



Annual Report of the Quantico Area Chapter of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association 1 June 2017 – 31 May 2018 (Year 6)

This annual report is compiled to record events and activities that have taken place during the sixth 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 in May 2017 by silent acclamation):

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

Vice President: Tom Connally '83, Col USMC (Ret.)

Secretary: Melanie Salinas '09, Capt USMC

Treasurer: Nancy Springer '87, Col USMC (Ret.)

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

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

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

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

'00s: Ron Diefenbach '00, Maj USCMR

'10s: Ryan Steenberge '10, Capt USMC

Appointed Positions:

Senior Enlisted Advisor: J. D. Baker, MSgt USMC (Ret.), Honorary member of '05

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

Area Blue and Gold Officer: Jim Ripley '74, CAPT USNR (Ret.)

STEM Coordinator: Phil Salinas '82, LtCol USMC (Ret.)

Website coordinator: Jorge Esparza '87

Speaker Coordination Lead: Jim Gfrerer '87, Col USMC (Ret.)

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

Objectives/End of Year Status:

1. Continue the speaker series. Status: Accomplished (see activities below).
2. Grow the Chapter regular membership. Status: Regular membership numbers increased from 86 to 107. All alumni, whether Chapter members or not, are invited to all activities/events.
3. Continue/enhance our support of the Semper Fi Fund and Quantico National Cemetery. A check was presented in May to the Semper Fi Fund for \$750 covering the speaker appreciation gifts to each speaker over the past three years.



QAC also supported the Quantico National Cemetery efforts. Members, family and friends participated in laying wreaths on headstones in December (part of the Sgt Mac effort) and raising flags along the roadsides of the cemetery in preparation for Memorial Day.





Flag raising event photos.

This year, we also participated in a Run-to-Honor event at the National Museum of the Marine Corps on Memorial Day.



4. Support Congressman Wittman's Academy Candidates Evaluation Board. Ten members of the Chapter supported the candidate interview process by sitting on boards over several weekends. The Chapter also volunteer the same support to Rep Gerry Connolly (D-VA). His staff did not need our support this past year but we will be offering that support again in the Fall of 2018.

5. Vibrant support of STEM. Continued to search for ideas on how to get more involved. Our STEM coordinator work diligently with the USNA STEM coordinators but we were unable to find anything we could help them with. It appears that our geographic area is well endowed with STEM support and backing.

6. Vibrant support of our BGO. Continued to offer support for the BGOs in our area. Our BGO is well aware of the Chapter's willingness to help but did not need to call upon us this year. He has available to him a "quick reaction" list of Chapter Members delineating who served in what Service, what their Specialty was, etc. This will allow the BGO to put a prospective candidate, who has a

specific interest in an area (e.g. Carrier Aviation), with a Chapter Member who served or serves in that Specialty.

7. Develop a Chapter Crest. Completed. We worked to develop the Crest in order to better brand and identify our Chapter. We had significant help from the Leadership and Graphic Artists at USNAAA to smooth our desired pattern and we much appreciate that help.



Chapter Events

6 Jun 17: The first Council meeting of the new term was convened with nine of ten Council members present, along with the BGO and STEM representatives and one past President. The new President went over duties and responsibilities of the Council members, along with ideas on how to add to those responsibilities based upon the experiences of the past five years. Committee members for the various committees were decided upon. Ideas of things to be done this year, along with the goals of the Chapter were discussed. Held at Fatty's Tap House in Stafford, VA from 1730-1915.

9 Jun 17: Monthly breakfast guest speaker, LtGen Dave Beydler '81, USMC, the Commander of Marine Forces Central Command, speaking to us about his role and current operations in the Central Command Area of Operations. General Beydler held the rapt attention of the assembled crowd as he candidly discussed his role and the current status of efforts by Central Command in their considerable Area of Responsibility. His frank assessments and detailed descriptions were appreciated by all. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 46

26 Jul 17: Submitted an application to be considered for the Distinguished Chapter Award to be determined by the USNA Alumni Association.

Aug 2017: Article published in the Aug 2017 Shipmate.

4 Aug 17: Monthly breakfast guest speaker, Mr. Howard Hoege III '94 USMA and President of the Mariners' Museum and Park in Newport News, VA, speaking to us about his role and the challenges he has taken on to connect the 'civilian' populace with the history of maritime operations that have made this country great. Members did give him some grief about being from USMA and running a maritime museum, but he took it gracefully and presented a well thought-out discourse on what he is trying to accomplish. One other guest from the class of '90 USMA was in support. Members were also presented

with the URL for the new QAC website, the calendar for the next couple of months, and a brief explanation of BGO processes by Jim Ripley '74. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 39

22 Aug 17: New QAC website, hosted by USNA Alumni Association, up and running.

23 Aug 17: Twenty-six Chapter members and spouses/children attended an outing to USNA. The activities included observation of noon meal formation, lunch at the Drydock restaurant in Dahlgren Hall, a tour of Luce Hall, a tour of Wesley Brown Hall with briefings for the women's cross country coach, women's indoor track coach, and one of the physical therapist proved to be interesting. From there, the group went to Rickett's Hall to view the Navy Football training areas, along with receiving briefings from some of the coaches and staff, including the officer staff rep and senior enlisted rep. We were then invited to view afternoon practice next to Rickett's Hall. Many of us were able to meet Coach Niumatalolo as he came out for practice. Some of the hardy souls stayed for dinner at the Mission BBQ just outside Gate 1 near the harbor (the old Stevens Hardware Store). A great day for us all.

24 Aug 17: Five members of QAC attended The Basic School (TBS) Company C MAGTF Night event to engage the Lieutenants after they had received their military occupational specialty (MOS) designations. The event went well with members providing their knowledge of the various MOSs when serving on active duty.

29 Aug 17: Several members of QAC attended The Basic School (TBS) Company D Aviation MOS Mixer to engage the Lieutenants pursuing military occupational specialty (MOS) designations in aviation. The event went well with members providing their knowledge of the various MOSs when serving on active duty.

8 Sep 17: Monthly breakfast guest speaker CDR David Richardson'95 USN (Ret.), who is the President of Run to Honor organization. Run to Honor was started to honor Naval Academy Alumni lost in combat or military operations in service to our Nation. In a spirit of camaraderie and through participation in athletic and memorial events, they perpetuate the memory of our fallen brothers and sisters and express support for the families they leave behind. Dave gave an inspiring presentation about things Run to Honor is doing or planning on doing in the future. QAC was the first Chapter that Dave has briefed, and plans are in place to brief other Chapters to get the word out. Of particular interest was the virtual memorial hall effort. Held at the Holiday Inn in Fredericksburg, VA. Attendance: 20

20 Sep 17: The second Council meeting of the new term was convened with four Council members present, along with the BGO and STEM representatives and one past President. Committee members and Council members updated status for a variety of topics. No votes were taken. Held at Fatty's Tap House in Stafford, VA.

27 Sep 17: Several members of QAC attended The Basic School (TBS) Company D Combat Arms event to engage the Lieutenants seeking military occupational specialty (MOS) designations in ground combat. The event went well with members providing their knowledge of the various MOSs when serving on active duty.

Sep 17: Article published in the Sep-Oct 2017 Shipmate.

5 Oct 17: Several members participated in the Delta Company TBS aviation MOS mixer at Quantico.

7 Oct 17: Several members of QAC attended the Navy/USAFA football game and, with an invitation from Fred Crawford '64, participated in the Class of '64 tailgate.

13 Oct 17: Monthly breakfast guest speaker VADM Thomas J. Moore '81 USN, currently Commander of the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA). VADM Moore spoke on the responsibilities of NAVSEA and some of the actions being taken to ensure American seapower is maximized and technically up to date with rapidly changing technology. VADM Moore also answered several questions from attendees. He was our 'guest of honor' for a ceremony honoring the 242nd birthday of the United States Navy and Founders Day, and cut the cake with the oldest (Bob Dulin '61) and youngest (LT Praveen Murthy '12) Navy alumni receiving the first pieces. We were also happy to have the President of the Central Virginia Parents Club, Candace Everett in attendance. Candace briefed us on the Joint Service Academy Ball, an event put on by several parent's clubs, who need some financial assistance to be successful. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 49

26 Oct 17: Company E TBS Combat Arms MOS Mixer from 1600-1900.

Oct-Nov 17: Several members served on Congressman Wittman's evaluation boards for determining his nominations for the coming year. These boards were convened on Saturday mornings over several weeks.

3 Nov 17: Monthly breakfast guest speaker MajGen Kevin Iiams '86 USMC, Commander of Marine Corps Training and Education Command (TECOM). Maj Gen Iiams spoke to the continuing evaluation and improvement to Marine training, from Boot Camp on up. There are some very interesting initiatives taking place in order to facilitate training for the 'new generation' of Marines. MajGen Iiams also answered several questions from attendees. He was our 'guest of honor' for a short ceremony honoring the 242nd birthday of the United States Marine Corps during which CMC's birthday video was shown and Gen LeJeune's message read, along with all singing the first verse of the Marine Corps Hymn. The cake was then cut with the guest of honor (MajGen Iiams), the oldest (Maj Ed Burrow '65) and youngest (1stLt Nicholas Huang, '13) Marine alumni present all receiving the first pieces. We were also happy to have many students/alumni from Expeditionary Warfare School (EWS) in attendance. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 50

14, 15, 16 Nov 17: Several members participated in MOS mixers for D and E Companies at TBS. These companies are primarily USNA graduates for '17.

15 Nov 17: Voting began for the Chapter logo, to be selected from submitted designs.

1 Dec 17: Monthly breakfast guest speaker, Mr. Kevin Burton from the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit and Cyber Behavioral Analysis Center. Mr. Burton, a former Marine and NYPD police officer, briefed us on his duties and the challenges the FBI faces on a daily basis. The approach used when profiling people accused on crimes is to connect with the accused in a way that leads to finding out what he/she is really like. Cultural awareness is also investigated and used in the profiling effort. The last resort used is the 'hard' approach during which most accused stop talking. The goal is to find out why something happened and not just the details of the crime. Keven was sponsored by QAC member Joe Bertoldi '90, also with the FBI. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 30

2 Dec 17: Several members participated in a Wreath Laying Ceremony at Quantico National Cemetery, put on by the Sgt. Mac Foundation.

5, 7, 12, 13 Dec 17: Several members participated in MOS mixers for E and F Companies at TBS.

6 Dec 17: The third Council meeting of the current term was convened with a 9 present. Committee members and Council members updated status for a variety of topics. The results of the vote for the design of the new QAC logo were announced. Held at Fatty's Tap House in Stafford, VA.

6 Dec 17: Article published in the Nov-Dec 2017 Shipmate.

6-7 Dec 17: Bob Sonnenberg attended the Board of Trustees meeting in Annapolis. Bob Taylor also attended the full BoT meeting on 7 Dec. He was able to meet with Joe Fagan regarding assistance to develop the new logo.

9 Dec 17: The Chapter funded an Army/Navy gathering at The Basic School for all lieutenants. Drinks and food were provided. Many of the current lieutenants are USNA grads from 2017. In attendance were 20 Chapter members/spouses with approximately 120 TBS lieutenants. A great event!

12 Dec 17: The President signed the National Defense Authorization Act into law. There was language included that allowed the Navy to lease the land proposed for the new USNA Alumni Building across the street (King George) from the baseball stadium. The lease will be for 50 years with one renewal period of 50 years. This was an important and needed step to allow the effort to go forward.

5 Jan 18: Monthly breakfast guest speaker, VADM Paul Grosklags '82 USN, currently Naval Air Systems (NAVAIR). Admiral Grosklags gave a very interesting presentation concerning the current readiness levels of Navy and Marine aircraft and spoke to the challenges he faces on a daily basis. His analysis of where the Navy/Marine Corps could improve readiness by changing the 'system' that has been in place his entire 35-year career was well received. He readily answered numerous questions from those in attendance and said that he appreciated speaking to groups large and small as many in attendance would always give him new ideas and perspectives to consider. Several members of the Class of '82 also attended. Held at the Holiday Inn in Fredericksburg, VA. Attendance: 21

10 and 31 Jan 18: Several members participated in MOS mixers for A and E Companies at TBS.

31 Jan 18: Article published in the Jan-Feb 2018 Shipmate.

1 Feb 18: Several members participated in the Aviation MOS mixer for A Company at TBS.

2 Feb 18: Monthly breakfast with guest speaker Adrienne Griffen, USNA '87. She is the founder and executive director of Postpartum Support Virginia and has provided information and support to new mothers experiencing postpartum depression since 2005. Adrienne holds a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Her military career as an intelligence officer included assignments with VP-11 in Brunswick ME, with the Office of Naval Intelligence in the Pentagon, and with the National Security Council at the White House. She also worked for the United Nations mission to Somalia during that country's civil war in the early 1990s and as the Assistant to the Commission of the IRS. Adrienne lives in Arlington VA with her husband and three children. She gave a very heartfelt talk about her life and experiences to those in attendance, and engaged in some discussion afterwards. The audience found that Postpartum Depression is very similar to PTSD, and some comments on resolving those issues were discussed. She received a standing ovation. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 32

23 Feb 18: Several members participated in the MAGTF mixer for Fox Company at TBS.

2 Mar 18: Monthly breakfast with guest speaker BGen Scott Benedict '90, USMC and QAC member in good standing, currently Director of Manpower and Reserve Affairs at HQMC in Quantico, VA. BGen

Benedict gave a very welcome overview of where the Corps stands now and some of the challenges it faces in the future. After his presentation, he readily answered many questions from the audience. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 21 (severe wind storm kept many away).

7 Mar 18: The fourth Council meeting of the current term was convened. Held at Fatty's Tap House in Stafford, VA. 10 were present.

15 Mar 18: Several members participated in the MAGTF mixer for Alpha Company at TBS.

29 Mar 18: Several members participated in the Combat Arms mixer for Bravo Company at TBS.

9 Apr 18: Several members participated in the Combat Service Support (CSS) mixer for Bravo Company at TBS.

13 Apr 18: Monthly breakfast guest speakers RADM Stephen Chadwick, USNA '61 former Commandant of Midshipmen, and his son CAPT Robert Chadwick, USNA '91, current Commandant. This was a unique opportunity to have the father/son Commandants with us. RADM Chadwick began the morning talk by telling of his life after leaving the Navy, concentrating on his current activities. CAPT Chadwick followed with the current 'State of USNA' briefing. He lauded the midshipmen and their many talents, all of which contribute to the development of 'Leaders of Character.' CAPT Chadwick then took several questions from the assembled group, answering all question candidly. We also had two of CAPT Chadwick's classmates in attendance. Additionally, the new QAC banner was displayed, along with the newly approved QAC logo. Members now have the opportunity to purchase name tags with the logo displayed (\$5 per tag). Held at the Holiday Inn in Fredericksburg, VA. Attendance: 24

2 May 18: Several members participated in the Aviation MOS mixer for Bravo Company at TBS.

3 May 18: The annual Chapter meeting and planning session was held at The Clubs at Quantico (TCAQ) at a two-hour luncheon. Topics included an update on USNA and the Alumni Association Board of Trustees, a State of the Chapter briefing, the annual financial report, a discussion of activities/plans for the coming year, the upcoming elections, and the speaker series. A check for \$750 was presented to the Semper Fi Fund. The money was set aside when our speakers completed their efforts and a gift was made in their name(s) to the Semper Fi Fund. Attendance: 14

9 May 18: USNA Alumni Association International Chapter Officer Forum (ICOF) from 0830-1600 in Annapolis, MD. Incoming President Tom Connally represented the Quantico Area Chapter.

9-11 May 18: Bob Sonnenberg attended the Board of Trustees meeting in Annapolis. This was his final meeting prior to the new Other Chapter Trustees being seated. Chapter member Mike Novak also attended as the '70s Decade Trustee.

16 May 18: Several members participated in the Combat Arms mixer for Charlie Company at TBS.

26 May 17: Eighteen 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.

28 May 18: Inaugural QAC Run to Honor to remember our fallen alumni, conducted in partnership with the non-profit organization Run to Honor. This year's run was dedicated to Captain Vincent Smith, USMC, Class of '76, who perished in the Beirut bombing on 23 October 1983. The Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps (18900 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Triangle, VA 22172) is the setting for the run.

28 May 18: Election results announced for next year's QAC officers and governing Council.

Overall for 2017-2018, the Chapter had a fun, informative, community supportive, and internally productive year and we look forward to another one, our 7th, in 2018-2019.



2017-18 Financial Report of the QAC

Quantico Area Chapter, USNAAA Financial Report 1 June 2017-31 May 2018			
		Bank Credits	Bank Debits
Membership & Event Funds Collected & Deposited	\$9,609.94		
Payments to Holiday Inn (and others) for Events		\$5,926.30	
		Other Debits	
Other Donations	\$400.00	\$200.00	Toys For Tots & \$200.00 Sgt Mac Foundation
Birthday Cakes (USN & USMC)	\$134.75		USN & USMC Cakes and Ice Cream
Army-Navy Watch Party with TBS Officers	\$1,003.38		Food, drink & paper goods
State Corporations Commission	\$25.00		Annual Registration Fee
Chapter Branding Products	\$366.25		Business Cards, Banner w/Bungee Cords & Presentation Check
Audio Equipment	\$40.90		BlueTooth Speaker and Cord
Run To Honor (RTH) Incidentals	\$223.92		
RTH T-shirt Costs	\$370.65		
RTH Donation	\$300.00		
Nametags (Paper & Plastic)	\$103.00		
Printing Costs	\$46.50		Printing in support of Chapter Council meetings
Sub-Total		\$3,014.35	
		Other Credits	
T-shirt sales	\$410.78		
Cash contributions received for Museum Donation	\$200.00		
Sub-Total	\$610.78		
Totals	\$10,220.72	\$8,940.65	
Total Change	\$1,280.07		
Starting Account Balance (1 June 2017)	\$6,380.93		
Ending Account Balance (31 May 2018)	\$7,661.00		
Account Change	\$1,280.07		
Uncleared Check		\$750.00	Semper Fi Fund (Chk #1007)
Ending Balance After Chk #1007 Clears	\$6,911.00		
Final Account Change	\$530.07		
I hereby certify, to the best of my knowledge, that this financial statement is accurate.			
<i>Nancy Adams</i> 5/31/18			