



PRESS

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MATSG-23 CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Marine Aviation Training Support Group-23 will hold a change of command ceremony July 22 at 2 p.m. in the National Naval Aviation Museum aboard NAS Pensacola. Colonel Russell Blauw will pass command to Colonel Donald Chipman.

Colonel Donald Chipman was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in May 1991 after graduating from the United States Naval Academy and graduated from The Basic School in December of the same year. Upon completion of the Aircraft Maintenance Officer (AMO) School, Chipman was ordered to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron (MALS) 13 in Yuma, AZ where he served as both the Airframes and ALSS division officer.

In 1995, he was assigned to Marine Attack Squadron 311, where he served as the Maintenance Material Control Officer for a 20-plane AV-8B Squadron. During this assignment he deployed as part of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and participated in various Western Pacific exercises operating within Australia, Guam, and Japan.

In 1997 he reported as Executive Officer (XO) of Aviation Maintenance Squadron-1 aboard Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL. After serving for two years at the "A" school, he was re-assigned to the AMO School as the Marine Liaison Officer. While instructing in the AMO long/short course, he completed a Master's degree and became a Master Training Specialist.

He received orders in 2001 to Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point, NC where he was assigned as the KC-130 FREST Officer in Charge and was instrumental in the establishment of NAMTRA Marine Unit Cherry Point and served as the first XO of this newly established "C" School.

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Colonel Chipman was re-assigned in 2002 to Marine Aircraft Group-14 as the Operations Officer and began preparing the *Dragons* for deployment to Iraq. In January 2003, he deployed aboard SS WRIGHT (T-AVB 3) in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

Upon his return from deployment, Chipman received orders to U.S. Strategic Command in Omaha, NE and was assigned to the Global Strike Division where he earned a Space Operations designation and later became a J5 Regional Planner supporting Central Command Plans.

In 2006, Colonel Chipman was assigned to HQMC at the Pentagon in Arlington, VA as the ASL-40, Strategy and Plans Officer.

He assumed command of MALS-11 at MCAS Miramar, CA in 2007. Upon completion of command tour, Chipman participated in the Commandant's Fellowship program at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University and was published in the Marine Corps Gazette and Hoover Digest.

Returning to the Pentagon in 2010, Colonel Chipman was once again assigned to HQMC, this time as the ASL-33 Aircraft Maintenance Section Head and 6002 Occupational Field Sponsor.

Recently, Colonel Chipman served 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1stMAW) Aviation Logistics Department from 2013 to 2016 in Okinawa, Japan. 1st MAW Marines provided aviation logistics support for MV-22B and KC-130J HA/DR efforts in Operation DAMAYAN following the devastating effects of a Super Typhoon Haiyan on the Philippines in November 2013. They responded again in April 2015, by providing the same for UH-1Y, MV-22B, and KC-130J HA/DR efforts in Operation SAHAYOGI HAAT following the massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake in Nepal.

His personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (2nd award), the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal (5th award), and the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2nd Award).

Upon relinquishing command of MATSG-23, Colonel Blauw will report to DC Aviation Department, Headquarters Marine Corps.

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Media interested in covering this event should contact NAS Pensacola Public Affairs at (850) 452-4436 for gate access.