



Summer 2019

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## Olmsted Scholar Class of 2020 Introduced at Annual Meeting, Reunion, and Reception



First Row (L to R): Capt Christopher Bukowski, USAF; LCDR Carl Governale, USN; CPT Frederick Wolf, USA; Maj Esther Anderson, USAF; Maj Caitlin Curran, USAF; LCDR Keith Robinson, USCG; CPT John Rowley, USA; LCDR Brady O'Neal, USN.

Second Row (L to R): LT Jeffrey Feldmann, USN; CPT Richard Stucky, USA; Maj Stephen Crozier, USAF; Maj Ryan Clisset, USAF; LCDR Zachary Matthews, USN; Capt Jonathan Parker, USMC; CPT James Whitler, USA; LCDR Matthew Howell, USN; Capt (Sel) Colton Oviatt, USMC; CPT Daniel Newell, USA.

Not Pictured: Capt Michael McHugh, USMC.

## Olmsted Foundation Welcomes New Chairman of the Board



ADM Kurt Tidd (OSC 84, Bordeaux), USN, Ret., makes remarks at the Olmsted Foundation Annual Meeting, Reunion and Reception.

Admiral Kurt Tidd (OSC 84, Bordeaux) became the seventh Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Olmsted Foundation during the Foundation's Annual Meeting Reunion, and Reception at Anderson House on June 1, 2019. Admiral Tidd had joined the Foundation's Board in January 2019 shortly after retiring from active duty as Commander of US Southern Command. After being announced as chairman, Tidd expressed his gratitude to the Foundation Staff for supporting him as he transitions into his new role and remarked that he "looks forward to the opportunity to continue the great work of the Foundation which gave him a different way of looking and thinking about the world." Tidd also stated he is "very excited by the opportunity to continue the great work that has been ongoing and carry it forward by working with all service representatives as we continue to seek out and find those people who are going to be the leaders of the security enterprise, not just uniform wearing, but all of you who have gone on to positions of great importance." Tidd closed his remarks by

telling the assembled Scholars, "Your experience as an Olmsted Scholar is a testament to the fact that the dream General Olmsted created and made possible continues to serve this nation extraordinarily well, and the entire Olmsted Foundation team is committed to continuing to carry it forward."

## Chairman's Corner



Those unable to attend our annual business meeting missed a fitting tribute as we piped Doug Crowder over the side as Chairman of the Olmsted Foundation Board of Directors. Doug's leadership and steady hand on the tiller saw our organization through significant transitions. He leaves some very large shoes to fill.

Doug's able leadership also brought about significant improvements in the standing of our organization in the eyes of our primary customers – the military Services of our nation. Doug, working with the enthusiastic support of President Bruce Scott, and the entire Olmsted Foundation leadership team, injected a heightened awareness by our Service Chiefs that the Olmsted Foundation will continue to be a reliable source of strategically minded and operationally focused military leaders.

As General Olmsted recognized over a half century ago, our nation needs broadly educated leaders with exceptional insight and the willingness to pursue non-traditional paths to attain it. As every Scholar can attest, General Olmsted offered us a unique opportunity to enhance our understanding of our nation's place in the world and arm ourselves with confidence to embrace our responsibilities via a less traditional learning path. This, ultimately, is the product our Foundation provides our customers, the Services – confident, capable, knowledgeable leaders with the flexibility and intellect to lead our Joint Force into a difficult future that even General Olmsted could never imagine.

Ours is a product in great demand by the Chiefs of our Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and most recently, our Coast Guard. They prove their appreciation for the value of our "product" by nominating breathtakingly talented candidates for consideration by our Board. Those who met the Scholars of the Olmsted Class of 2020 at the June reception can attest to the quality of this impressive group. The Foundation will be well served as they prepare to launch into their own life-changing experiences!

*Kurt W. Tidd  
Admiral, US Navy (Ret.)  
Chairman of the Board*

## President's Perspective



Greetings once again from Falls Church, Virginia. We are into the sultry summer weather that makes Washington, DC such an uncomfortable place to be in July and August. And now we have had historic rains and flooding; a sure sign of climate change. Enough of the weather report.

I begin with the most important pieces of Olmsted news: The introduction of the Olmsted Scholar Class of 2020 at the Anderson House and welcoming our new Chairman of the Board of Directors, Admiral (Ret) Kurt Tidd, Olmsted Scholar – 1984. As you will see elsewhere in this Newsletter, the Class of 2020 maintains the tradition of being best young officers in the five uniformed Services.

In welcoming Admiral Tidd new, we bid farewell to our outgoing Chairman, VADM (Ret) Doug Crowder. In his six years as Chairman (second only in length to General Olmsted himself), Doug was the driving force who transformed the Olmsted Scholar experience from a two-year graduate program into a lifelong association of military professionals. As Doug's Army Shipmate, I offer you a "Bravo Zulu" for a job well done!

Mary and I also recently visited five Scholars and families in northern Europe: Sean Fitzmaurice (OSC 2017, Tartu), Jen Purser (OSC 2017, Brno), Brandon Gilles OSC 2017, Poznan), Chris Smith (OSC 2018, Potsdam), and Karl Sault (OSC 2018, Heidelberg). We were overwhelmed with how they had immersed themselves into the local culture, were all virtually fluent, and were making the most out of their academics by getting master's degrees. And, I should note, every Scholar felt HIS or HER location was absolutely the best place to send future Scholars.

In closing, I write this just after the US Women's Soccer Team won the World Cup! A great achievement, but I bet most of you don't know that the player given the most credit for elevating women's soccer to today's level is the daughter of an Olmsted Scholar. Any guesses? Mia Hamm is the daughter of Air Force Colonel Bill Hamm, OSC 1973 – Florence, Italy. And it was in Florence where Mia played her first soccer.

Warmest welcome to our new Chairman, Admiral Kurt Tidd!

*Bruce K. Scott  
Major General USA (Ret.)  
President & CEO*

## Sauve Receives 2019 Yablonski Award



Just as the late Col Bob Yablonski, USAF, Ret. (OSC 80, Lyon) continuously displayed great enthusiasm, unparalleled initiative, continuous dedication, an infectious positive attitude, and matchless patriotism in all his military assignments and duties, as well as his dealings with the Olmsted Foundation, so too has CAPT Dave Sauve (OSC 01, Santiago).

As an active duty director, Dave has been the key leader within the Department of the Navy on behalf of the Olmsted Scholar Program, spearheading the focus on allowing TACAIR pilots to apply to the Olmsted Scholar Program, while remaining competitive within their chosen community. Dave has also been an active mentor and recruiter for the Olmsted Foundation. He has continually assisted and advised younger Scholars and conducted briefings and discussions to encourage outstanding officers to apply for the Olmsted Scholar Program. He has been especially helpful in providing follow-on assignment advice to Scholars who are just completing their overseas portion. Finally, over the last four years Dave has led efforts to raise awareness of the program and the contributions of Scholars among senior leaders in the Pentagon, including the CNO, his staff, and their counterparts from other Services. This extraordinary outreach will benefit Olmsted Scholars for years to come.

## Tidd Receives French *Ordre du Mérite Maritime*



ADM Tidd, USN, Ret. receives the *Ordre du Mérite Maritime*.

Olmsted Foundation Chairman ADM Kurt Tidd (OSC 84, Bordeaux), USN, Ret. was honored recently with the prestigious *Ordre du Mérite Maritime* at the French Embassy in Washington. Established in 1930, the award recognizes the service of professional sailors who have distinguished themselves in the maritime field.

## Scholars Meet Former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia



Olmsted Scholars Stew Welch (OSC 11, Tel Aviv) and Matt Meyers (OSC 06, Seoul) met with former US Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Joseph Westphal, during the Joint Foreign Area Officer CENTCOM Regional Training Course in Tampa. Ambassador Westphal was recently succeeded in Riyadh by Olmsted Scholar and former CENTCOM Commander, GEN John Abizaid (OSC 78, Amman), USA, Ret.

## Olmsted Scholar Promotions and Selections

### Selected by the US Army for Promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel:

- ◆ MAJ Ronald Hudak (OSC 13, Lyon)
- ◆ MAJ Jared Koelling (OSC 14, Ho Chi Minh City)
- ◆ MAJ Ari Martyn (OSC 12, Beijing)
- ◆ MAJ Dennis Williams (OSC 12, Istanbul)

### Selected by the US Air Force for Promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel:

- ◆ Maj Kira Coffey (OSC 16, Guangzhou)
- ◆ Maj Danielle Downs (OSC 18, Podgorica)
- ◆ Maj Edward (Taylor) Francis (OSC 16, Bucharest)
- ◆ Maj Jonathan Hassell (OSC 15, Florianopolis)
- ◆ Maj Olin Johnson (OSC 17, Taipei City)
- ◆ Maj Daniel Wynn (OSC 15, Guilin)

### Selected by the US Navy for Promotion to the rank of Commander:

- ◆ LCDR Matthew Boyce (OSC 19, Belgrade)
- ◆ LCDR Marshall Foard (OSC 13, Leipzig)
- ◆ LCDR Warren Fogler (OSC 16, Freiburg)
- ◆ LCDR Matthew Myers (OSC 09, New Delhi)
- ◆ LCDR Christian Olsen (OSC 09, Vilnius)
- ◆ LCDR Paul Rogers (OSC 11, Lyon)
- ◆ LCDR Jared Wilhelm (OSC 14, Mendoza)

### Screened by the US Navy for Assignment as Operational Aviation Department Head:

- ◆ LCDR Chris Familetti (OSC 19, Leipzig)
- ◆ LT Zachary Smith (OSC 18, Thessaloniki)
- ◆ LT Riley Walls (OSC 19, New Delhi)

# Changes of Command



Brig Gen Anderson receives the Special Operations Command Africa guidon from Gen Thomas D. Waldhauser, USMC. Photo Courtesy of US Navy by Specialist 1<sup>st</sup> Class Christopher Hurd.

## Anderson Assumes Command of Special Operations Command Africa

On June, 28, 2019, Brig Gen Dagvin R.M. Anderson (OSC 00, Brno) took command of Special Operations Command Africa from MG J. Marcus Anderson at Kelley Barracks in Stuttgart, Germany. Anderson will command a force of over 1,200 joint special operators with the mission to exercise operational control over assigned and allocated special operations forces conducting operations, exercises and theater security cooperation in the USAFRICOM area of responsibility.

## Eldridge Takes Command at Fort Drum



COL Eldridge receives the colors of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (Light) from MG Brian Mennes. Photo Courtesy of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team.

COL James JT Eldridge (OSC 06, Moscow) took command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (Light) at Ft Drum, NY on June 21, 2019. The brigade consists of more than 4,400 Soldiers organized into seven separate battalions.

At his change of command ceremony, Eldridge stated that “Kerry, Ali, and I are excited to be back at Ft. Drum. The Warrior BCT is an incredible team, with a terrific reputation throughout the Army, and I am absolutely honored to join its ranks.”

## Fuller Assumes Command of 1-41 Field Artillery

LTC Jeffrey Fuller (OSC 11, Kunming) took command of 1-41 Field Artillery, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division on June 9, 2019 at Cottrell Field, Fort Stewart, Georgia.



LTC Jeffrey Fuller (OSC 11, Kunming) salutes during the change of command ceremony.

The battalion, equipped with eighteen 155mm self-propelled howitzers, provides fire support to the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Brigade Combat Team of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division.

## Cosden Change of Command



Col Sean Cosden (OSC 06, Sofia) receives the Group Guidon from Brig Gen Brook Leonard.

Col Sean Cosden (OSC 06, Sofia) took command of the 370th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group in Baghdad, Iraq on July 1, 2019. The mission of 370 AEAG is to advise, assist and enable the Iraqi Aviation

Enterprise in order to achieve the lasting defeat of ISIS. Air advisors from the group train and work alongside their Iraqi counterparts, sharing knowledge and experiences, in an effort to ensure Iraq's ability to provide security for its citizens. According to Col Cosden, the mission is one closely tied to the values of the Olmsted Foundation. “I use what I learned as a Scholar all the time, as we interact daily with our partners in Iraq's military. The importance of a deep appreciation of each other's cultures goes a long way in helping us achieve success.”

## Tanner Takes Command of 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Refueling Wing

Col Richard C. Tanner (OSC 07, Osaka) assumed command of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Refueling Wing on June 21, 2019 at McConnell AFB, Kansas. The wing conducts refueling and airlift operations worldwide in support of national objectives.



Col Richard Tanner receives the guidon from Maj Gen Sam Barrett, the 18th Air Force Commander. Photo courtesy of Senior Airman Alan Ricker.

## Changes of Command



Olmsted Scholars Lt Col Geoffrey Steeves (OSC 12, Florianopolis) and Lt Col Mike Polidor (OSC 16, Kaohsiung) are pictured with Col Justin Grieve, the 509th Operations Group Commander.

### Polidor Assumes Command of the 13th Bomb Squadron, 509th Bomb Wing from Steeves

Lt Col Mike Polidor (OSC 16, Kaohsiung) is “extremely humbled and honored to have the opportunity to lead the men and women of the 13th Bomb Squadron” after assuming command from another Olmsted Scholar, Lt Col Geoffrey Steeves (OSC 12, Florianopolis) on May 31, 2019. Lt Col Polidor went on to comment that “I am confident that the experiences that I gained during the Olmsted Scholar Program will allow me to lead with a more global perspective and better posture my squadron for success in the future. Geoff took the “Devil’s Own Grim Reapers: to new heights over the last two years and I can only hope I am able to follow in his footsteps.” Lt Col Steeves leaves command feeling that “In addition to being an Olmsted Scholar, having the opportunity to command one of two B-2 flying squadrons has been the highlight of my career. I feel fortunate to have passed the guidon to fellow Olmsted Scholar Mike Polidor. He’ll crush it.”

### Gerbracht Takes Command of the 8<sup>th</sup> Engineer Support Battalion



Lt Col Rob Gerbracht is welcomed as the commander of the 8th Engineer Support Battalion. Photo courtesy of US Marine Corps by Gunnery Sgt. Jason W. Fudge.

LtCol Robert Gerbracht (OSC 09, Kyoto) took command of the 8<sup>th</sup> Engineer Support Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Logistics Group on June 19, 2019 at Camp Lejeune, NC.

### Murphy Completes Command of USS Bainbridge



CDR Pat Murphy (OSC 11, Munich) at his change of command ceremony underway in the Ionian Sea.

CDR Patrick Murphy (OSC 11, Munich) recently completed command of the guided missile destroyer USS Bainbridge DDG-96. Recently selected for promotion to Captain, Murphy was also named the Olmsted Foundation’s new active duty Director for the Navy.

### Polidor Assumes Command of Detachment 5, 29<sup>th</sup> TSS

Lt Col Nicola Polidor (OSC 16, Kaohsiung) stated that she “is thankful for the opportunity and looks forward to using her Olmsted experiences to positively impact our B-2 community” as she took command of the 29<sup>th</sup> Training Systems Squadron Detachment 5 at Whiteman AFB, Mo, on June 17, 2019.



Lt Col Nicola Polidor receives the guidon from Lt Col Ian Cunningham. Photo courtesy of A1C Thomas Johns, USAF.



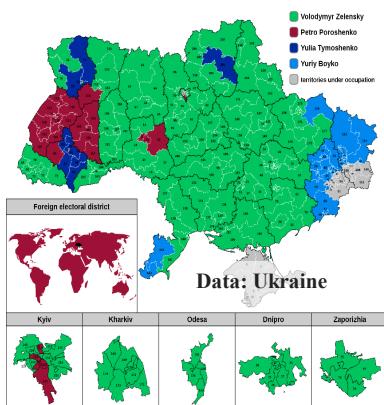
Will Beaurpere (OSC 04, Ifrane), Mark Anderson (OSC 12, Sofia), Ron Hudak (OSC 13, Lyon) and Terry Butcher (OSC 2006, Bangkok) were able to meet up during an engagement in Pyongtaek, South Korea on June 6, 2019.

# Exhausted Resilience: Ukraine's 2019 Presidential Election

by Maj Brad Fisher, USAF (OSC 18, Kyiv)

On March 31, 2019 Ukrainians gathered for their first presidential election since Russia's invasion in 2014. Five years ago, president Viktor Yanukovych was ousted following the "Revolution of Dignity." Ukrainians protested his decision to forego signing an association agreement with the European Union, preferring a more lucrative Russian agreement. Within six months, over 100 Ukrainians lay dead and Yanukovych fled to Russia thanks to President Putin. Additionally, the EU association agreement was signed, Russia annexed Crimea, its advisors incited a fifth-column uprising in the east, and Petro Poroshenko was elected president. Since then, over 13,000 have been killed in what has been described as WWI-style trench-warfare.

The Ukrainian people made their voices heard in 2014, and March 31<sup>st</sup> was their first chance to do so again. 39 candidates appeared on the ballot, however, only three consistently led the polls; incumbent president Poroshenko (16%), "old guard" politician Julia Tymoshenko (13%), and political enigma Volodymyr Zelensky (30%). With no discerning majority, Poroshenko and Zelensky move forward to the run-off vote on April 21st. By the time this article is published, the world will have a new Ukrainian president. For now, however, we will take a brief look into these candidates and how Ukrainians feel about their situation.



President Poroshenko has a history of service in the Ukrainian Parliament, National Security Council, and the Ministries of Trade and Foreign Affairs. He is known as the "Candy King" for his ownership of the Roshen Cooperation. He wasted no time laying out his priorities after taking office in 2014. "The start of the presidency should be focused on ending the war, ending chaos, ending lawlessness, and bringing peace to the Ukrainian land." He stressed the importance of returning Crimea to Ukraine and has remained committed to a zero-tolerance policy on pro-Russian separatists. Poroshenko has made significant efforts to re-align Ukraine with NATO, the EU, and western institutions. Many, however, look back and feel underwhelmed by Ukraine's progress and anti-corruption efforts. This frustration drove Poroshenko's unlikely competitor onto center stage of Ukrainian politics.



AFP Photo/Kayhan OZER, Sergei SUPINSKY

"No one [politicians] cares at all...if I could have just one week in office, if at all possible, I would show them!" These words launched Volodymyr Zelensky into the presidential contest. Well, at least on television. Zelensky, an entertainer and star of the show "Servant of the People." played a modest history teacher in Ukraine who delivers a fictional expletive-laden political rant that was captured on a student's cell phone and went viral, resulting in his presidential victory. Now, in an ironic twist of fate, the real life Zelensky is squaring-off with incumbent Poroshenko after a 14-point lead in the first round. Many

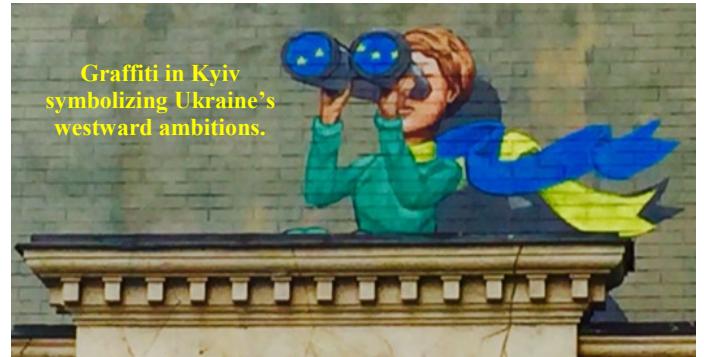
Ukrainians view him as a refreshing alternative to the "old guard" political operatives and oligarchs. Others have questioned his fitness for office considering his lack of political experience. It is argued that the two main ways to repair a state are revolution and reform. With revolution out of the question for a president, reform is the only solution. This requires a lifetime of experience in a bureaucracy, its corruption, and key players. Further skepticism comes from accusations that Zelensky's benefactor is one of the most powerful Ukrainian billionaire oligarchs, Ihor Kolomoisky, and therefore his platform and policies could be compromised. When asked whether Kolomoisky is "pro-West" or "pro-Russia," most agree (including the FBI) that he is simply "Pro-Kolomoisky."

The final "candidate" to consider is Russia, which continues its efforts to return Ukraine to its sphere of influence with \$350 million dedicated to election interference in 2019. Cyber attacks have left Ukrainians without utility services and a constant stream of disinformation has left media outlets discredited to the point of irrelevance. Furthermore, Russia's successful post-truth social media campaigns incite division amongst Ukrainians (and Americans). Even as social media outlets increase their hunt for disinformation, Russia continues its effort to legitimize its control over narratives by offering to pay Ukrainians for their social media passwords. In response to

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interference efforts, the Central Election Commission has committed to utilizing [paper ballots](#) to further safeguard the election. Yehor Bozhok, chief of Ukrainian foreign intelligence, [highlights](#) Russia's efforts by noting that it is more about sewing uncertainty than supporting a candidate. "The end result [for Russia] is anyone but Poroshenko. Why? Not only because there are questions about the loyalty of other politicians. The fact is that any reset of power paralyzes the state machine for at least three months." While this gentleman may be biased towards his leadership, his observation about paralysis is astute. When asked how they feel about their situation, the average Ukrainian uses synonyms for the same word; [tired](#). "We are exhausted," "overwhelmed," "tired of it all." Despite this, they appear resilient and [westward](#) leaning. "There's the myth of a hopelessly divided nation with one half perpetually striving toward Moscow," [Says](#) Jim Kovpak of the Kyiv Post. "I assure you that virtually everyone in Ukraine, regardless of language, would prefer peace with Russia. What they don't want, is 'peace' that surrenders their sovereignty and independence."

The literal translation of "Ukraine" is "Borderlands," and it indicates the territory's role as a historic east-west buffer. This title rings true now more than ever as Ukrainians brace under the pressure of competing geopolitical ideologies. Despite unwavering western support, all it takes is a simple political decision to re-align Ukraine in any number of directions. Both Ukraine and the international community hold its collective breath in anticipation of the runoff vote. Poroshenko and Kolomosky express strong but varying degrees of western support, which is [comforting](#) to many, but if the world has learned anything from 21<sup>st</sup> century geopolitical conflict so far; it is that nothing is as it seems and only time will tell.



## Scholar Leads During Inaugural YCAPS Sailing Voyage

In the Spring of 2019, CPT Richi Pazdzierski (OSC 18, Osaka) helped organize the Young Mariners Program and its first-ever leadership sailing voyage. The goal of the program is to provide an immersive and challenging experience for a young cadre of next generation US and Japanese leaders. As a facilitator and translator, CPT Pazdzierski utilized the tall ship environment to foster leadership and communication skills for students while broadening their understanding of the US-Japan bilateral relationship. During the 5-day voyage through Japan's Seto Sea, students completed sail training activities as part of 6-person watch teams, the leadership of which rotated among participants. During non-watch times, CPT Pazdzierski organized student development activities and led discussions on leadership, multi-national operations, and national security in the Indo-Pacific region. By the conclusion of the voyage, the students were able to successfully sail the tall ship without facilitator or professional crew assistance. The experiential voyage developed and rewarded the core values of hard work, respect, and service through an evolutionary process.



John Bradford, (OSC 02, Singapore) introduced CPT Pazdzierski to YCAPS (Yokosuka Council on Asia-Pacific Studies) to promote dialogue and expand the network of educational opportunities throughout Japan. The members of YCAPS are at various stages of their professional careers, ranging from high school students to retired admirals and ambassadors. As an Army officer, CPT Pazdzierski offered fellow sailors his own perspectives on leadership while simultaneously gaining a tremendous amount of knowledge and appreciation for naval operations and the sea.

## Scholars in the News

Brig Gen Dagvin Anderson, USAF (OSC 00, Brno) in the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service “Special Operations Command – Africa receives new commander” <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/329878/special-operations-command-africa-receives-new-commander>

Lt Col Elia Hickie, USAF and Lt Col Mark Hickie, USAF (OSC 13 , Rio de Janeiro) in the Wichita Falls Times Record News “To love and serve: Married Couple squadron commanders first for Sheppard’s 80<sup>th</sup> FTW” <https://www.timesrecordnews.com/story/news/local/2019/04/24/married-couple-squadron-commanders-first-sheppard-air-force-base/3550230002/>

Col John C. McKay, USMC, Ret. (OSC 73, Madrid) in the Break It Down Show podcast Episode 1 (April 26, 2019) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71e2Jzh-qi0&feature=youtu.be> and Episode 2 (June 14, 2019) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92b-TSSalFQ&feature=youtu.be>

Vice Admiral Phil Wisecup, USN, Ret. (OSC 81, Strasbourg) in KX News “Retired Three-Star Commissioned Naval Officer Ends up in North Dakota after 36 Years of Service” <https://www.kxnet.com/news/local-news/retired-three-star-commissioned-naval-officer-ends-up-in-north-dakota-after-36-years-of-service/>



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