

# *Retirement Ceremony*

*Master Sergeant Joshua F. Hiday*

*January 1999 to September 2021*



Ranch House  
Camp Pendleton, CA

3 June 2021



*The Commanding Officer of I Marine  
Expeditionary Force Information Group*

*Welcomes you to the  
Retirement Ceremony in honor of  
**Master Sergeant Joshua F. Hiday**  
after 22 years of service to the  
United States Marine Corps*





**The 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.*





## **The Marines 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 in 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 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.*

*Amen.*





# **SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

*Invocation*

*National Anthem*

*Reading of Retirement Documents*

*Spouse Recognition*

*Retiring Officer's Remarks*

*MSgt Hiday's Remarks*

*Old Glory Presentation*





## **The Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Creed**

**I am a Staff Non-Commissioned Officer in the United States Marine Corps. As such, I am a member of the most unique group of professional military practitioners in the world. I am bound by duty to God, Country and my fellow Marines to execute the demands of my position to and beyond what I believe to be the limits of my capabilities.**

**I realize I am the mainstay of Marine Corps discipline and I carry myself with military grace, unbowed by the weight of command, unflinching in the execution of lawful orders and unswerving in my dedication to the most complete success of my assigned mission.**

**Both my professional and personal demeanor shall be such that I take pride if my juniors emulate me and knowing perfection to lie beyond the grasp of any mortal hand, I shall yet strive to attain perfection that I may ever be aware of my needs and capabilities to improve myself.**

**I shall be fair in my personal relations, just in the enforcement of discipline, true to myself and my fellow Marines and equitable in my dealing with every man.**



# **The Master Sergeant Story**

On 11 July 1798, the United States Marine Corps established the staff noncommissioned officers. The Commandant appointed a staff including a sergeant major, a quartermaster sergeant, a drum major, and a fife major. By virtue of pay this staff was known as the 'TOP' in reference to their pay and first of specialist or tailor-sergeants by 1800.

By July of 1899 the Marine Corps enlisted rank structure definitely had been altered. The rank of gunnery sergeant, and this rank was then known as the "top" paid rank on the enlisted side due to their technical abilities. No attempt was made to adjust the relationship among "top" noncommissioned grades until 1908. That spring, base pay was adjust where the sergeant major, quartermaster, drum major and first sergeants received pay raisers over the gunnery sergeant.

However, the Marine Corps recognized the fact that techniques of warfare were changing rapidly. On the eve of World War I, a conflict which would point out the need for enlisted specialists, a candidate for the grad of gunnery sergeant was tested primarily in the masteries of naval ordnance; but with the development of new signal equipment, some gunnery sergeants were trained in operation and maintaining radios. Still others specialized in telephone communications or in using electrically controlled coast defense mines. Not all specialist could be gunnery sergeants. So the Marine Corps use pay as an award for specialists.

From 1908 until 11 November 1918, the gunnery sergeant was returned to the "top" pay grade along with the sergeant major, drum major, quartermaster sergeant and first sergeant.

After 1908 a major grievance was that of the first sergeant, many a capable first sergeant watched in disgust as sergeants and even corporals, men with a minimum of 'line' experience, were at times jumped over to the grade of sergeant major or quartermaster sergeant for technical duties.

So in 1923 the staff sergeant was created. The next year the Commandant requested the establishment of master technical sergeant, first pay grade, and supply sergeant in second pay grade. This again rewarded men performing technical duties necessary to the operation of a large post. General Lejeune added master technical sergeants to the aviation side of the Corps as well.

On 6 October 1926 the Secretary of the Navy approved the paymaster sergeant rank, equivalent to the quartermaster sergeant. Next the Marine Corps turned its attention to the problems of the first sergeant and gunnery sergeant. First sergeants were performing office tasks, while gunnery sergeants performed technical duties. These two paths were to be separated further when the Commandant prohibited the employment of gunnery sergeants as clerks, orderlies, or chauffeurs, or in any type of duty connected with messes, commissaries, post exchanges, guards, or police. Those duties were tasked to the first sergeant.

In 1931, the promotion manual specified that technical warrants were to be issued for technical duties. Those who could hold technical warrants were master technical sergeants, gunnery sergeants and staff sergeants only. By 1935 the ranks of master gunnery sergeant and platoon sergeant were added. The master gunnery sergeant rank was an award to master technical sergeants and gunnery sergeants for performing in specific technical fields.

For the next eight years non combative job sets were in need of leadership at the shop level. Branches added master technical sergeant ranks, along with recruiting duty just before World War II. But first sergeants and sergeants majors were again out paid by technical job skilled individuals and revamped the pay scale in February of 1943. And none save first sergeants were eligible for promotion to sergeant major.

By mid-January 1944, enlisted rank structure was arranged by job set (MOS) but included job titles in the rank. December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1946, new designations of rank went into effect, were job titles were abolished. Formally the new rank of Master Sergeant was also introduced and included in the first pay grade scale (Top).

*All old ranks were abolished!* But old titles such as first sergeant or platoon sergeant could be used informally.



But in 1954 the establishment of two additional titles within the grade of E-7 were added. The rank of sergeant major, was to take precedence over the newly resurrected first sergeant, who, in turn, was placed above the master sergeant. Resulting in a top heavy noncommissioned officer corps. In 1958, congress added the E-8 and E-9 pay grades. The memorable “gunny”, the Master gunnery sergeant and lance corporal ranks were exhumed; resulting in the current structure of today.

And so it has been and so it will continue to be.

**Semper Fidelis...**



## **Master Sergeant Joshua F. Hiday**

Master Sergeant Joshua F. Hiday was born in Bar Harbor, Maine. He enlisted into the Marine Corps on 28 March 1998 and he attended Recruit Training on the Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD), San Diego, California on 27 January 1999. He graduated on 15 April 1999 as a Private First Class.

Following the completion of recruit training, he attended his primary Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) training at Infantry Training Battalion, Camp Pendleton. After being severely injured, he was redirected Marine Combat Training (MCT). At graduation of MCT, Lance Corporal Hiday was re-designated a 0411, maintenance management specialist. After a successful completion of his MOS school, he was ordered to Marine Air Control Squadron 2, Cherry Point, North Carolina.

He was promoted to the rank of Corporal on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001. Corporal Hiday was assigned as the Organizational Color Non Commissioned Officer (NCO) in addition to his Maintenance Management NCO duties.

In June of 2001, Cpl Hiday was transferred to the Marine Air Control Group 28's Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) detachment for the 22<sup>nd</sup> MEU aboard the USS Wasp. While with the 22<sup>nd</sup> MEU, his billets included Logistics NCO and Aerial Observer on the CH-46, "frogs". Cpl Hiday deployed in support of Iraqi Freedom from February to October of 2002.

On 1 December 2002, Joshua Hiday was promoted to Sergeant after returning to MACS-2, and became the unit's Color Sergeant. In spring of 2003 Sergeant Hiday volunteered for recruiting duty. Recruiters School on MCRD San Diego began on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003.

On November 5<sup>th</sup> 2003, Sergeant Hiday transferred to Recruiting Station Lansing, Michigan as an 8411 canvassing recruiter in Recruiting Sub-Station Jackson, Michigan. There he earned runner-up rookie of the year (2004), and recruiter of the year (2005).

On 17 June 2006, Sergeant Hiday was transferred to Anti-Terrorism Battalion, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He was assigned as the Maintenance Management Chief (MMC) and Platoon Sergeant before becoming the S-4 Logistics Chief. On Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2007, Sergeant Hiday became a plank owner of the newly established 2d Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Marines.

On 01 September 2007, He was promoted to Staff Sergeant. In April 2008, Staff Sergeant Hiday, transferred to 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division. A year later he deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan, with 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Marines. 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Marines served as the Brigade Headquarters Group from April 2009 to March of 2010. There he served as the Maintenance Management Chief, Range Safety Officer, Convoy Commander and Logistics Chief.

After returning stateside in March of 2010, Staff Sergeant Hiday attended the Intermediate Maintenance Management Specialist Course, where he was asked to be a formal school instructor. He received orders for June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools Camp Johnson, North Carolina. During his tour, he served as the course manager for the Basic Maintenance Management Specialist Course. Staff Sergeant Hiday again volunteered to build the Global Combat Support Systems (GCSS-MC) training curriculum. On 01 August 2012 he was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant.

On 22 June 2013, Gunnery Sergeant Hiday was assigned to Combat Logistics Regiment 35 on Camp Kinser, Okinawa, Japan, where he served as the MMC and was responsible for standing up and standing down Combat Logistics Battalion 351.

After earning the honor graduate for Advance Course 2-14, Gunnery Sergeant Hiday was hand selected to stand up the Logistic Systems Coordination Office, for 3d Marine Logistics Group. There he established the deployment plan for Marine Rotational Forces Darwin (MRF-D).

On July 16 of 2016, Gunnery Sergeant Hiday was transferred to Marine Forces Reserve, in New Orleans, Louisiana to serve as

the Logistic Systems Coordination Office Staff NCO. On 01 September 2017, He was promoted to Master Sergeant.

On 29 December, 2018 Master Sergeant Hiday returned to Camp Pendleton to serve as the first MMC at the new I Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group (I MIG).

Master Sergeant Hiday's personal decorations include the Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal with one gold star, the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two gold stars and the Good Conduct Medal with one silver star and one bronze star.



*Semper Fidelis!*



*To all my family, friends and  
fellow Marines:  
Thank You!*