

# History of MCAF

Aviation first arrived at Quantico in July 1918, when two kite balloons were flown to spot artillery fire. These forerunners of today's spotter aircraft were soon augmented with the assignment of four seaplanes, which operated from the muddy junction of Chopawamsic Creek and the Potomac River.

In 1919, a flying field was laid out and the land leased to accommodate a squadron returning from World War I combat in Europe. The facility was later named Brown Field, in memory of 2ndLt Walter V. Brown, who lost his life in an early accident at that location. The present site was selected in 1931, when larger and faster planes brought recognition of the limitations and hazards of Brown Field with its single, crosswind runway, bound by trees, hills, swamp, a high tension line and a railroad.

A new airfield was constructed by changing the course and flow of Chopawamsic Creek and reclamation of the marshland from that area. The new facility was named Turner Field after Colonel Thomas C. Turner, a veteran Marine aviator, who lost his life in Haiti in 1931.

By 1939, four squadrons – 68 bombers, scout bombers, fighters, transports, utility and observation planes were based here. On 1 December 1941, the field was named Marine Corps Air Station, Quantico, and placed under operational control of the Commanding General, Marine Barracks.

In 1947, Marine Helicopter Squadron One was established at Quantico to pioneer an entirely new concept in air operation; to evaluate and test, in coordination with the Landing Force Development Center, the theory of carrying troops to the battle zone by helicopter.

By the close of the Korean conflict, helicopters had gained permanent acceptance by the military for tactical and logistical support operations.

Effective 15 November 1976, MCAS Quantico was re-designated as Marine Corps Air Facility (MCAF), Quantico, Virginia. MCAF Quantico is currently the home of Headquarters Squadron (HqSqdn), and Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1). HMX-1, in addition to its tactical development mission, flies the President of the United States and provides helicopter support for the Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

On 20 October 1992, MCAF Quantico was reorganized under the Commander, Marine Corps Air Bases, Eastern Area, headquartered at Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina.

## Total Workforce for FY04

	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Civilian</u>	<u>Total</u>
MCAF	11	161	13	187
HMX-1	92	689	17	798
Family Members	<u>151</u>	<u>1,201</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>1,393</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>2,051</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>2,378</b>

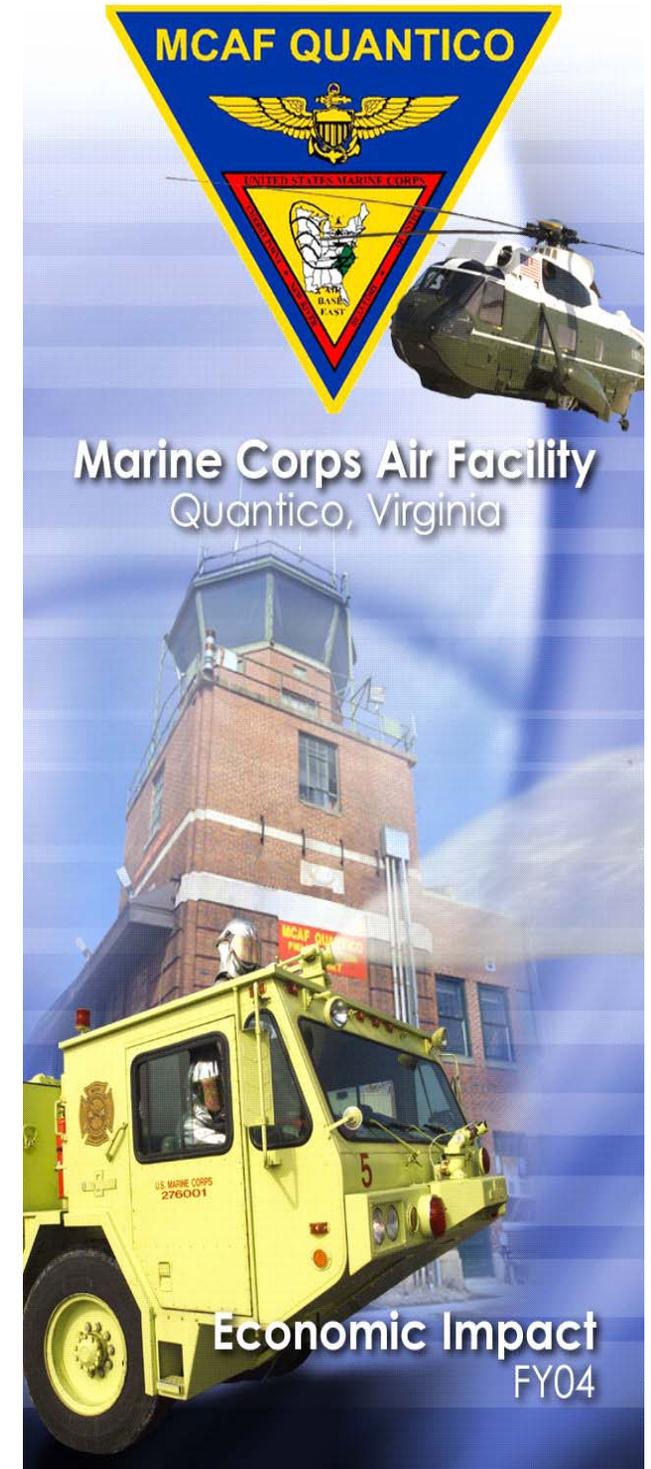
## FY04 ECONOMIC IMPACT SUMMARY

<b>SALARIES</b>	
<b>MILITARY</b>	<b>\$49,823,995</b>
<b>CIVILIAN</b>	<b>\$1,474,620</b>
<b>PROCUREMENT</b>	<b>\$2,260,029</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>	<b>\$5,181,699</b>
<b>UTILITIES</b>	<b>\$653,466</b>
<b>EDUCATION/TRNG/TRVL</b>	<b>\$121,483</b>
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$8,817</b>
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	<b>\$59,524,059</b>



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**Message from the  
Commanding Officer**



The Air Facility at Quantico exists primarily to support our sole tenant, Marine Helicopter Squadron One or, HMX-1 and their Presidential support mission. Additionally, the Air Facility provides services and support for the aviation requirements of Marine Corps Combat Development Command. The Marines, Sailors, and civilian Marines of MCAF also provide services and support to Marine Corps and Navy operating forces, the Warfighting Laboratory, Marine Corps Systems Command, the Coast Guard, and the Department of Justice. In addition to being a landlord and serving our customer base, we are also a tenant of Marine Corps Base Quantico and, as such, have an integral role in the local military community and by extension to the Northern Virginia community at large.

The financial information provided within this economic impact report clearly reflects a substantial contribution to the local economy from Marine Corps Air Bases East (MCABE) personnel attached to the Air Facility. Salaries in excess of \$48 million and contracts greater than \$7 million in value are sizeable indicators of the significance of MCABE inputs. The on-site sponsorship of annual events, such as, the Modern Day Marine Exposition, the Force Protection Equipment Demonstration, and the Congressional Marine Day not only adds unspecified financial resources to the area, but also brings in thousands of visitors, providing a unique insight to the Marine Corps. In addition to an overall economic impact that approaching \$60,000,000, this Air Facility takes great pride in the role we play as volunteers, coaches, teachers, laymen, donors, and law-abiding tax-paying members of the local community.

*R E Clay*  
R. E. Clay

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer

**Contributions**

Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society  
\$4,691

Combined Federal Campaign  
\$4,126



Home of Marine Helicopter Squadron One

**Annual Events Conducted at MCAF**

Modern Day Marine Exposition  
8,000 visitors  
Force Protection Equipment Demonstration  
11,000 visitors  
Congressional Marine Day  
400 Congressional Staff and visitors



Primary Complex  
230 acres

Square Footage of  
Building Space  
350,255 sq ft

Current Value of  
Facilities and Equipment  
\$45,546,916

One Active Runway  
4,236 linear ft

**Top Four Contractors Utilized by  
Marine Corps Air Facility  
During FY02**

Desbuild	Baltimore, MD	\$1,749,000
C&C Cont.	Norfolk, VA	\$845,349
Benico	Sandy, UT	\$575,706
Turner Corp	Fairfax, VA	\$120,005