

MARINE AVIATION GROUND OFFICER OF THE YEAR



THE EARLE HATTAWAY AWARD

Presented by THE MARINE CORPS AVIATION ASSOCIATION to

Established in Honor of Lieutenant Colonel Earle Hattaway, the First Recipient of the Marine Aviation Ground Officer of the Year Award.

In Recognition of The Most Outstanding Contribution to Marine Aviation, Whether in Combat, Research and Development, Weapons Employment or to Overall Marine Aviation.



**ROLLS-ROYCE
NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2008 Capt Jonathan Goins | 1989 LtCol John E. Torsak |
| 2007 Capt A. A. Angell | 1988 Col Donald E. Davis |
| 2006 Capt L. R. Domitrovits | 1987 Maj Richard Christiansen |
| 2005 Capt R. A. Dill | 1986 Capt Ernie L. Ellis |
| 2004 CW03 Steven P. Hulse | 1985 Capt Michael J. Cooper |
| 2003 Maj Kris S. Karnetsky | 1984 Capt Stephen C. Lambeth |
| 2002 Maj W. E. Hidle | 1983 CW03 Leroy Sanderson |
| 2001 Maj John F. Sisson | 1982 Capt Robert E. Fugate |
| 2000 Maj Brent E. Meeker | 1981 Capt Donald Schwartz Jr. |
| 1999 Maj Roosevelt G. Lafontant | 1980 1stLt Mark C. Hunt |
| 1998 Maj Paul F. Callan | 1979 Maj Donald B. Frost |
| 1997 Maj Jerald D. Holm | 1978 Maj Frederick M. Stitcher |
| 1996 CW02 Robert A. Murphy | 1977 1st Lt Herbert Donahue Jr. |
| 1995 Maj Byron F. Stebbins | 1976 Capt D. Ratcliffe |
| 1994 Maj Lloyd L. Denn | 1975 Capt Courtney B. Payne |
| 1993 Maj Paul F. Lease | 1974 Capt Vernon L. Clark |
| 1992 Capt Kevin T. McCutcheon | 1973 Capt Louis E. Sergeant Jr. |
| 1991 Maj Bonnie J. Robison | 1972 LtCol Earle Hattaway |
| 1990 Maj Steve S. Demers | |

CAPTAIN
MATTHEW J. NEELY



Award Citation

Captain Matthew J. Neeley demonstrated outstanding contributions to Marine Corps aviation while serving as Motor Transport Company Commander, Marine Wing Support Squadron 273 (Rein), Marine Air Control Group 28. Captain Neeley provided aviation ground support and distinguished himself during two exercises and in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During Exercise Desert Talon, he led the recovery of a damaged AH-1W Super Cobra helicopter and developed new recovery techniques for the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle. As a detachment commander during Operation Al Anbar Border Initiative, he secured the airfield, constructed a cantonment area, and enabled hot and cold refueling. His Marines also supported Operation Defeat Al Qaida in the North II by transporting personnel and equipment 360 miles through dangerous territory to establish an expeditionary airfield in Ninewa Providence. He served as mission commander for three landing zone construction projects that significantly increased the safety of flight operations. Captain Neeley's leadership and total dedication to duty reflected great credit upon him and were keeping with the highest traditions of Marine Corps aviation.



10 October 2009