

AVIONICS MARINE OF THE YEAR



THE PAUL G. VESS AWARD

Presented by THE MARINE CORPS AVIATION ASSOCIATION to

Established in Honor of Master Gunnery Sergeant Paul G. Vess, a Leader in the Field of Avionics, Who Served with Distinction for Over Thirty Years.

In Recognition of
The Most Outstanding Contribution to Marine Aviation Made by an Electronics Technician in Marine Aviation.



**BAE SYSTEMS,
ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS**

STAFF SERGEANT THOMAS M. MCNELIS



Award Citation

Staff Sergeant Thomas M. McNelis demonstrated professional achievement in the superior performance of his duties as the Electric Shop Work Center Staff Non-commissioned Officer in Charge, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122, Marine Aircraft Group 31, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, from 1 May 2008 to 30 April 2009. During this period, SSgt McNelis distinguished himself as the most outstanding avionics Marine in the United States Marine Corps. His technical prowess, mentoring abilities and leadership were cornerstones that paved the way for the squadron's numerous accomplishments. He spearheaded the removal and replacement of six outer wing assemblies and created an after action document that was utilized by the entire F/A-18 community. Additionally, his actions directly impacted the first successful operations of F/A-18C aircraft out of an austere expeditionary airfield, culminating in the squadron's 100 percent mission accomplishment rate of over 2,100 sorties in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. SSgt McNelis' numerous qualifications, expertise and ability to teach, train and lead his Marines reflected credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.



10 October 2009

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| 2008 Sgt Michelle Carter | 1992 GySgt Ronald G. Hayward |
| 2007 SSgt C. C. Wilson | 1991 SSgt Charles W. Anderson |
| 2006 GySgt G. C. Krenek | 1990 SSgt Walter B. Jarek |
| 2005 GySgt J. H. Kreitzer | 1989 Cpl Lansden R. Good III |
| 2004 Sgt Henry L. Sapp | 1988 Cpl James H. Parish Jr. |
| 2003 GySgt Duwayne W. Darby | 1987 GySgt Ronald H. Cowles |
| 2002 GySgt A. L. Garratt | 1986 SSgt Karl E. Duggin |
| 2001 GySgt Arlington A. Finch | 1985 GySgt Donald L. Erickson |
| 2000 Sgt Brandy R. Vaughn | 1984 GySgt Edward G. Robinson |
| 1999 SSgt James F. Lewellyn | 1983 SSgt James C. Addington |
| 1998 SSgt Dale W. Benton | 1982 Sgt Dennis K. Ellis |
| 1997 Sgt Robert Vanravenswaay | 1981 GySgt James O. Stephens |
| 1996 SSgt Adam R. Chitty | 1980 SSgt John A. Chemsak |
| 1995 GySgt James T. Baker | 1979 GySgt Samuel E. Cooper |
| 1994 SSgt Andrew McLaughlin | 1978 GySgt Barry B. Mertz |
| 1993 Cpl Kurt E. Peterson | 1977 GySgt Raymond Clapsadle |