

MCIEAST-MCB CAMP LEJEUNE



1775 - 2025



10 NOVEMBER 2025



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

1800-1850
Cocktail Hour

1900-1930
Ceremony

Invocation
Commandant's Message
Entrance of the Official Party
National Anthem
Entrance of the Cake
Gen Lejeune's Message
Cake Cutting
March off
GOH Remarks

1930-2300
Dinner & Dancing



CEREMONY PARTICIPANTS

Adjutant

Captain Charles Sapienza

Narrator

WO Dane Mirt

Chaplain

Captain William Riley

Color Guard

Sgt Semaj Chaney
LCpl Nathaniel Cotton

Cpl Mazani Coleman
Cpl Jean Chouloute

Ceremonial Escorts

Captain Issac Branson
CWO3 Robert Stone
MSgt Sean Bazar
SSgt Rheanna Brackens

1stLt Michael Sevarino
CWO2 Andrew Koppers
GySgt Marcas Williams
Sgt Benjamin Pederson

Cake Escorts

Sgt Blake Keller
Cpl Aurora Agorni

Sgt Kevin Mejia
Cpl Devaraja Renshaw

Oldest Marine & Youngest Marines

Col Gregory B. Pace
Deputy Commander
Marine Corps Installation East-
Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune

PFC Tyliyah McGee
Marine Corps Installations East-
Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune
Regional Personnel Administration Center





Brigadier General Ralph J. Rizzo, Jr.
*Commanding General,
Marine Corps Installations East-
Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune*

Brigadier General Rizzo was born in Charlestown, Massachusetts. He graduated from Western New England College in 1989 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a minor in Criminal Justice.

After working in local law enforcement, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, and graduated from MCRD Parris Island in 1990. After completing Recruit Training, he reported to the School of Infantry where he attained the MOS of 0341 Mortarman.

In January 1991 he received orders to MarBks Ground Defense Force, Subic Bay, Philippines where he participated in Operation Fiery Vigil in June 1991. Upon the deactivation of MarBks, Subic Bay he received orders to 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, 1st Marine Division as an 81 MM Mortar Platoon Section Leader and promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

In August 1994 he was accepted for the Enlisted Commissioning Program and attended Officer Candidate School, The Basic School (with Honors), and Infantry Officer Course, obtaining the MOS 0302. Brigadier General Rizzo accepted augmentation in November 1998 in conjunction with the supplementary MOS program and reported to Logistics Officer School where he received the MOS of 0402.

Brigadier General Rizzo's operational assignments include: Platoon Commander, 81MM Mortar Platoon Commander, and Executive Officer, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines; Weapons Company Commander, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines; Company Commander, 2nd Maintenance Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group (Operation IRAQI FREEDOM); Battle Major/Senior Watch Officer, CJTF-76 (Operation ENDURING FREEDOM); Commanding Officer, Combat Logistics Battalion-6 (Operation ENDURING FREEDOM); and CJ4, CJTF-HOA.

His staff and joint assignments include: S-4 Officer, Camp Johnson Area/MCCSSS; Recruit Station Commanding Officer, Recruiting Station Detroit, MI; Program Analyst, Joint Fires Div., J6, CJCS; Global Force Management Future Operations Officer, Current and Future Operations Branch, PP&O; Commanding Officer, MARCOR Det. Fort Leonard Wood, MO; AC/S G4, III MEF; Chief of Staff, III MEF; Deputy Commander, Marine Corps Installations East-Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC; and Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations East-Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC.

Brigadier General Rizzo is a graduate of The Basic School (with Honors), Infantry Officers Course, Logistics Officers Course, U.S. Naval War College (with Honors), Marine Corps War College, and High Command and Staff Course at the United Kingdom Defence Academy.

Brigadier General Rizzo assumed the duties of commander, MCIEAST-MCB Camp Lejeune, in May 2024. Following U.S. Senate approval, he was promoted to his current rank of Brigadier General on Jan. 13, 2025, making him the tenth commanding general of MCIEAST-MCB Camp Lejeune.



**Retired Senior Enlisted Advisor to
the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Troy E. Black**

*5th Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the
Joint Chiefs of Staff*



Retired SEAC Black served as the 5th Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from Nov. 3rd, 2023 to June 20, 2025. He also served as the 19th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. A native of Louisville, Kentucky, he attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., in April of 1988 and attended the School of Infantry and Marine Corps Security Force School.

Throughout his career, SEAC Black has been assigned numerous duties to include: 0331 Machine Gunner, Machine Gun Squad and Section Leader; Weapons Platoon Sergeant and Weapons Platoon Commander; Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor, Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team Company (FAST) Platoon Sergeant and Operations Chief, Series Gunnery Sergeant, DI School Instructor, and RTR Drill Master; First Sergeant, G Company 2d Bn, 1st Marines, E Company 3d Amphibious Assault Battalion, Officer Candidates School; Sergeant Major, 3d Bn, 7th Marines, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, 1st Marine Logistics Group, and Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

He has deployed aboard the USS Forrester (CV-59) in support of Operation Just Cause and to the Mediterranean in 1989 ; deployed in support of Operation Sea Soldier, Desert Storm/Desert Shield, and Sea Angel with 3rd Bn, 5th Marines in 1990, and to Okinawa in 1992; deployed with FAST Company in support of 5th and 6th Fleet operations to Bahrain, Italy, Pearl Harbor, and Bangor Washington; deployed to Iraq with 2d Bn, 1st Marines in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II (OIF) in 2004; deployed with 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) during Operation Bright Star and to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom IV (OIF) in 2005; to Afghanistan with 3d Bn, 7th Marines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2010; deployed with Combat Logistics Battalion 5 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2012; and deployed in support of WESTPAC 14.2 and Operation Inherent Resolve with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit in 2014.

SEAC Black's personal awards include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit w/ 2 Gold Star's, Bronze Star w/ Combat Distinguishing Device, Meritorious Service Medal w/ 2 Gold Stars, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal w/ Combat Distinguishing Device and 3 Gold Stars, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal w/ Gold Star and the Combat Action Ribbon with 2 Gold Stars.

SEAC Black has a Bachelor of Science in Terrorism and Counterterrorism Studies from National American University and graduated from the Joint Special Operations Forces Senior Enlisted Academy December of 2011.



GENERAL LEJEUNE'S BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

On November 10, 1775, a Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of the Continental Congress. Since that date many thousand men have borne the name Marine. In memory of them it is fitting that we who are Marines should commemorate the birthday of our Corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history.

The record of our Corps is one, which will bear comparison with that of the most famous military organizations in the world's history. During 90 of the 167 years of its existence the Marine Corps has been in action against the Nation's foes. From the battle of Trenton to the Argonne, Marines have won foremost honors in war, and in the long eras of tranquility at home generation after generation of Marines have grown gray in war in both hemispheres, and in every corner of the seven seas, that our country and its citizens might enjoy peace and security.

In every battle and skirmish since the birth of our Corps Marines have acquitted themselves with the greatest distinction, winning new honors on each occasion until the term "Marine" has come to signify all that is highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue.

This high name of distinction and soldierly repute we who are Marines today have received from those who preceded us in the corps. With it we also received from them the eternal spirit which has animated our Corps from generation to generation and has been the distinguishing mark of Marines in every age. So long as that spirit continues to flourish Marines will be found equal to every emergency in the future as they have been in the past, and the men of our Nation will regard us as worthy successors to the long line of illustrious men who have served as "Soldiers of the Sea" since the founding of the Corps.

JOHN A. LEJEUNE
Lieutenant General
U.S. Marine Corps





COMMANDANT'S BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

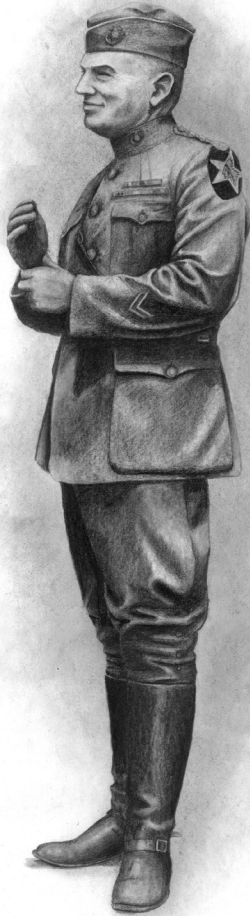
Two hundred and fifty years ago, before our Nation declared its independence, a small group of men gathered in Philadelphia and formed a Corps of Marines. From that moment, our story has been bound to the story of America itself. A quarter of a millennium later, Marines remain at the center of our Nation's defense. Ready to fight, ready to win, and ready to uphold the trust placed in us since 1775.

Across centuries, Marines have fought on distant shores and in desperate battles, earning a reputation for discipline, toughness, and valor. From the Revolution to the World Wars, from Chapultepec to today's operations across the globe, every generation has proven worthy of the title Marine. They secured liberty, defended allies, and carried forward the promise of a free Nation, and a free world. We are the heirs of that legacy, and we are its stewards.

This anniversary reminds us that our standards are the foundation of our Corps. Honor, Courage, and Commitment are not abstractions, but the code that binds us to one another and to all who went before. Every Marine, in every clime and place, must hold true to these values. The conflicts ahead will demand nothing less.

I could not be prouder of the Marines I see serving today. At home, at sea, and across the globe, you carry forward our proud traditions with skill and ferocity. It is your discipline, initiative, and fighting spirit that anchor our Corps. The battles of the next 250 years will challenge us in new ways, but I have no doubt we will prevail. Happy Birthday Marines!

Semper Fidelis,
ERIC M. SMITH
General, U.S Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps



HONOR - COURAGE - COMMITMENT

Semper Fidelis