

# ADM Eric Olson, USN, (Ret.)

## USNAPT Loft Visit & Brigade Parade Review

### 7OCT22

A **true** patriot. An early USNA skydiver. He holds a place of distinguished eminence on the USNAPT loft Honor Wall, and also the alumni wall. ADM Olson made skydives at Pelicanland, a Ridgely, MD DZ, in the early '70's, as a Midshipman.

#### [The Admiral's Biography:](#)

I'm not sure what moves most observers as the realm of esteem, but in my case, the proximity or revelation of patriotism, heroism, and stellar accomplishment does it every time. Perusing the above bio, and with a personal historical awareness of ADM Olson, places him in the pantheon of residents of that assemblage.



ADM Eric Olson, USN, (Ret.), LtGen Jack Klimp, USMC, (Ret.), VADM Bob Harward, USN, (Ret.), VADM Sean Buck, USN, and RDML Robb Chadwick, USN, compose a list of USNAPT flag officer supporters whose involvement in TEAM evolution span the USNA history of skydiving from the late '60's to the present. Their charisma, competence, and awareness of the utility of the parachute in military activities, and development of the desired Naval and Marine leadership personality, has enabled the TEAM to create a measured and deserved identity on behalf of the Brigade of Midshipmen of the U.S. Naval Academy, and the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.

A long awaited event transpired recently when Eric Olson, with his lovely wife, Marilyn, visited the USNAPT loft, within which, not coincidentally, hang three photographs of him. One, occupying the highest level on the Honor Wall, depicts him at the end of his military career. Another, shows him as a 2/C Midshipman, in 1972, geared up for a sport jump at Pelicanland DZ, Ridgely, MD. A third, on the Alumni Wall specifies his financial contribution to team activities. Along with Jack Klimp, he truly spans the history of USNA skydiving.

ADM Olson spent an hour in the company of CAPT Donnie Kennedy, USN, (Ret.), the TEAM's O'Rep., along with Jeff Webb, '95, President and CEO of the Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation, who arranged the gathering, plus Gibson 'Gib' Armstrong, '91, a former Marine who directs business development for corporations, and assists in fundraising for the USNAPT. Midshipmen on hand to conduct the facility tour were 2/C Eric Lim and Aron Sobers. [ADM Olson in loft](#)

Following the loft visit, ADM Olson was present at Worden Field for the brigade parade review by VADM Buck, Academy Superintendent, and Col. J. P. McDonough, Commandant of Midshipmen. The brigade passed in review for these gentlemen and their honored visitors, including the Admiral. The USNAPT was proud to kickoff the parade with their aerial entry by freefall and parachute, demonstrating their classic 'stack' and landing before the reviewers; adding a gala element to the event, summoning a festive mood before the brigade march appearance.

[See video of ADM Olson on Worden](#)

The next major event of the USNAPT will be at the USPA National Collegiate Championships, held in Eloy, AZ over the New Year's holiday. We are sending 22 competitors for the event, and adding 12 of the plebes for conduct of their AFF program, whereby they begin their training in actual skydiving.

It's difficult to field this large a contingent, due to the lack of any formal subsidy by the academy or the U. S. Navy. Midshipmen must conjure up their own financing. To assist, we entreat all supporters and potential supporters to contribute to our GoFundMe effort. Our goal is \$13,000, of which \$11,345 has been achieved (as of 15NOV22). A patriotic surge occurred recently; likely due to Veteran's Day.

No active duty personnel participate in this fundraising effort. It's propelled strictly by retirees and volunteers.

Perhaps you can elicit a Thanksgiving, or a Christmas spirit to help, and encourage TEAM preparation for struggle in the competitive arena against the other universities, as well as in the USNA mission to prepare our young men and women for military leadership, in service to our country. Your assistance is received with a heartfelt **'Thank you!'**.

<https://gofund.me/851e8d3d>



*Parade Demo Ground Crew Poses with the Admiral : l to r; 2/C Nick Froude, Gavin Kim, Jackee Gwynn, 3/C Mary Root, 2/C Aron Sobers, 3/C Chris Kehr, 1/C Meg Welch, Matt Newton, 2/C Eric Lim, ADM Eric T. Olson, USN, (Ret.)*