



Military Officers Association of America
SOUTHERN MARYLAND CHAPTER
P. O. Box 84
NAS Patuxent River, MD 20670
(410) 586-1615
wncprince@comcast.net

The
SOUTHERN MARYLAND
NEWSLETTER



2007-2009-2010-2012-2013-2014 December 2014

President's Corner

Season's Greetings to all MOAA Southern Maryland Chapter members. As we wrap up our current year's programs, we have just completed the usual board meeting in December to plan activities for the coming year. As always, we welcome any suggestions from the membership concerning activities you would like to see us pursue. Most of the input is usually from our dedicated board members, who represent the nucleus of our chapter, and we endeavor to schedule a variety of programs, but we will gladly incorporate additional ideas.

As I complete my term as your president, I want to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all members who have contributed to the success of our chapter over the last two years, and particularly to our hard-working board members, without whose efforts the chapter could not function. It is through their contributions that we are able to present programs of interest and value to our membership, produce a monthly newsletter, and carry on the other activities that enable us to continue as a Five-Star chapter.

Our November 15th Holiday Celebration at the Café Des Artistes in Leonardtown was a great success, with an outstanding menu and an interesting presentation by Ed Sierra, President of the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum, who brought us up to date on the progress of the new museum building and plans for the future. I encourage our members to offer support to this

effort. In addition we welcomed our latest ADM Merlin O'Neill award winner, LCDR Earl Drey, who was introduced by CAPT Heidi Fleming, Commanding Officer of the Patuxent River Naval Base. I believe we were once again impressed by the quality and professionalism of the junior officers who are selected for this award. Our active military is in good hands!

I hope to see increased participation by our membership and spouses as we enter another year's round of meetings and activities.

Finally, I want to wish everyone a joyous holiday season and health and happiness in the New Year.

Warmest regards,
Warren Prince.

January Meeting

Save the Date! Our first Chapter meeting will be Saturday, 24 January 2015. The highlight of the meeting will be the installation of our Chapter's 2015 officers. CDR Philip Campbell will be accepting the presidential gavel from CDR Warren Prince. Warren has served as your chapter President (his second tour) in a wonderful fashion which included two MOAA five-star chapter awards. CDR Campbell has great plans he wishes to share with the group so we hope you will attend. The details of the location, timing, and installation officer will be published in the January newsletter.

Holiday Celebration

The 15th of November brought 36 members, spouses, and guests of our chapter to Café Des Artistes in Leonardtown. Attendees were treated to a great meal as always from Karleen and Loic Jaffres' staff and culinary team.



Our guest speaker was Mr. Ed Sierra, joined by his wife Shari. He is currently serving on the executive board of the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance and is the President of the Board for the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum Association, Inc. He provided us with detailed status of the Museum and an exciting vision of the path ahead to expand the programs and influence of the Museum and its programs. [Ed. note: We hope to have some of our 2015 chapter events at the new facility].



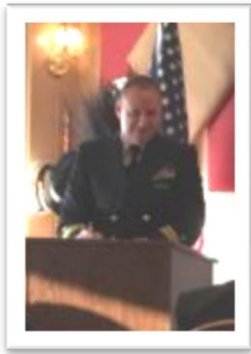
One of our other guests of honor was CAPT Heidi Fleming, USN, who is the current commanding officer of NAS Patuxent River [Ed. note #2: and my USNA classmate.]. She provides support to MOAA by actively

promoting our ADM O'Neill Officer of the Year Award. Her staff worked hard vetting many nominations before making a selection. CAPT Fleming follows up the selections board's work by attending our Holiday celebration and personally introducing the winner. She provided a glowing review of the work the winner has accomplished to the benefit of his sailors, the Navy, his community, and our country.



Our 2014 winner is LCDR Earl Drey, Jr. He and his his wife, LCDR Jill Drey who serves at the NAS Patuxent Medical Clinic, were able to join us as our guests of honor. After the award presentation by our Chapter President CDR Prince, LCDR Drey spoke to the attendees about how he was grateful for the award, the Navy, and the Southern Maryland community which has made him and his family feel so welcome.

Thanks to all who put together such a successful program. Several members from both our chapter and General Smallwood chapter remarked about how well the event was executed. Hope to see you next year!

SOUTHERN MARYLAND CHAPTER ADMIRAL MERLIN O'NEILL OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2014**LIEUTENANT COMMANDER EARL D. DREY JR.
UNITED STATES NAVY****Air Traffic Control Facility Officer
NAS Patuxent River, MD**

Lieutenant Commander Earl D. Drey Jr. was born in Burke, South Dakota on 19 October 1973. He enlisted in August 1992 and began his Naval career at NATTC Millington, TN as an instructor assistant for one year at the Air Traffic Control Schoolhouse. Upon completion of his schoolhouse duties in June 1994 he reported aboard the USS Independence (CV-62) in Yokosuka, Japan as an ACAN. He attained the rank of AC2 during his four year tour in which he earned the qualification of CASE III CATTC Supervisor. He also earned his Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist and Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist qualifications.

Upon completion of Carrier duty, Lieutenant Commander Drey reported to Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon, NV in 1998 for five years of duty. In 1999, LCDR Drey attained Facility Watch Supervisor designation and was named the NAS Fallon Senior Sailor of the Year, being the youngest First Class Petty Officer to compete at the regional level for Southwest Region in San Diego, CA. His professionalism and devotion to excellence led to his selection as Chief Petty Officer in 2001. His hallmark tour at NAS Fallon culminated in selection as ATC Limited Duty Officer and commissioned on July 2003.

LCDR Drey reported to Officer Indoctrination School in July 2003 and finished the school in August 2003. He was ranked number one in his class out of 23 Officers. In September 2003 he reported to NAS Keflavik, Iceland. During his 18 month tour he was assigned as the Air Traffic Control Facility Officer. At the end of his tour he assisted in the closing of the Air Traffic Control portion of the base in which all air traffic control duties were handed over to the Icelandic Civil Aviation Administration.

In March 2005, he reported to the USS Saipan (LHA-2) in Norfolk, Virginia. His duties were the Amphibious Air Traffic Control Officer in which he led 18 controllers. He also filled the role of the Air Operations Officer, which is normally held by a Major in the United States Marine Corps. Lieutenant Commander Drey remained on the USS Saipan for two years until the ship was decommissioned in April 2007.

LCDR Drey reported to FACSFAC Jacksonville in May 2007 to serve as the Air Traffic Control Facility Officer. During his three year tour he led 42 personnel in providing air traffic control services to all branches of the military in over 80,000 square miles of special use airspace. His duties also included the coordination of all NASA events that encompassed the usage of the Jacksonville Operating Area. He also oversaw the airspace utilization of the Pinecastle Bombing Range, the only live bombing range left on the Eastern Coast of the United States.

LCDR Drey departed FACSFAC Jacksonville in May 2010 and reported to the USS George Bush (CVN-77), Norfolk, VA, in June 2010. He was assigned as the Carrier Air Traffic Control Center Officer in which he led 34 personnel. He was a part of CVN 77's maiden deployment and played a vital role in the ship receiving the 2011 CNAL Battle "E", Admiral Flatley Award, CNAF "JIF DOG" Ramage award, Battenberg Cup award and numerous other awards. LCDR Drey also was selected by his fellow officers for the 2011 Navy and Marine Association Peer Leadership Award. He finished his tour onboard CVN 77 and reported to NAS Patuxent River, MD in June 2013 where he has assumed duties as the Air Traffic Control Facility Officer.

His decorations include five Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and various other unit and general awards and ribbons.