

Lieutenant Colonel Michael R. Challgren, USMC

Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion

Commanding Officer



Lieutenant Colonel Challgren is a native of Albion, Michigan, attended Michigan State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing in 1991. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1994 and, following recruit training and military occupational specialty schools, was assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 269 at MCAS New River, North Carolina. In 1996 he was selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program, attended Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia and commissioned a Second Lieutenant in December 1996. Following completion of the Basic Officers Course in Quantico and Cryptologic Division Officers Course in Pensacola, Florida Lieutenant Colonel Challgren was assigned duty as a Signals Intelligence Officer to 1st Radio Battalion, Marine Forces Pacific, MCBH Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii from 1998 to 2001. During this tour he was assigned duty as platoon commander, assistant logistics officer and assistant operations officer with deployments the Persian Gulf as AOIC of the Radio Battalion detachment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) participating in Operation DESERT FOX and to Kuwait as OIC of the Radio Battalion detachment supporting the joint Army/Marine Corps Operation GALLANT VENTURE. In 2001 Lieutenant Colonel Challgren was selected for the National Security Agency's Junior Officer Cryptologic Career Program (JOCCP) at Fort Meade, Maryland. While assigned to JOCCP, he served in the Regional Targets Analysis & Production Office, Office of Target Reconnaissance and Survey, Joint COMSEC Monitoring Activity and USMC Liaison Office-NSA. During this tour, he also deployed as a Senior Liaison Officer to a new partner nation in support of the Global War on Terror and on two additional occasions as a Team OIC — both in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Following graduation of JOCCP, he was assigned to 2d Radio Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina from 2004-2006 where he deployed with the battalion to Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. During the deployment he served as OIC of the Operations Control and Analysis Center and later took command of Company B and the Operations Control Element. Upon redeployment to Camp Lejeune, he completed the MAGTF Intelligence Officer Course at the Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center, Dam Neck, Virginia. From 2006 to 2008, Lieutenant Colonel Challgren was assigned to Intelligence Department at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. and served as Branch Head of the Signals Intelligence Plans and Policy Branch. From 2008 to 2009, Lieutenant Colonel Challgren served as the Executive Officer of Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion at the National Security Agency/Central Security Service, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. From 2009 to 2010 he attended the Marine Corps Command and Staff College in Quantico, Virginia where he received his Masters of Military Studies Degree. From 2010 to 2013, Lieutenant Colonel Challgren was assigned to 1st Intelligence Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California. He served as Company Commander of Production and Analysis Support Company, deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and as Battalion Executive Officer. From 2013 to 2015, Lieutenant Colonel Challgren was assigned to U.S. Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany and served as the Branch Head of East Africa Intelligence Plans Branch within the Intelligence Directorate. Lieutenant Colonel Challgren's personal decorations include the, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Joint Service Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars and the Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal.