

ACQUISITION EXCELLENCE IN MARINE AVIATION

For meritorious service while serving as CH-53K Developmental Test Pilot and Project Officer, HX-21, NTWL, from 1 January to 31 December 2020. On the team conducting developmental testing, Major Willett led a detachment in Yuma Proving Grounds, AZ, to test new-built CH-53K operations in Degraded Visual Environments (DVE) and extreme heat. In addition vital interaction with numerous external agencies, he personally flew almost 23 flight hours to complete all DVE testing, and conducted the first-ever CH-53K mountainous terrain and ground refueling at a forward arming and refueling point. Major Willet led his team through more than 550 hours of Flight Test, bringing the program within reach of starting operational testing. In total, he crewed over 125 test plan drafts and amendments through a dual approval process and drafted more than 50 deficiency reports while also guiding the Flight Test Engineers. Major Willett's relentless mission focus and dedication to duty reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.



Major John E. Willett

VX-21, MAD
PATUXENT RIVER

MICHAEL A. HOUGH AWARD



Established in honor of Lieutenant General Mike Hough, who served as the Deputy Commandant for Aviation and Director of the Joint Strike Fighter Program, to recognize superior achievement and excellence by a Marine assigned to the acquisition field.

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