CATEGORY: MCAA/INDIVIDUAL/ENLISTED

NAME: UAS PIONEER AWARD

- ENLISTED UAS SENSOR OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

AWARD SPONSOR: TBD

HISTORY: Established to honor the enlisted Marines within the UAS community

past and present that have advanced and continue to advance the employment of UAS, redefining the roles, missions, and the paramount integration of UAS to meet the Marines Corps’ future conflicts. Awarded to recognize the superior performance and professionalism of the Marine Enlisted UAS Sensor Operator of the year.

The RQ-2 Pioneer was flown by the Marine Corps 1986-2007. During this time the Pioneer was operated by a fully enlisted aircrew consisting of an external pilot, internal pilot, and mission payload operator. Over its impactful 30-year history, the Pioneer and its crews deployed to and served in the Gulf war, Task Force Eagle, Bosnia, Kosovo, Operation Desert Storm, the Global War on Terror, as well as numerous humanitarian missions and deployments within the continental United States in support of several Marine Corps Exercises.

The Pioneer aircraft stands as a beacon and has a legacy of professionalism, reliability, and groundbreaking innovation. Its success is a testament to the remarkable achievements of the enlisted UAS operator, cementing its place in aviation history and paving the way to future triumph. The Marine Corps Enlisted UAS Sensor Operator of the year is dedicated to its memory and serves to inspire current and future UAS sensor operators.

ELIGIBILITY: Any enlisted Marine possessing the UAS MOS’s 7314 and NMOS 8022,

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 and mentoring, flight discipline, ethical behavior, pursuit of continuous improvement

and flight safety towards the advancement of USMC UAS as an enlisted UAS Sensor Operator. 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).