



### **MajGen Drax Williams, USMC (Ret)**

Born in Geneva, NY. Raised in Bermuda where father edited *The Bermudian* magazine. Graduated Kent School, Kent, CT and Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Commissioned 1963, attended Basic School at Quantico, VA and proceeded to Pensacola, FL for flight training.

Received wings 1965, was stationed in Hawaii for two years flying the F-8 Crusader with VMF(AW)-212. Promoted Captain. Transferred to Vietnam 1968 and flew F-8s with VMF(AW)-235 out of Danang. Later served as Air Liaison Officer with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marines on the DMZ.

Upon completion of first combat tour served two years as advanced flight instructor with VT-25, Beeville, TX. Returned to Quantico 1970, attended Amphibious Warfare School and was assigned temporary duty as Special Project Officer (Harrier) Liaison to U.S. Government Accounting Office before transferring to Yuma, AZ and serving as flight instructor with VMT-103 flying the A-4 Skyhawk. Second combat tour 1972 flying A-4s as Safety Officer with MAG-12 then as Operations Officer with VMA-211 out of Bien Hoa, RVN. After more than 300 combat missions went back to the world serving as Operations Officer, VMA-231 flying the AV-8 Harrier out of Cherry Point, NC. Promoted Major.

In 1975 assigned as Officer in Charge, VMA-513 Det A. Mission: demonstrate capabilities of the Harrier at air shows around the U.S. In 1977 assigned as Head, Aviation Section, Supporting Arms Branch, Landing Force Training Command (Atlantic), Little Creek, VA then student Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA. Promoted Lieutenant Colonel. Assigned Operations Officer, MAG-32 in 1980 then Commanding Officer VMA-542 with 20 Harriers out of Cherry Point, NC.

Attended NATO Defense College, Rome, Italy in 1982 then transferred to London, England as Chief of Plans, Headquarters Fleet Marine Forces (Europe). Promoted Colonel and 1985 assigned as Commanding Officer MAG-12, Iwakuni, Japan. Flew A-4 Skyhawk, A-6 Intruder, A-7 Corsair. 1987 became Deputy Commander, Naval Space Command, Dahlgren, VA. Promoted Brigadier General.

1989 assigned as Legislative Assistant to Commandant of the Marine Corps, Headquarters, Washington, DC. 1991 transferred to become Commander, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area to include El Toro (jets), Tustin (helos), Camp Pendleton (helos) and Yuma, AZ (jets). Promoted Major General. Served in this capacity for four years

closing El Toro and Tustin until appointed 1995 as Inspector General, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, DC.

Retired 1997, wife Mary said 29 moves in 35 years was enough, decided to smell the roses, bought a 40-foot ocean going sailboat and spend our time sailing from Canada to Trinidad and the Caribbean.