

Colonel Brendon G. Harper, USMC



Colonel Brendon G. Harper, originally from Florida, graduated from The Citadel (Class of 1994) in Charleston, South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. He also holds a Master of Business Administration from Trident University International, and a Master of Science in Inter-American Defense and Security from the Inter-American Defense College. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in May of 1995.

Upon graduation from The Basic School, Second Lieutenant Harper was designated as an Air Intelligence Officer (0207) in 1996 and reported for initial MOS training at the Navy-Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center in Virginia Beach. After the completion of his training at NMITC, Lieutenant Harper reported to Marine Aircraft Group-11 (MAG-11) at MCAS Miramar, San Diego, California. During his time at MAG-11, he served as the Intelligence Officer for the F/A-18 squadron, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-314 (VMFA-314) from 1998-2000, where he completed a Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf deployment aboard the aircraft carrier USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN-74) in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH as the Targeting Officer in charge of developing all strike targets in southern Iraq.

In 2000, Captain Harper was selected to become a Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) at Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1 (MAWTS-1) from 2000-2003. During his time at MAWTS-1, he served as the subject matter expert regarding the development of precision mensuration and Time Critical Targeting processes supporting the newly employed Global Positioning System (GPS) weapons, JDAM (Joint Direct Attack Munition) and JSOW (Joint Stand-Off Weapon).

In 2003, Captain Harper deployed in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) as the Intelligence Collections and Requirements Officer for I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF), as well as the Battle Damage Assessment (BDA) Officer for 3d Marine Aircraft Wing (3d MAW) aircraft. Captain Harper was responsible for coordinating collection systems (Reconnaissance, UAV, JSTARS, F/A-18 ATARS, and National Systems) during the invasion and advance north from Kuwait to Baghdad.

After supporting OIF, Captain Harper returned to NMITC to obtain the Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Intelligence Officer MOS (0202) and completed the course as the Honor Graduate.

Captain Harper then reported to III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF), Okinawa, Japan, where he served as the G-2 Deputy Operations Officer and Targeting Officer from 2004 to 2005. During that time, he also served in several joint assignments during Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief Operations in the Philippines and in Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia due to the Tsunami disaster of 2005.

In 2006, Major Harper was selected to serve as the Intelligence Officer (S-2) for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (31st MEU) and completed four more deployment cycles in Western Pacific and Southeast Asia aboard the USS ESSEX (LHD-2) and the USS JUNEAU (LPD-10) through 2008. During his time, highlights included planning the rapid reaction force for his reconnaissance platoons in support of President Bush's visit to Indonesia in 2006, as well as serving as the Executive Officer for a Humanitarian Assistance Team (HAST) in Bangladesh after a typhoon disaster in 2007. He also led a Reconnaissance Detachment in

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Cambodia to provide marksmanship training to the newly established Cambodian Anti-Terrorism Assault Force in 2007.

For all of 2009, Major Harper attended Foreign Professional Military Education (FPME) at Argentina's Naval War College (Escuela de Guerra Naval) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Previous to this school, Major Harper completed Spanish language training at the Diplomatic Language Services (DLS) in Rosslyn, VA in 2008.

From 2010 to 2012, Major Harper was assigned to NATO Joint Force Command (JFC) Naples, Italy as the Plans Staff Officer for NATO Training Mission in Iraq (NTM-I). During this assignment, he made several deployments to Iraq in support of NTM-I and took part in numerous crisis action planning efforts, to include developing NATO's operational plans for actions in Libya (Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR) as the Joint Operational Planning Group (JOPG) Coordinator.

From July 2012 to July 2014, Lieutenant Colonel Harper served as the Commanding Officer of Region 4, Marine Corps Embassy Security Group (MCESG), which consisted of all Marine Security Guard (MSG) detachments at the embassies and consulates in South America and Trinidad.

From July 2015 to June 2016, Lieutenant Colonel Harper attended Top Level School (TLS) at the Inter-American Defense College (IADC), Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C. where he earned a Master of Science in Inter-American Defense and Security in June 2016. Previous to this school, Lieutenant Colonel Harper completed Spanish language refresher training at ICA Language Services in Rosslyn, VA in 2015.

When slated by the FY12 Lieutenant Colonel Command Screening Board and when selected by the AY14-15 TLS Board, Lieutenant Colonel Harper became the first MAGTF Intelligence Officer (0202) from the Air Intelligence (0207) introductory MOS to have been selected for command and/or TLS.

In July 2016, Lieutenant Colonel Harper was assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps Intelligence Department as the Intelligence Plans and Policy Operations Officer. From May 2017 to August 2019, Colonel Harper served as the Chief of Staff to the U.S. Marine Corps Director of Intelligence.

From August 2019 to June 2020, Colonel Harper was assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) as the Chief of Mission Management for the Europe-Eurasia Regional Center and as the DIA Senior Marine Representative/Marine Element Commander.

On 19 June 2020, Colonel Harper assumed command of the Marine Corps Intelligence Activity (MCIA).

Colonel Harper is designated as a Foreign Area Officer (FAO) Latin America (MOS 8241). His decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and multiple unit, campaign, and service medals and ribbons.

Colonel Harper and his wife have three children.