



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
 MARINE ALL WEATHER FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 225
 MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 12
 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, MARFORPAC
 UIC 41027
 FPO AP 96608-1027

Example Only

In reply refer to:
 1650
 Adj
 14 Apr 04

From: Commanding Officer, Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225

To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (ASM)

Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12
 (2) Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing

Subj: RECOMMENDATION FOR MARINE CORPS AVIATION ASSOCIATION
 2004 ALFRED A. CUNNINGHAM AWARD, MARINE NAVAL
 AVIATOR OF THE YEAR; CASE OF

RANK, NAME, SSM/MOS

Ref: (a) MCO 1650.29G
 (b) CMC MSG 051630Z MAR 04

Encl: (1) Description of Action
 (2) Biographical Information
 (3) Proposed Citation
 (4) Photographs

1. Per the reference, I submit the enclosures, recommending the nomination *RANK, FULL NAME* as the 2004 MCAA Alfred A. Cunningham Award, Marine Naval Aviator of the Year.

RANK, FULL NAME represents the pinnacle of Marine Aviation, and is recommended with the greatest enthusiasm.

2. Unit Point of Contact is *RANK NAME, e-mail*
 1, DSN *TELEPHONE* Comm *TELEPHONE*

*Individual AWARD
 REVIEW MARADMIN 135/05*



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING
UNIT 37101
FPO AP 96603-7101

EXAMPLE ONLY

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1650

7

1 MAY 2004

SECOND ENDORSEMENT on CO, VMFA(AW)-225 ltr 1650 Adj of 14 Apr 04

From: Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (ASM)

Subj: NOMINATION FOR THE MARINE CORPS AVIATION ASSOCIATION 2004
ALFRED A. CUNNINGHAM AWARD, MARINE NAVAL AVIATOR OF THE
YEAR; CASE OF C

1. Forwarded, with enthusiasm.

RANK, NAME, SSN/MOS

Copy to:
CO, MAG-12
CO, VMFA-225
SNM

Example Only



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 12
UNIT 37150
FPO AP 96603-7150

In reply refer to:
1650
ADJ
21 Apr 04

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CO, VMFA(AW)-225 ltr 1650 Adj of 14 Apr 04

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (ASM)
Via: Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing

Subj: NOMINATION FOR THE MARINE CORPS AVIATION ASSOCIATION 2004
ALFRED A. CUNNINGHAM AWARD, MARINE NAVAL AVIATOR OF THE
YEAR; CASE OF

Ref: (a) MCO 1650.29G
(b) CMC MSG 051630Z MAR 04

RANK Name, SSN/MOS

1. Forwarded with utmost enthusiasm, recommending
1 for the 2004 Marine Corps Aviation
Association's Naval Aviator of the Year.

2. professional^{ism} and expertise have acutely
influenced the success of his squadron and the Marine Corps.
Interacting with on several occasions, airborne
and on the ground, I am of the complete belief that he truly
deserves this award. He is a technically solid aviator with
superior tactical ability, and he has my strongest
recommendation for selection as the 2004 Marine Corps Aviation
Association's Naval Aviator of the Year.

NAME:
SSN:
RANK:
MOS:

SQUADRON BILLETS HELD:

S-1 Officer
Legal Officer
Powerline Officer
Assistant Air-to-Ground and Night Attack Phase Head
Pilot Training Officer

TIME IN SERVICE:

9 years, 11 months

TIME IN SQUADRON:

1 year, 6 months

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS:

Weapons and Tactics Instructor
Strike-Fighter Tactics Instructor
Mission Commander
Air Combat Tactics Instructor
Night Systems Instructor
Forward Air Controller (Airborne) Instructor
Tactical Air Coordinator (Airborne) Instructor
Low Altitude Tactics Instructor
Division Leader
Aviation Safety Officer
Instrument and Natops Instructor

COURSES ATTENDED:

United States Navy Fighter Weapons School, TOPGUN
MAWTS-1 Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course
Aviation Safety Officers Course - Honor Graduate

DECORATIONS:

Strike/Flight Air Medal with Numeral Three
Single Mission Air Medal (pending approval)
Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat "V"
Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star
National Defense Medal with Bronze Star
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Sea Service Deployment Ribbon
Korean Defense Service Medal (pending approval)
Presidential Unit Citation
Meritorious Unit Commendation with Bronze Star

PROPOSED CITATION

THE ALFRED A. CUNNINGHAM AWARD

Is Presented To

Citation

FOR PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT IN THE SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTIES WHILE SERVING AS PILOT TRAINING OFFICER, MARINE ALL-WEATHER FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 225, MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 12, 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING FROM 1 MAY 2003 TO 30 APRIL 2004. DURING THIS PERIOD, CAPTAIN SHORTAL PERFORMED HIS DUTIES IN AN EXEMPLARY AND HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL MANNER. IN ADDITION TO FLYING 36 COMBAT MISSIONS HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MARINE TACTICAL AVIATION ASSETS DURING OPERATIONS SOUTHERN WATCH AND IRAQI FREEDOM. UPON RETURN TO MCAS MIRAMAR, HE GRADUATED FROM TOPGUN AND WTI AS HE CONCURRENTLY DEVISED AND EXECUTED A TRAINING PLAN THAT ALLOWED THE "VIKINGS" TO STAY ATOP THE COMBAT READINESS LADDER. HIS EFFORTS RESULTED IN THE CREATION OF 102 COMBAT READINESS QUALIFICATIONS. HIS KNOWLEDGE HAS POSITIVELY INFLUENCED A MYRIAD OF MISSION AREAS FOR MARINE AVIATION. DURING HIS CURRENT DEPLOYMENT TO MCAS IWAKUNI, CAPTAIN SHORTAL HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN PLANNING AND PREPARATION FOR REAL WORLD CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS. CAPTAIN SHORTAL'S SELFLESS DEDICATION AND SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE OF DUTY REFLECTED GREAT CREDIT UPON HIM AND ARE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MARINE CORPS AND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL SERVICE.

EXAMPLE ONLY

(DESCRIPTION OF ACTION)

The embodiment of Marine Corps tradition is best summarized by its priorities of "God, Country, and Corps."

_____ a Marine Officer that personifies that phrase through his commitment to excellence and superlative vision. He has made significant contributions to Marine Aviation over the course of his career, particularly this last year, that make him the most qualified nominee to receive this most prestigious award.

_____ has served as the Pilot Training Officer for the "Vikings" of VMFA(AW)-225 during the entire award period. In May 2003, he was deployed to Ahmed Al Jaber Airbase, Kuwait to participate in combat operations in support of Operations Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom (OSW/OIF). While deployed, _____ amassed over 100 combat hours, flying 36 missions, and delivering over 60,000 pounds of ordnance in direct support of Marines and soldiers. The Commanding General of the 3D Marine Aircraft Wing personally recognized Captain Shortal's professionalism when he selected him to lead the first four ship of FA-18s that would deliver MK-77 Fire Bombs from 500' and under low light conditions. That mission was briefed to the Coalition Forces Air Component Commander because of its sensitive and high risk nature. His expertise and attention to detail were further recognized as he was called upon to perform the mission of Forward Air Control (Airborne) (FAC(A)) when the Commanding Officer could no longer perform the mission due to medical reasons. _____ earning his FAC(A) qualification in combat, demonstrated extreme valor and skill as he controlled FA-18 and A-10 aircraft in a danger close situation as Marines of the 1st Regimental Combat Team (RCT 1) were ambushed just outside of Baghdad. While avoiding heavy enemy anti-aircraft artillery fire and man portable defense systems, he adeptly placed 5" Zuni rockets and 20mm PGU rounds within 50 meters of friendlies, even as he controlled multiple sections to successfully annihilate the enemy. His actions were fundamental to the survival of countless Marine lives and he has been recommended for a Single Mission Air Medal, the highest individual flight award for any pilot within MAG-11 during OIF.

At the conclusion of MAG-11 combat operations, _____ was the catalyst in a comprehensive after action review that would eventually be implemented in 3D MAW lessons learned. The passion and zeal with which he rallied numerous instructors and flight leads, was instrumental in a thorough "hot-wash" of MAG-11 participation. The importance of these lessons learned has already been realized by 3D MAW and MAWTS-1 as a solid foundation for the next conflict. They have lent themselves toward the advancement of materials and tactics, particularly the procurement of the Litening II targeting pod for the FA-18, and the resurgence of the Marine fixed wing FAC(A).

(Enclosure (1))

EXAMPLE ONLY

(BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION)

Shortal was born in Chicago, Illinois in June 1972. () graduated with honors from St. Pius X High School in Atlanta, Georgia in 1990. He attended the University of Illinois on a NROTC Scholarship where he ran varsity track and graduated in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy and CPA designation.

After graduation, () reported to Quantico, Virginia for The Basic School. He was recognized as an Honor Graduate and the Iron Mike Award winner for physical fitness at graduation.

() reported for aviation indoctrination at NAS Pensacola, Florida, and then primary flight training at nearby NAS Whiting Field, finishing as a member of the Commodore's List. He transferred to NAS Meridian, Mississippi for intermediate flight training, and then NAS Kingsville, Texas for advanced flight training where he earned his wings of gold in February 1997. He was selected as Student of the Month while in VT-21 and offered an instructor position upon graduation.

() then transferred to VMFAT-101 Sharpshooters at MCAS El Toro, California for training in the F/A-18 Hornet. In July 1998, he reported to the World Famous Red Devils at VMFA-232, MCAS Miramar. Captain Shortal completed one UDP to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan and several other detachments throughout the United States. In February () transferred back to VMFAT-101 as an instructor pilot. He served as the CMCC Officer, Assistant Air-to-Ground Phase Head, and Night Attack Phase Head. In addition, () was a member of the All-Marine Triathlon Team for three years, representing the the Marine Corps at the Hawaii Ironman Triathlon World Championships in 2000, 2001, and 2002. In 2002, he also represented the United States as a member of TEAM USA at the World Long Course Triathlon Championships in Nice, France.

In December 2002, () transferred to VMFA(AW) - 225 as the Pilot Training Officer. He attended TOPGUN Class 02-03 for eight days before being recalled to deploy to Ahmed Al Jaber Airbase, Kuwait for future contingency operations. () flew 36 combat missions in support of Operations Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom, employing over 60,000 pounds of ordnance. Upon return,