



Farewell and following seas to a warrior, scholar, and true patriot



Retirement Ceremony



*Major General Melvin G. Spiese
United States Marine Corps*

1 March 2013

Welcome to the Ceremony
at which
Major General Melvin G. Spiese
will retire
after 36 years of
Honorable and Faithful Service
to the
United States Marine Corps





Sequence of Events

AIRCRAFT AND VEHICLE PLACEMENT

PRE-PARADE SERENADE

INVOCATION

SOUND ATTENTION

ADJUTANTS CALL

MARCH ON

SOUND OFF

MANUAL OF ARMS

OFFICERS CENTER

**HONORS TO THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE
NAVY**

NATIONAL ANTHEM

AWARD PRESENTATION

RETIREMENT

HONORS TO MAJOR GENERAL SPIESE

REMARKS

PASS IN REVIEW

ANCHORS AWEIGH AND MARINES HYMN



**TAKE UP THE FLAG AND FURL IT,
PUT YOUR OLD STEEL POT AWAY.
STOW THOSE LEGGINGS IN THE LOCKER,
CAUSE THE BAND'S ABOUT TO PLAY.**

**LOOK IN THE MIRROR AND WONDER
AT THE TIME THAT HAS SLIPPED AWAY,
OF THE MESSMATES AND THE COMRADES
THAT YOU'VE KNOWN ALONG THE WAY.**

**THE BATTALION'S ON THE GRINDER,
AND DID I HEAR THE GUNNY SAY
COME ON, OLD MAN, GET MOVING;
THIS IS YOUR RETIREMENT DAY.**

Marine's 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.*

Marine's Prayer

Almighty Father, whose command is over all 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. 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 me courage to try again.

Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer.

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 as 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, the 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 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 Spiese assumed the duties of Commanding General 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. He was assigned in September 2010, as Deputy Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force, and Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Brigade. Major General Spiese has been awarded three Legions of Merit, the Joint 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.

