Marine Aviation Centennial (MAC) Update

This is my last article prior to firing-for-the-record at the Gaylord National Harbor in Washington, DC (actually it's Oxon Hill, Maryland, on your GPS). The plans are firming up, with a few changes since my fall update.

The Sunset Parade at the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Monument) in Arlington will take place on Wednesday, May 16th. Personnel from the Marine Barracks 8th & I and the Department of Aviation are pulling out all the stops for this special event. This took extra care and planning since the date is prior to the regular Parade Season. The parade will begin with a spectacular Aerial Demonstration (formerly known as a fly-by). Check out the details on the Schedule of Events page in the back of this issue so you can plan on being there. It will be worth arriving in town a day ahead of the 'normal' Thursday showtime.

Many of the active duty personnel will arrive on Monday, May 14th, in preparation for their official duties the following day at the: Marine Air Board (MAB); Assault Support Operational Advisory Group (OAG); Aviation Logistics OAG; Marine Aviation Command & Control OAG; Unmanned Aerial System OAG; Aviation Ground Support OAG; Tactical Aviation Symposium; and the Company Grade Forum. These groups constitute the Aviation Combat Element (ACE) Symposium, which will culminate in briefings to all attendees on Saturday morning May 19th. Don't miss the opportunity to mingle with our current-day warriors, and if you buy them a beer I bet they'll even sit still for one of your "war stories."

We are back to having the Annual Awards Ceremony held during the Banquet, as per our usual MO. The Commandant will hold a special MAC Commemorative Ceremony to kick things off that evening. This ceremony will be a once-in-a-lifetime-event; you don't want to be late for this extravaganza! The Awards, the Dinner, and Dancing will follow, so start getting in shape now people.

Our Boston Squadron has confirmed the weekend of August 3-5 for honoring the first flight of Lieutenant Alfred A. Cunningham at Marblehead, Massachusetts. This is going to be a BIG event, with incredible support of the local population and the Department of Aviation. Details will follow on the plans for this special weekend in both *The Journal* and the summer issue of *The Yellow Sheet*.

The Tailhook Association Annual Reunion and Symposium will be held on September 6-8 in Reno, Nevada, and their theme this year is honoring The Marine Aviation Centennial. It's strongly encouraged that we join our comrades at The Hook, as they pay a tribute to Marine aviation.

Please visit our web site at www.flymcaa.org for any changes or updates to the Plan of the Day. Talk it up with your old squadron mates, even those whose aeronautical skills did not match your own, get the gang together, and come celebrate with us. If you're going to "party" any time in 2012, then you need to be doing it this May at the Gaylord with the Marine Corps Aviation Association.

Our deepest appreciation goes out to our Industry Members, without whose support, we could not pull this Centennial Celebration off with such style and panache. Please note their companies and make sure to thank them when you see them.

See you at the Gaylord folks. And remember, if you are a no-show—we will talk about you. Much as Henry V did, about those abed in England who missed the Battle of Agincourt.

Semper Fi,
Ole Bones

Rolls-Royce
BOEING
LOCKHEED MARTIN
Raytheon
NORTHROP GRUMMAN
Sikorsky
A United Technologies Company
FLIR SYSTEMS
Pratt & Whitney
A United Technologies Company
BAE SYSTEMS
imagination at work
ATK
Bell Helicopter
A Textron Company
PKL SERVICES, INC.
MILLION AIR
JKHILL & ASSOCIATES
Booz | Allen | Hamilton

Marine Aviation Centennial (MAC)
Centennial of Naval Aviation (CoNA)

2012	EVENT
May 4-5	Blue Angels Air Show, MCAS Cherry Point, NC
May 5	Friendship Day, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan
May 16-19	MCAA Annual Reunion & Symposium, MAC Capstone Event (In conjunction with Joint Base Andrews Armed Forces Open House)
August 3-5	1stLt Cunningham's First Flight Celebration, Marblehead, MA
September 6-8	Tailhook