



Annual Report of the Quantico Area Chapter of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association 1 June 2018 – 31 May 2019 (Year 7)

This annual report is compiled to record events and activities that have taken place during the seventh 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 2019 by silent acclamation):

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

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

Secretary: Melanie Salinas '09, Capt USMC

Treasurer: Ron Diefenbach '00, Maj USCMR

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

Dave Mattingly, MCPO USN (Ret.)

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

Associate Members:

1. Judd D. Baker – 2013
2. Dave Mattingly - 2018

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. Sustain a vibrant monthly speaker program, including Chapter members of accomplishment. Status: Accomplished (see activities below).

2. Continue engagement with The Basic School (TBS) as a means to reach our newest alumni and Naval Service leaders. Expand this effort to the Expeditionary Warfare School (EWS) and Command and Staff College (CSC). Status: Continued to attend The Basic School (TBS) Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) mixers at TBS until the program was discontinued, by TBS, due to operational commitments. This included a second annual Army-Navy football game gathering at TBS that the Chapter hosted. Overtures to EWS and CSC were made and are still in work with respective leadership.

3. Continue/Enhance our Support of the Semper Fi Fund and Quantico National Cemetery. Status: QAC donates \$25.00 to the Semper Fi Fund in the name of the guest speaker at the ten Chapter monthly breakfast events, for an annual donation of \$250.00. The Chapter will present this donation check to the Semper Fi Fund at a Chapter event as soon as possible during the 2019-2020 Chapter year. QAC also supported the Quantico National Cemetery. Members, family, and friends participated in laying wreaths on headstones in December (part of the Sgt Mac Foundation) and were available for raising flags along the roadsides of the cemetery in preparation for Memorial Day.



4. Continue to support Congressman Wittman's Academy Candidates Evaluation Board. Status: Several Members of the Chapter supported the candidates' interview process by sitting on boards over several weekends.

5. Conduct Quarterly social events regionally to reach our dispersed shipmates. This may include a variety of events including golf or our Run to Honor. Status: This year, we continued our association with Run-to-Honor on Memorial Day morning. Thirty-two Members, alumni and guests participated in our second

annual USNA Quantico Area Chapter Run to Honor Remembrance Run. The purpose of this year's event was to honor a fallen Naval Academy shipmate, Lieutenant James Surch, Jr, USN, USNA Class of 1977, who was killed on 23 October 1983 in Beirut. QAC collected almost \$3,000.00, which will be used to support funding for Summer Seminars and STEM events at USNA for students needing assistance with travel or tuition funding.



6. Figure out how to engage, mentor, and coach the youth of our area to develop our Nation's future leaders. This is likely a program of efforts, probably including the Parents Clubs and Blue and Gold Officers, rather than an event. Status: QAC continued to keep the local BGO involved and support programs that affect our local population, such as STEM and Summer Seminar attendance.

7. Grow the membership. Status: The Chapter declined in membership from 107 to 82 during the past 12 months. There are no obvious reasons for this decline. A few of the 107 Members have moved away (approximately 5) but the others just did not pay their annual dues this past year. It should be noted that the non-paying Members have nothing but good things to say about the Chapter's activities and, in fact, still occasionally attend the monthly breakfasts. We believe that part of the issue is not a lack of desire to pay for membership but more a matter of losing track of the need to pay and not "getting around to it." We have taken a significant step in the last few months to alleviate this issue. We are now offering the ability to pay for up to three years of dues at one time – thus encouraging a steady membership count and negating the need for a Member to remember to pay his/her dues every year.

A highlight of the year for the Chapter was receiving the Distinguished Chapter Award in December 2018 by our President, Tom Connally. Our approach seems to have been validated by the award, and our processes and approach to engagement continue along those lines.



Chapter Events

1 Jun 18: Monthly breakfast with speaker CAPT Fred Crawford '64, USN (Ret.), a chapter member, speaking on the Submarine Force. Fred, a former submariner, provided an excellent and well-received briefing, followed by many questions from the assembled and highly interested crew in attendance. Robin Dreeke '91 was accompanied by his son Kevin, a highly motivated young appointee anxious to start his USNA adventure on I-Day. All present wished him the best. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 32

5 Jun: Article published in the June 2018 Shipmate.

20 Jun 18: Several members participated in the Combat Service Support (CSS) mixer for Charlie Company at TBS.

25 Jun 18: Several members participated in the MAGTF mixer for Bravo Company at TBS.

11 Jul 18: Several members participated in the Air MOS mixer for Charlie Company at TBS.

12 Jul 18: Survey conducted to determine desires of QAC members.

17 Jul 18: Several members participated in the Combat Arms MOS mixer for Delta Company at TBS. Also, the Distinguished Chapter Award Application from QAC was submitted to the USNA Alumni Association for consideration.

3 Aug 18: Monthly breakfast with speaker CDR Bob Dulin '61, USNR (Ret.), a plank holder in the chapter, speaking on the demise of the battleship Bismarck. Bob holds an MS in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from MIT, and is designated a professional Naval Engineer. His life-long interest in battleships and work in naval engineering have resulted in three books on the subject, with the last of those books, Battleship Bismarck, being published in Jan 2019 by the Naval Institute Press. Bob presented a detailed analysis of the defeat and sinking of Bismarck and 'lessons learned' by both the German and British navies, some of which are still relevant today as far as shipbuilding is concerned. Bob fielded numerous questions from members in attendance. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 25

4 Aug 18: Article published in the July - August 2018 Shipmate.

22 Aug 18: Several members participated in the Aviation MOS mixer for Delta Company at TBS.

7 Sep 18: Monthly breakfast with speaker CAPT Bill Hamblet '87, USN (Ret.), current Editor-in-Chief for the U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings, who provided a great overview of the history of the Proceedings, along with a description of efforts to expand knowledge of the Proceedings to more junior officers and

midshipmen. Bill emphasized the importance of Marine Corps author's contributions over the years, as well. Bill received numerous questions from members in attendance. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 26

13 Sep 18: Several members participated in the MAGTF mixer for Charlie Company at TBS.

27 Sep 18: Several members participated in the Combat Arms MOS mixer for Echo Company at TBS.

6 Oct 18: Four members took part in the Navy/Air Force football game event at the Philadelphia Tavern in Manassas, VA.

12 Oct 18: Monthly breakfast with speaker CMDCM(AW/SW) Jeffrey A. Kirby, Command Master Chief of the U.S. Naval Academy. Master Chief Kirby works directly for the Superintendent, and is the senior enlisted advisor at the Academy. His remarks were centered upon his job and he did a masterful job explaining the current environment at USNA. He obviously has heartfelt feelings for the opportunity to interact with Midshipman. He also helped celebrate the 243rd Navy Birthday with a ceremony and cutting of the cake. Also announced was the new member of the chapter, Master Chief Dave Mattingly, who will be the Navy Senior Enlisted Advisor to work with J.D. Baker, the Marine Senior Enlisted Advisor for the QAC. Held at the he Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 22

24 Oct 18: Several members participated in the Combat Arms MOS mixer for Fox Company at TBS.

26 Oct 18: Several members participated in the MAGTF mixer for Delta Company at TBS.

Oct-Nov 2018: 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.

1 Nov 18: Monthly breakfast with speaker BGen David Maxwell '88, USMC, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics (Plans) (and former QAC member). He spoke to the assembled shipmates about the current challenges facing the Corps and the Logistics segment in particular. BGen Maxwell also provided several hands-on examples of technology advances that are being made and the use of 3D printers within Marine Corps operational commands. He also helped celebrate the 243rd Marine Corps Birthday with a ceremony and cutting of the cake. Held at the he Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 24

1 Dec 18: Members participated in a Wreath Laying Ceremony at Quantico National Cemetery, put on by the Sgt. Mac Foundation.

4 Dec 18: Article published in the November - December 2018 Shipmate.

6 Dec 18: QAC President Tom Connally '83 accepted the annual Distinguished Chapter Award for the Mid-Atlantic Region at the fall meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Alumni Association. Byron Marchant '78, President of the Association, presented the award.

7 Dec 18: Monthly breakfast guest speaker, The Honorable Rob Wittman (R-VA) (honorary member of the QAC), who represents the first Congressional District of Virginia speaking on his role as Chair of the USNA Board of Visitors, his views of USNA, and his recent experiences in Congress dealing with spending, budgeting, readiness and shipbuilding. Congressman Wittman gave a very interesting

presentation, followed by many pertinent questions about the debt/deficit and how Congress needs to take action to stop the bleeding. He also mentioned by name those members of QAC who serve on his academy selection board. Representative Wittman seemed very at ease with the members and also seemed to enjoy himself. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 35.

9 Dec 18: 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 2018. In attendance were 18 Chapter members/spouses with around 90-100 lieutenants showing up. A great event!

10 Dec 18: Several members participated in the CSS mixer for Alpha Company at TBS.

11 Dec 18: Several members participated in the Info Ops and Aviation mixer for Golf Company at TBS. MOS mixers have now been discontinued until further notice as TBS reviews its needs in this area.

11 Dec 18: Members were invited to attend the Joint Service Academy Business Mixer, at StreetShares, Inc., 1900 Campus Commons Drive, #200, Reston, VA. This event is a casual, business-oriented networking event scheduled monthly for all Academy grads in the greater DC area. QAC POC is VP Nancy Springer.

15 Dec 18: Members invited to participate in Wreaths Across America at the Quantico National Cemetery.

11 Jan 19: Monthly breakfast guest speaker, QAC member Robin Dreeke '92, speaking about his life experiences and how they helped him find his calling. The former Marine officer, retired FBI Special Agent, and counter-intelligence and behavioral analysis expert provided his thoughts brought out in his book, "The Code of Trust: An American Counterintelligence Expert's Five Rules to Lead and Succeed", giving the assembled crew many things to think about in conducting their lives and learning to be an effective leader. President Tom Connally also mentioned that he has had a book on leadership published. Tom also mentioned that the interaction with TBS students was put on hold pending a rewrite of the Program of Instruction be completed for TBS. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 29.

19 Jan 19: Members gathered at Paddy's Steakhouse and Bar in Stafford, VA to watch the Army/Navy basketball games being played at West Point. Attendance: 4

1 Feb 19: Monthly breakfast guest speaker, QAC member MCPO Dave Mattingly, USN (Ret.), one of our Navy Senior Enlisted Advisors, speaking about his experiences as a volunteer participant in the Travis Manion Foundation. Dave did a great job of explaining the background of the foundation and ways that members can get involved if they so desire. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 26.

4 Feb 19: Meeting of the Activities Committee to begin planning for events of the next chapter year, beginning on 1 Jun.

4 Feb 19: Article published in the January-February 2019 Shipmate.

1 Mar 19: Monthly breakfast with guest speaker, Brigadier General Christian F. Wortman '91, USMC, Vice Chief of Naval Research and Commander, Marine Corps Warfighting Lab. General Wortman discussed what the Warfighting Lab is currently involved with, along with the reassessment of and mission of the Marine Corps/Navy team. He answered several questions from the audience and seemed

pleased to be able to speak with us for the third time, this time as a general officer. Nancy Springer also reviewed the results of some recent polling concerning activities of the QAC and possible speakers for the coming year. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 24.

13 Mar 19r: QAC Council meeting convened at 1800 Fatty's Tap House in Garrisonville, VA.

5 Apr 19: Monthly breakfast with guest speaker Lieutenant General Loretta E. Reynolds '86, Deputy Commandant, Information. General Reynolds had spoken to us before, and it was a pleasure to have her back to discuss her new job and responsibilities. She gave a very interesting presentation about the changes being faced in a rapidly changing world, with warfighting capability being affected in the cyber and space operational areas. She answered several questions from the audience and seemed pleased to be able to discuss the challenges she and the nation face on a daily basis. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 27.

3 May 19: The annual meeting of the QAC was convened at a breakfast and planning session at 0645. The meeting was led by the current President, Tom Connally '83. Tom laid out his plans upon the beginning of his presidency and discussed achievements of the current chapter's past year. The slate of new Council members was announced and they will be voted upon via an email election during May. The members approved an amendment to the Bylaws which corrected formatting errors and added some duties for the Treasurer. A change to options for paying annual dues was presented. The outline of the schedule for next year was reviewed by the incoming President. The plan to entertain new graduates who desire to be connected with a USNAAA Chapter (part of the AMP program) was also presented. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance 19

9 May 19: QAC President Tom Connally attended the annual USNA Alumni Association International Chapter Officer Forum (ICOF) in Annapolis.

18-31 May 19: Elections of Council members was conducted via e-vite.

25 May 19: Five members showed up for the Memorial Day flag raising effort to erect flags along the roadways of Quantico National Cemetery. Unfortunately, the time for the effort was incorrect. Adding to this was the fact that Boy Scouts are now very much a part of the effort, and our participation would have been minimal. Therefore, we did not actively participate this year though the Chapter was there.

27 May 19: 32 members, alumni and guests participated in our second annual USNA Quantico Area Chapter Run to Honor Remembrance Run on Memorial Day. The purpose of our event was to honor a fallen Naval Academy shipmate, Lieutenant James Surch, Jr, USN, USNA Class of 1977, who was killed on 23 October 1983 in Beirut. QAC collected almost \$3K which will be used to support funding for Summer Seminars and STEM events at USNA for students needing assistance with travel or tuition funding. The Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps (18900 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Triangle, VA 22172) was the setting for the run.

Overall for 2018-2019, the Chapter had another fun, informative, community supportive, and internally productive year and we look forward to another one, our 8th, in 2019-2020.

