article published in the March 2017 Shipmate.

3 Mar 17: Monthly breakfast, guest speaker ADM Rich Mies '67, USN (Ret.), a distinguished graduate of USNA and former Commander of Strategic Command, who gave a very interesting presentation on Strategic Deterrence for the 21st Century. ADM Mies' in depth understanding of the topic and his artful delivery resulted in many superb questions about deterrence and the nuclear weapons arsenal. ADM Mies stayed around after the conclusion of the breakfast and engaged numerous people in discussions of various topics. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 43

7 Apr 17: Monthly breakfast guest speaker, Mr. Paul Gregory (USNA '75) from the Department of Veterans Affairs. At the direction of the previous Secretary of the VA, Paul did a nationwide tour of the VA staff and other organizations to communicate the massive change occurring at the VA -- what was working, and what was in progress. Mr. Gregory provided an overview of the efforts to transform the VA. He highlighted results achieved that shed light on service improvements for every veteran. This presentation was of benefit to us all, providing an insider view of the recent and current efforts at Veterans Affairs. Held at the Wingate by Wyndam, Fredericksburg, VA. Attendance: 36

10 May 17: USNA Alumni Association International Chapter Officer Forum (ICOF) from 0830-1600 in Annapolis, MD. President Geoff Pomroy represented the Quantico Area Chapter.

11-12 May 17: Bob Sonnenberg attended the Board of Trustees meeting in Annapolis.

May 2017: Article published in the May 2017 Shipmate.

19 May 17: Annual Chapter meeting conducted at the Clubs at Quantico, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA, from 1130-1330. The agenda included presentation of highlights from the recent ICOF and BoT briefings given by the USNA Superintendent, VADM Ted Carter, and President Byron Marchant. The

working lunch included review other chapter Strategic Plan, as well as discussions about future activities and involvement of Chapter members to increase membership and encourage engagement by alumni. The calendar for the new Chapter year was presented. Announcement of the annual elections was also made, as well as a plea to get engaged and volunteer to lead some of our events. Some discussion ensued about increasing membership during the next three years in order to qualify for a 'large chapter' trustee position on the Board of Trustees of the USNA Alumni Association. (Note: QAC ranked 22 this year during the triennial chapter count with 86 members. Increasing membership from 86 to 270 or so is achievable.) Attendance: 17

27 May 17: Seventeen alumni, families and friends participated in attaching flags and erecting flag poles along the main avenues of the Quantico National Cemetery in preparation for Memorial Day events.

**Quantico Area Chapter, USNAAA Financial Report
(1 June 2016 - 31 May 2017)**

	Bank Credits	Bank Debits	
Membership & Breakfast Funds Collected and Banked	\$ 8,988.96		
Payment to Holiday Inn (and Other) for Breakfast Events (6)		\$ 7,513.91	
		Other Debits	
Donations to Semper Fi Fund (10)		\$ -	\$250 not yet paid out for 15-16. Each B'Fast times \$25
16-17 (9)		\$ -	\$225 not yet paid out for 16-17. Each B'Fast times \$25
Web Site Hosting		\$ -	
Bank Account Maintenance Fees		\$ 28.00	
Virginia Treasurer (Form 100-VA Tax Exemption)		\$ -	
State Corporations Commission (Articles of Incorporation)		\$ 25.00	Check 1000
Birthday Cakes (USMC & USN)		\$ 80.00	Cash Disbursement
Paper Name Tags		\$ 21.20	Cash Disbursement
Sub-Total		\$ 154.20	
		Other Credits	
Cash not taken to bank	\$ 101.20		(Disbursed as shown on "Other Debits" column)
Sub-Total	\$ 101.20		
	Total FY16-17 Credits	Total FY16-17 Debits	
What QAC actually brought in---	\$ 9,090.16	\$ 7,668.11	---What QAC actually spent (Credit Card, Check, Cash)
Total Change	\$ 1,422.05		
Starting Account Balance (Beginning balance 1 June 2016)	\$ 4,958.88		
Ending Account Balance (Ending balance 31 May 17)	\$ 6,380.93		
Account Change	\$ 1,422.05		
I hereby certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the financial statement above is accurate and correct.			
<i>R. J. Taylor</i>			
Bob Taylor			
QAC Treasurer			