

MCIEAST-MCB Camp Lejeune Relinquishment of Command Ceremony



*24 May 2024
W. P. T. Hill Field*

Sequence of Events



Invocation

March on of Colors

National Anthem

Honors

Relinquishment of Command

Remarks

Retiring of the Colors

Anchors Aweigh

Marines' Hymn

Ceremony Participants



Group Color Guard

Cpl Allan Alfaro

Cpl Ronald Mitchell

LCpl Blaise Ramirez

LCpl Bernard Dankyi

Chaplain

CAPT William Riley

Narrator

GySgt Suzanne Starnowski





Brigadier General Adolfo Garcia Jr. United States Marine Corps



Brigadier General Garcia is a native of Texas. He is a Distinguished Naval Graduate from Texas A&M University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps program in December 1993. He graduated The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia in 1994. Following his initial training as an Artillery Officer, he has held a variety of billets in and out of the operating forces, including assignments at Headquarters Marine Corps and the Joint Staff.

Brigadier General Garcia's command billets include: Platoon Commander, 1st Battalion 11th Marines and Battery Commander in 1st Battalion 12th Marines. As a Lieutenant Colonel, he commanded 1st Battalion, 11th Marines and deployed them to Afghanistan in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. The battalion was a composite artillery battalion comprised of cannons, rockets, and a Target Acquisition Platoon in general support of the 1st Marine Division (FWD) in Helmand Province. His last command tour in the artillery community was as the Commander, 14th Marine Regiment.

Brigadier General Garcia's billets in the operating forces include: Fires and Effects Coordinator, Regimental Combat Team-1 where he deployed to the Al Anbar Province in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM and Division Fire Support Coordinator, deploying to Afghanistan with the 1st Marine Division (FWD) in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. He also served two separate tours at the Command Element, I Marine Expeditionary Force, first serving as the G-3 Fires and Effects Coordinator and later as the Assistant Chief of Staff G-3 Operations.

Brigadier General Garcia's billets outside the operating forces include: Fire Support Instructor, Fire Support and Combined Arms Operations Department, Fort Sill, Oklahoma; two tours at Headquarters Marine Corps, Manpower and Reserve Affairs (M&RA) and at Programs and Resources (P&R). He served on the Joint Staff in the Office of the Chairman as a Principal Deputy Legislative Assistant to the 18th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff working House/Senate Armed Services and Defense Appropriation Committee portfolios. He also served as the Military Secretary to the 38th Commandant of the Marine Corps and later as the Director, Marine Corps House of Representative Liaison Office.

He graduated with honors from Field Artillery Officer Basic Course and Amphibious Warfare School. He served as a Commandant of the Marine Corps National Fellow with Exxon Mobil Corporation and is a graduate of the National War College, Washington DC.

He holds a M.S. degree in Systems Analysis from the Naval Post Graduate School and a M.S. degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College.



Colonel

Ralph J. Rizzo, Jr.

United States Marine Corps



Colonel Rizzo was born in Charlestown, Massachusetts, and graduated from Western New England College in 1989 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Criminal Justice. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and graduated from MCRD Parris Island, South Carolina, in 1990 and reported to the School of Infantry where he attained the MOS of 0341 Mortarman.

Colonel Rizzo received orders to Marine Barracks Ground Defense Force, Subic Bay, Philippines where he participated in Operation Fiery Vigil in June 1991. Upon deactivation of Marine Barracks, Subic Bay, he received orders to 1st Marine Division, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines as an 81mm Mortar Platoon Section Leader in 1992. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 1993 and reenlisted in June of 1994. In August 1994 he was accepted for the Enlisted Commissioning Program and reported to OCS where he graduated TBS in the top 10% and reported to Infantry Officers School receiving the MOS of 0302. He served in 1/3 where he held the billets of Infantry Platoon Commander, 81mm Mortar Platoon Commander, Weapons Company Executive Officer, and Weapons Company Commanding Officer through November 1998.

Colonel Rizzo accepted augmentation in November 1998 and reported to Logistics Officer School at Camp Johnson, North Carolina, where he was promoted to Captain in January 1999. He reported for duty as the Camp Johnson Area/Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools S-4 Officer from March 1999 through March 2002. He later received orders to 2nd Maintenance Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group and assumed duty as Company Commander for Forward Maintenance Company Bravo in July 2002 where he deployed his company to Southwest Asia in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM in 2003. He then deployed as an individual augmentee to Afghanistan assigned as the Battle Major/Senior Watch Officer for CJTF-76 in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM-1 where he was promoted to Major in October 2004. He was selected to command Recruiting Station Detroit, Michigan where he completed a three-year tour in July 2009.

In August 2009, he attended the U.S. Naval War College graduating in the top 10% receiving a master's degree and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in October 2010 and took command of Combat Logistics Battalion-6. Upon returning with CLB-6 from Afghanistan (OEF 11.2) he was selected to attend the Marine Corps War College in July 2012. In August 2013, he reported to the Joint Fires Division, J6, CJCS, where he completed a three-year tour. In June 2016, he was assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps, Plans Policies & Operations, as the Global Force Management Future Operations Officer. In June 2017, he deployed as the CJ4, CJTF-Horn of Africa and was promoted to his current rank in August 2017, before returning from deployment in May 2018. After serving as the commanding officer of Marine Corps Detachment Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, from June 2018 to July 2020, he assumed duties as AC/S G4, III Marine Expeditionary Force in July 2020. He was assigned as the III MEF Chief of Staff from June 2021 to July 2023. He assumed his present duties as the MCIEAST-MCB Camp Lejeune Deputy Commander in August 2023.

The Marine's Prayer



Almighty Father whose command is overall and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones, and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family. Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Make me considerate of those committed to my leadership. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold. If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give the courage to try again. Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answers to my prayer.

Amen

Marines' Hymn



*From the Halls of Montezuma
To the shores of Tripoli,
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land and sea.
First to fight for right and freedom,
And to keep our honor clean,
We are proud to claim the title of
United States Marine.*

*Our flag's unfurled to every breeze
From dawn to setting sun;
We have fought in every clime and place
Where we could take a gun.
In the snow of far-off northern lands
And in sunny tropic scenes,
You will find us always on the job
The United States Marines.*

*Here's health to you and to our Corps
Which we are proud to serve;
In many a strife we've fought for life
And never lost our nerve.
If the Army and the Navy
Ever look on Heaven's scenes,
They will find the streets are guarded by
United States Marines.*





Honor – Courage – Commitment

Semper Fidelis