



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

UNIT 37101

FPO AP 96603-7101

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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Subj: HMM-265 Fiftieth Anniversary Congratulations

Dear Association Members,

It is with utmost pride that I congratulate the members of HMM-265 Veterans Association as you celebrate the Squadron's 50th anniversary. Since its commissioning at Marine Corps Air Facility, New River, Jacksonville, North Carolina in September 1962, HMM-265 has flown missions in support of Marines from Camp Lejeune to Hawaii to Vietnam and across the Pacific as part of First Marine Aircraft Wing. Last year, HMM-265's support of Operation Tomodachi following the devastating earthquake and tsunami in 2011 demonstrated once again the dynamic capability of the Squadron, its iconic CH-46E helicopters, and the aircrew and support personnel who keep the Squadron moving forward—forward to wherever the mission requires them to go.

I know many of you attending this celebration were present at the beginning of HMM-265. As the first squadron to fly the CH-46A, it is only fitting that HMM-265 achieved another historic milestone, which they did last month when they were rechristened VMM-265 and began flying their 12 new MV-22Bs as the first tiltrotor squadron in 1st MAW. As I write this, they are the only squadron in the Corps to simultaneously fly both the Osprey and the Battle Phrog—a necessity for the continuous coverage of some of our critical missions until the Ospreys and their crews are ready to accept the handoff. Once again, the Dragons prove that they can do everything that is asked of them, and do it flawlessly.

I applaud each of you for remaining true to your Squadron and to the Marine Corps, and I commend you for a job exceptionally well done. Please accept my heartfelt congratulations as you celebrate this historic occasion and I extend best wishes as you renew and reminisce by coming together in this way. Godspeed.

Semper Fidelis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. S. Owens", is written over the typed name.

Major General Christopher S. Owens
Commanding General
1st Marine Aircraft Wing