



I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
Public Affairs Office
United States Marine Corps
Camp Pendleton, Calif. 92055



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY: No. 13-002
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DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL, I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE SET TO RETIRE

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Major General Melvin G. Spiese, deputy commanding general, I Marine Expeditionary Force is scheduled to retire after 36 years of service during a ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton Friday.

Special guests include leaders from I MEF and the Honorable Robert O. Work, Under Secretary of the Navy, who will present an award and honors to Maj. Gen. Spiese for his long-standing military service.

The ceremony will feature a display of ground and air equipment unique to the Marine Air Ground Task Force, a ceremonial formation of Marines comprised of the I Marine Headquarters Group, 1st Marine Division, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, and 1st Marine Logistics Group and a performance by the 1st Marine Division Band.

Maj. Gen. Spiese has served with I MEF since September 2010 and served as the commanding general of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade until December 2012 before transferring authority to Brig. Gen. John J. Broadmeadow.

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WHEN: **FRIDAY MARCH 1ST, 2013 AT 2:00 P.M.**

WHERE: MARINE CORPS AIR STATION, CAMP PENDLETON, CALIF.

Media must arrive at the Camp Pendleton main gate visitors parking lot **NLT 12:30 p.m. Friday March 1, 2013.**

CONTACT: I MEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE: 760-763-7047,
IMEFPUBLICAFFAIRS@USMC.MIL, or 1stLt Garth Langley at 650-787-5972.

**Ceremony program attached in PDF form*

**High-resolution photograph and biography below*



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Photos/ stories will be available for download in HD at:
<http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/I-MEF>

Social Media: www.facebook.com/1stMarineExpeditionaryBrigade

Ceremony highlights:

Aircraft displays: CH-46 Sea Knight Helicopter, UH-1Y Huey/ Venom Helicopter, AH-1Z "Zulu Cobra" Attack Helicopter, MV-22 Osprey Helicopter, and AV-8B Harrier.

Ground equipment displays: Light Armored Vehicle (LAV), Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacements (MTVR- 7 Ton), Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP), High-Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs), 621B Tractor Scraper, CAT120M Grader, MAC50 Cranes, M777 Howitzer, High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), Expeditionary Fire Support System (EFSS).



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Maj. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese, outgoing commanding general of 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade, addresses Marines during a change-of-command ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Dec. 13. During the ceremony, Spiese passed the unit's colors to Brig. Gen. John J. Broadmeadow, incoming commander of 1st MEB, symbolizing the transfer of responsibility, authority and accountability of command from one officer to another. The 1st MEB, which was reactivated October 2009, is a task-organized crisis response force of I Marine Expeditionary Force trained to respond expeditiously to conduct self-sustained combat and humanitarian operations.

<http://www.dvidshub.net/image/801433/1st-meb-welcomes-new-commander>



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Major General Melvin Spiese, commanding general of 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade, and his wife, Filomena, ride alongside Marines during the 144th Annual Italian Heritage Parade in downtown San Francisco, Oct. 6, 2012. Marines from 1st MEB, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit and Combat Logistics Regiment 1, traveled to San Francisco aboard the USS Makin Island to participate in Fleet Week to showcase disaster relief and humanitarian assistance capabilities.

<http://www.dvidshub.net/image/677962/marines-participate-italian-heritage-parade>



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Major General Melvin G. Spiese **Deputy Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force**

Major General Spiese was commissioned via the NROTC program after receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in May of 1976.

After The Basic School, Major General Spiese was assigned to 3d Battalion, 4th Marines as a Rifle Platoon Commander, Executive Officer and Commanding Officer with Company L, and served on the battalion staff. Upon return to CONUS, Major General Spiese was assigned to Marine Barracks, Naval Weapons Station, Concord, CA. In May of 1981 he was assigned to 3d Battalion, 9th Marines as the Commanding Officer of Company I and Battalion S-4. In May 1983 he was transferred to the NROTC Unit, Illinois Institute of Technology as the Marine Officer Instructor.



Leaving Illinois in June 1986, Major General Spiese was posted to Headquarters Marine Corps, serving as the Head of Regular Officer Procurement. Following his tour at Headquarters, he attended Marine Corps Command and Staff College, graduating in May of 1990. After graduation, Major General Spiese was transferred to Marine Corps Air Station in Iwakuni, Japan and was assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 12 as the Assistant Operations Officer and Ground Combat Liaison.

Major General Spiese was assigned to 6th Marines in July of 1991 as the Executive Officer of 3d Battalion, then Regiment S-3. He assumed command of 2d Force Reconnaissance Company in December 1993. Upon relinquishing command in July 1995, Major General Spiese was reassigned to U.S. Special Operations Command, serving as a Policy Officer dealing with Counter Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Marine Corps matters. Upon his departure from USSOCOM, Major General Spiese attended Top Level School at the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies as a Fellow in the Advanced Operational Arts Studies program. He remained a second year serving as a seminar leader for the Advanced Military Studies Program, a second year program for majors attending the Army Command and General Staff College.

Major General Spiese was assigned to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in June of 1999 as the Director, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group. He assumed command of the School of Infantry (East) in June of 2001, and was assigned as the Director, Expeditionary Warfare School upon relinquishing command in July of 2003. In March of 2005, Major General



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Spiese assumed the duties of Commanding General Training Command, Deputy Commanding General Training and Education Command.

Major General Spiese transferred to U.S. European Command and served as the Deputy Director for Strategy, Policy and Assessments, in October 2005. He assumed Command of Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, CA, in July 2007. He commanded Training and Education Command in Quantico, VA, from May 2008 to August 2010.

His current assignment, as of September 2010, is Deputy Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force, and Commanding General, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

Major General Spiese has been awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, three Legions of Merit, the Joint Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and the Joint Service Achievement Medal. He is a Military Freefall Parachutist and Marine Combatant Diver. Major General Spiese has earned a Masters of Science degree from the University of Southern California, and a Masters of Military Arts and Science degree from the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies.