

I Marine Expeditionary Force Succession of Command



*Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California
August 18, 2023*





Welcome
to the
I Marine Expeditionary Force
Succession of Command
at which
Lieutenant General George W. Smith Jr.
United States Marine Corps
will relinquish command to
Major General Bradford J. Gering
United States Marine Corps



Sequence of Events

Invocation

Sound Attention

Sound Adjutant's Call

March on the Colors

National Anthem

Post the Colors

Sound Off

Receive the Report

Publish the Orders

Officers Center

Honors To:

General Eric M. Smith

Honors To:

Lieutenant General George W. Smith Jr.

Relinquishment of Command

Honors To:

Major General Bradford J. Gering

Remarks By:

General Eric M. Smith

Lieutenant General George W. Smith Jr.

Major General Bradford J. Gering

Pass In Review

Anchors Aweigh

Marines' Hymn

Ceremony Participants



Commander of Troops

Colonel Brian Rideout

Parade Adjutant

Major Christopher Rork

Commander of Troops (1st MARDIV)

Colonel Brandon Graham

Commander of Troops (3d MAW)

Colonel William Bartolomea

Commander of Troops (1st MLG)

Colonel John Wiener

Commander (I MIG)

Colonel William Osborne

Commander (11th MEU)

Colonel Thomas Siverts

Commander (13th MEU)

Colonel Stuart Glenn

Commander of Troops (15th MEU)

Major Christian Carlson



General
ERIC M. SMITH

General Smith is currently serving as the 36th Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, and raised in Plano, Texas, General Smith graduated from Texas A&M University and was commissioned in 1987. He has commanded at every level, including Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment during Operation Assured Response in Monrovia, Liberia; 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment during Operation Iraqi

Freedom; and 8th Marine Regiment/ Regimental Combat Team 8 during Operation Enduring Freedom. He also served in Caracas, Venezuela as part of the U.S. Military Group.

As a General Officer, he commanded U.S. Marine Corps Forces Southern Command, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

General Smith's staff assignments as a General Officer include serving as the Director of Capability Development Directorate, Combat Development and Integration; Senior Military Assistant to both the Deputy Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Defense; and Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration.



Lieutenant General **GEORGE W. SMITH JR.**

Lieutenant General Smith was commissioned through the NROTC program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May 1985.

A career infantry officer, his assignments in the operating forces include Rifle Platoon Commander and 81mm Mortar Platoon Commander in 2d Battalion, 1st Marines; Logistics Officer and Rifle Company Commander in 1st Battalion, 3d Marines; and Commanding Officer, 1st Force Reconnaissance Company,

during which he deployed twice in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF).

Other assignments include Series and Company Commander, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General; Inspector-Instructor, 4th Force Reconnaissance Company; Future Operations Planner, I Marine Expeditionary Force G-3 and G-5 where he served as the MEF's lead planner for OIF I; and Deputy Operations Officer, 1st Marine Division.

From 2007 to 2010, Lieutenant General Smith served as the Commanding Officer, The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia. He then served consecutively as Military Assistant to the Assistant Commandant and Military Secretary to the 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

As a General Officer, he served as Commanding General, MAGTF Training Command/ Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California; Deputy Commander, Regional Command Southwest in Helmand Province, Afghanistan; Deputy Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Virginia; Director, Manpower Plans and Policy Division, Quantico, Virginia; Director, Strategy, Plans and Policy Directorate, U.S. Central Command, MacDill AFB, Florida; Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense; and as the Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies, and Operations at Headquarters, Marine Corps. He concluded his 38 years of service as the Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force in Camp Pendleton, California.

Lieutenant General Smith graduated with honors from: The Basic School, the U.S. Army Infantry Officers Advanced Course where he was the Distinguished Honor Graduate for Class 2-92, Marine Corps Command and Staff College, the School of Advanced Warfighting where he was the recipient of the General Clifton B. Cates Award, and the Marine Corps War College. He is also a graduate of the Joint Forces Staff College and the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School. He qualified as a Military Freefall Parachutist, Jumpmaster, and Marine Combatant Diver.

He has been privileged to serve in commands that have been awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Unit Commendation, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.



Major General **BRADFORD J. GERING**

Major General Gering assumed the duties of Commanding General, 3D Marine Aircraft Wing on 30 July 2021. A native of Smithtown, New York, he graduated Binghamton University and was commissioned via the Platoon Leaders Class program in May 1989. Following The Basic School, he completed flight training and was designated an AV-8B Harrier Pilot.

Major General Gering's previous assignments as a General Officer include Deputy Director J3, United States Africa Command, Assistant

Deputy Commandant for Aviation, Deputy Commander U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command (MARFORCOM) and Deputy Commanding General Fleet Marine Forces Atlantic (FMFLANT).

Major General Gering's command assignments include Commanding Officer of Marine Attack Squadron 211 and Commanding Officer of Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1.

Major General Gering's operating forces assignments include tours with Marine Attack Squadron 311, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268 (Reinforced) 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161 (Reinforced) 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), Marine Attack Squadron 214, III Marine Expeditionary Force Special Operations Training Group, and Joint Task Force 536. He has participated in Operations SOUTHERN WATCH, IRAQI FREEDOM I, UNIFIED ASSISTANCE, and IRAQI FREEDOM 05-07.

Major General Gering's additional assignments include AV-8B Harrier Instructor with Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1, Aviation Lieutenant Colonel's Monitor and Aviation Assignments Section Head with HQMC Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Global Force Management Plans Officer with the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) and Marine Military Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy.

Major General Gering is a graduate of The Basic School, Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course, Amphibious Warfare School, Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and National War College. He holds a BA in Psychology and History from Binghamton University and MS in National Security Strategy from National Defense University.

Major General Gering's personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Gold Star, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 3 Gold Stars, Air Medal with Combat V and Numeral 8, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Gold Star, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with 3 Gold Stars.

**COMMANDING GENERALS
OF
I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**

MAJGEN W. K. JONES	NOV 69 – 30 MAR 70
MAJGEN L. H. WILSON	30 MAR 70 – 22 MAR 71
MAJGEN L. METZGER	22 MAR 71 – 13 APR 71
MAJGEN C. F. WIDDECKE	13 APR 71 – 30 JUN 71
MAJGEN R. T. DWYER	30 JUN 71 – 10 AUG 72
BGEN F. C. LANG	10 AUG 72 – 24 AUG 72
BGEN A. G. SCHWENK	24 AUG 72 – 19 OCT 72
MAJGEN H. S. HILL	19 OCT 72 – 31 JAN 74
MAJGEN K. J. HOUGHTON	31 JAN 74 – 12 AUG 74
MAJGEN W. R. QUINN	12 AUG 74 – 1 JUN 75
MAJGEN C. D. MIZE	1 JUN 75 – 30 JUL 76
MAJGEN A. W. O'DONNELL	30 JUL 76 – 17 FEB 77
MAJGEN E. R. WILCOX	17 FEB 77 – 5 JUL 77
MAJGEN J. K. DAVIS	5 JUL 77 – 7 AUG 77
MAJGEN C. G. COOPER	7 AUG 77 – 8 AUG 79
MAJGEN F. X. QUINN	8 AUG 79 – 10 AUG 80
MAJGEN K. L. ROBINSON	10 AUG 80 – 31 JUL 81
MAJGEN J. L. DAY	31 JUL 81 – 12 AUG 82
MAJGEN E. C. CHEATHAM	12 AUG 82 – 14 JUN 85
MAJGEN J. I. HUDSON	23 APR 86 – 13 AUG 86
MAJGEN J. J. MCMONAGLE	23 AUG 86 – 18 JUL 88
MAJGEN J. P. MONAHAN	18 JUL 88 – 6 AUG 90
LTGEN W. E. BOOMER	6 AUG 90 – 6 SEP 91
LTGEN R. B. JOHNSTON	6 SEP 91 – 8 JUL 93
LTGEN G. R. CHRISTMAS	8 JUL 93 – 28 JUN 94
LTGEN A. C. ZINNI	28 JUN 94 – 13 SEP 96
LTGEN C. W. FULFORD, JR.	13 SEP 96 – 1 MAY 98
LTGEN B. B. KNUTSON	1 MAY 98 – 6 JUL 00
LTGEN M. W. HAGEE	6 JUL 00 – 15 NOV 02
LTGEN J. T. CONWAY	15 NOV 02 – 11 NOV 04
LTGEN J. F. SATTLER	11 NOV 04 – 14 AUG 06
LTGEN J. N. MATTIS	14 AUG 06 – 4 NOV 07
LTGEN S. T. HELLAND	4 NOV 07 – 4 SEP 09
LTGEN J. F. DUNFORD, JR.	4 SEP 09 – 19 OCT 10
LTGEN T. D. WALDHAUSER	19 OCT 10 – 7 SEP 12
LTGEN J. D. TOOLAN	7 SEP 12 – 11 JUL 14
LTGEN D. H. BERGER	11 JUL 14 – 27 JUL 16
LTGEN L. A. CRAPAROTTA	27 JUL 16 – 30 JUL 18
LTGEN J. L. OSTERMAN	30 JUL 18 – 31 JUL 20
LTGEN K. S. HECKL	31 JUL 20 – 23 SEP 21
LTGEN G. W. SMITH, JR.	23 SEP 21 – 18 AUG 23
MAJGEN B. J. GERING	18 AUG 23 – PRESENT





Origin of the I Marine Expeditionary Force

The Marine Corp's largest warfighting Marine Air-Ground Task Force, I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF), stands ready to face the emerging security challenges of today across the full range of military operations. The key to I MEF's success throughout its history has been its ability to seamlessly integrate all aspects of warfighting into an expeditionary combined arms approach. That construct, along with the initiative, determination, and talent of individual Marines, has made I MEF the nation's premier warfighting formation.

The origins of I MEF can be traced back to 1969 when it was first activated in Okinawa, Japan, under Fleet Marine Forces Pacific. A year later, it was redesignated as I Marine Amphibious Force (I MAF) and relocated to Camp Pendleton, California, where it has maintained its presence for the last 53 years.



During the Vietnam War, I MAF played a crucial role in various operations, including supporting the Republic of Vietnam's government and assisting in counter-insurgency efforts. The force's extensive experience and adaptability in the complex and challenging environment of Vietnam solidified its reputation as a battle-tested and reliable combat force.

I MAF was redesignated back to I MEF in 1988 and quickly cemented its legacy as a premier expeditionary Marine Air-Ground Task Force. It participated in Operation Desert Shield to deter further aggression by Iraq and promote regional stability. Iraq's refusal to withdraw forces from Kuwait triggered Operation Desert Storm, where I



MEF's employment of combined air-ground combined operations and combat prowess were vital in the success of the coalition's swift and decisive victory, leading to the liberation of Kuwait and the expulsion of Iraqi forces from the region.

In 1992, I MEF was designated the Headquarters of Joint Task Force Somalia and tasked with restoring stability and providing relief to the famine-stricken

nation. I MEF deployed with its Major Subordinate Commands, 1st Marine Division, 3D Marine Aircraft Wing, as well as with elements of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) to Mogadishu in Operation Restore Hope. During their operations, I MEF Marines conducted security operations, humanitarian aid distribution, and collaborated with United Nations peacekeeping forces to protect and aid civilians affected by the conflict and famine.

In the 2000s, I MEF played a crucial role in both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, contributing significantly to the success of the United States' military engagements in Afghanistan and Iraq. During Operation Enduring Freedom, I MEF units executed a range of missions, including combat operations, humanitarian assistance, and stabilization efforts proving the flexibility of the MAGTF construct across



the full range of military operations. They conducted counterinsurgency operations and partnered with Afghan security forces to disrupt terrorist networks.

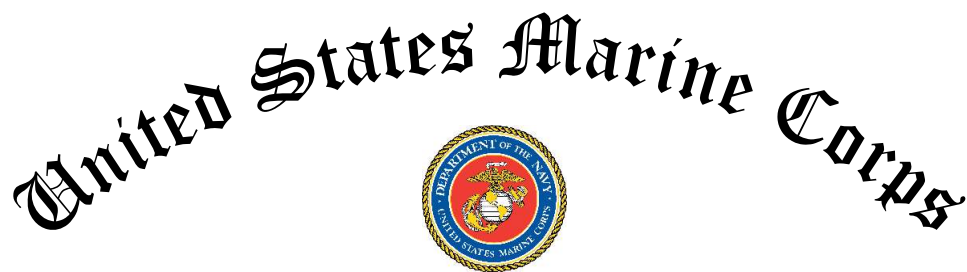
Similarly, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, I MEF units conducted major combat operations, leading the effort to seize control of key cities like Baghdad, and subsequently focused on stabilizing and rebuilding Iraq. Their involvement demonstrated exceptional combat capabilities, adaptability, and commitment to fulfilling mission objectives, solidifying I MEF's reputation as masters of expeditionary combined arms warfare.

As the security challenges of the 21st century have evolved, the argument for the MAGTF has only been strengthened based on its flexibility, scalability, and adaptability. Through humanitarian assistance to competition with peer competitors, the combat power, logistical sustainment, and an aviation capability package of the MAGTF remain invaluable to combatant commanders in every region of the globe.



As I MEF has adapted to a shifting character of war, the synergy and fabric of MAGTF remain the basis for achieving success in an all-domain, combined arms approach.

In an ever-changing world, the adaptability, resilience, and warrior spirit of I MEF Marines has proven timeless. The current generation of I MEF Marines carries that legacy forward and stands ready to defend America's interests, respond to emergencies, and contribute to global security whenever and wherever called upon.



HONORS
AWARDED
I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER

IRAQ
2003

JOINT MERITORIOUS UNIT AWARD STREAMER WITH ONE OAK LEAF CLUSTER

SOMALIA
1992-1993

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER WITH FOUR BRONZE STARS

SOUTHWEST ASIA
1990-1991

IRAQ
2004-2005
2006-2007
2008-2009

AFGHANISTAN
2010-2011

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH TWO BRONZE STARS

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER

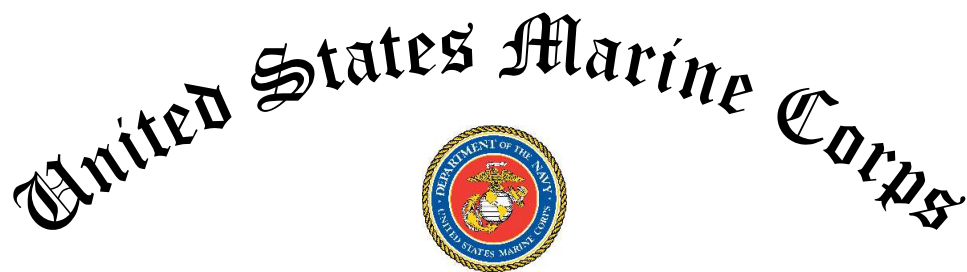
SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE STREAMER WITH THREE BRONZE STARS

AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH TWO BRONZE STARS

IRAQ CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH THREE BRONZE STARS

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE STREAMER



LINEAGE OF I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

1969 – 1989

ACTIVATED 8 NOVEMBER 1969 AT OKINAWA, JAPAN, AS
I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

REDESIGNATED 18 AUGUST 1970 AS I MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

RELOCATED DURING APRIL 1971 TO CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA

REDESIGNATED 5 FEBRUARY 1988 AS I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

1990 – 2021

PARTICIPATED IN OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD AND DESERT STORM,
SOUTHWEST ASIA, AUGUST 1990 – APRIL 1991

PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION RESTORE HOPE, SOMALIA, DECEMBER 1992 – MAY 1993

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH, IRAQ,
JANUARY – FEBRUARY 1998

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION DESERT THUNDER, IRAQ,
FEBRUARY – JUNE 1998

DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, KUWAIT,
NOVEMBER 2002

PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, IRAQ,
MARCH – OCTOBER 2003, AUGUST 2004 – FEBRUARY 2005,
FEBRUARY 2006 – FEBRUARY 2007 AND JANUARY 2008 – FEBRUARY 2009

PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, AFGHANISTAN,
MARCH 2010 – MARCH 2011, MARCH – DECEMBER 2012 AND
JANUARY – DECEMBER 2014

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE, IRAQ,
APRIL 2015 – APRIL 2021

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 ev'ry 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.





