

Master Gunnery Sergeant Leon Ransom Jr., USMC

Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion

Senior Enlisted Marine



Master Gunnery Sergeant Ransom enlisted in the Marine Corps in June 1993. Upon completion of recruit training at MCRD San Diego, California, he attended Marine Combat Training at Camp Pendleton, California, with follow-on training at Marine Corps Detachment, Fort Devens, Massachusetts and Company K, Marine Support Battalion aboard Naval Technical Training Center, Corry Station, Pensacola, Florida for training as a Manual Morse Intercept Operator and Electronic Intelligence (ELINT) Analyst.

In October 1994, Master Gunnery Sergeant Ransom transferred to 1st Radio Battalion, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. In October 1995, he deployed with the 1st Radio Battalion detachment to Okinawa, Japan where he embarked on the USS Belleau Wood in support of (ISO) the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), Special Operations Capable (SOC) as an ELINT Analyst. In February 1997, he deployed a second time to Okinawa, Japan as the NCOIC of the 1st Radio Battalion Contact Team attached to Special Operations Training Group as a SIGINT trainer ISO the 31st MEU (SOC). Master Gunnery Sergeant Ransom was assigned to two additional Radio Battalion Detachments ISO Weapons Tactics Instruction, MCAS, Yuma, Arizona and Combined Armed Exercise, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California prior to transferring from 1st Radio Battalion.

In February 1998, Master Gunnery Sergeant Ransom transferred to Joint Intelligence Center Pacific (JICPAC), Naval Base Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and served as an ELINT Analyst assigned to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Directorate. He was also selected to serve as a command augment to Special Operations Command Pacific for duties as an ELINT Operator where he participated in RIMPAC, TANDUM THRUST, and COBRA GOLD, three large scale theater size exercises throughout the Pacific area of responsibility. Master Gunnery Sergeant Ransom served as the command Joint Color Guard Sergeant and was recognized as the 1998 Marine of the Year for the command.

In March 2001, MGySgt Ransom transferred to Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron Two, MCAS, Cherry Point, North Carolina where he served as the Senior Analyst for the Tactical Electronic Reconnaissance Processing and Evaluation System. He deployed to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan and Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia ISO Operation SOUTHERN WATCH and IRAQI FREEDOM.

In October 2004, MGySgt Ransom reported to Company B, Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion (MCSB), Fort Meade, Maryland as a National Security Agency (NSA) military intern for the Middle Enlisted Cryptologic Career Advancement Program. During this tour, he completed over 1,500 hours of National Cryptologic School courses and served in four operational tours within the NSA before graduating from the program. MGySgt Ransom also served as the SNCOIC of the Marine Fort Meade Quick Reaction Force and as the Central Maryland Toys for Tots Coordinator responsible for the collection and distribution of toys to needy families throughout the community.

In May 2008, Master Gunnery Sergeant Ransom returned to 1st Radio Battalion, Camp Pendleton, California where he served as the SNCOIC for the Operations Control and Analysis Platoon, Watch Chief for the Operational Control Element – East, Ramadi, Iraq ISO Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (9.1) and as the Battalion Linguist Manager, Camp Leatherneck, Helmand Province, Afghanistan ISO Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (10.2). MGySgt Ransom also served as a Company Operations Chief and the Director of the first Command Sponsored Corporal's Course hosted by the Battalion.

In September 2011, MGySgt Ransom reported to Company D, MCSB, Fort Gordon, Georgia as the Company Operations Chief. He also served as the NCOIC for the Levant North Africa Division, Deputy Chief of Staff for Tailored Access Operations, and the NCOIC for the Iraq and Arabian Peninsula Division. During this tour MGySgt Ransom earned a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt certification and was the 2014 winner of the On-the-Roof Gang award.

In January 2016 Master Gunnery Sergeant Ransom was promoted to his present rank and in June 2016 he transferred to Headquarters MCSB, Fort Meade, Maryland to serve as the battalion Operations Chief and was selected to serve as the battalion SEM.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Ransom's personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal (4th award), and the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (7th award).

Master Gunnery Sergeant Ransom has five children, Alex (16), Ashley (13), Sophia (11), Solomon (10) and Leon III (3).