CATEGORY: MCAA/INDIVIDUAL/OFFICER

NAME: UAS COL “CHEWY” FREY AWARD

- OFFICER UAS PILOT OF THE YEAR

AWARD SPONSOR: TBD

HISTORY: The Marine Corps UAS Pilot of the Year Award is established to recognize a Marine Corps UAS pilot whose exception performance, leadership, and dedication to the mission reflect the spirit of Colonel James “Chewy” Frey, a pioneer in Marine Corps aviation and unmanned systems. The award honors a Marine whose contributions have made a significant impact on advancing the capabilities, mission success, and operational effectiveness of Marine Corps UAS.

Col. James “Chewy” Frey was instrumental in shaping the modern Marine Corps aviation community and played a critical role in pioneering unmanned aircraft systems for the service. Throughout his distinguished career, Col Frey demonstrated an unwavering commitment to innovation, leadership, and the integration of advanced technology in support of Marine Corps missions. His visionary work laid the foundation for today’s UAS operations, ensuring that Marines have the Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition (RSTA) capabilities to succeed in complex environments.

Col. Frey’s legacy is one of leadership, ingenuity, and relentless drive to push the boundaries of what Marine Corps aviation could achieve, particularly in the realm of unmanned systems. The Marine Corps UAS Pilot of the Year Award is dedicated to his legacy, aiming to inspire future UAS pilots to follow his example.

ELIGIBILITY: Any Officer Marine possessing the UAS MOS’s 73XX,

Regular or Reserve. The Marine must have served in an operational or training VMU during the award year.

CRITERIA AND PERIOD: The individual should best exemplify aviation professionalism by:

Demonstrated excellence in UAS, leadership in training, mentoring, and developing junior UAS pilots and crews, provided an impact on the success of Marine Corps missions, and embody the Marine Core values as a UAS Pilot. The award covers  the period from 1 January through 31 December immediately preceding  the nomination period.

SELECTION/PRESENTATION: Selection made by CMC Aviation Awards Board and presented at the

annual MCAA Reunion and symposium.

NOMINATION DUE DATE: Due 15 January to CMC (ACP).