

Welcome to the

249TH

15th MEU

*Command Element
Birthday Ball*

Harrah's Resort SoCal
777 Harrah's Rincon Way,
Fanner, CA 92082



December 10, 2024



Sequence of Events

Invocation

Entrance of the Official Party

Presentation of the Colors

Procession of the Ceremonial Birthday Cake

Reading of Gen John A. LeJeune's Birthday Message

Cutting of the Birthday Cake

Passing of the Birthday Cake

Retiring of the Colors

Commandant's Birthday Message

Remarks by the Commanding Officer, Col Sean Dynan

Remarks by the Guest of Honor, Col Robert Coates (Ret.)



Ceremony Participants

Commanding Officer Col Sean Dynan

Sergeant Major SgtMaj John Schlaud

Guest of Honor Col Robert Coates (Ret.)

Chaplain LCDR Paul Rodgers

Narrator RP2 Jennifer Kaczowski

Adjutant 1stLt Daniel Lincoln

Oldest Marine MGySgt Shawn Hughes

Youngest Marine LCpl Gavyn Paul

Color Detail

Color Sergeant Sgt Jonathon Perez

Organizational Colors Sgt Yusha Usmanu

Rifle Bearer Sgt Johan TapiaRojo

Rifle Bearer Cpl Dalmya Mcmanus

Music Provided by the 1st Marine Division Band



General Lejeune's Birthday Message

On November 10, 1775, a Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of the Continental Congress. Since that date many thousand men have borne the name Marine. In memory of them it is fitting that we who are Marines should commemorate the birthday of our Corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history.

The record of our Corps is one which will bear comparison with that of the most famous military organizations in the world's history. During 90 of the 146 years of its existence the Marine Corps has been in action against the Nation's foes. From the battle of Trenton to the Argonne, Marines have won foremost honors in war, and in the long eras of tranquility at home generation after generation of Marines have grown gray in war in both hemispheres, and in every corner of the seven seas, that our country and its citizens might enjoy peace and security.

In every battle and skirmish since the birth of our Corps Marines have acquitted themselves with the greatest distinction, winning new honors on each occasion until the term "Marine" has come to signify all that is highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue.

This high name of distinction and soldierly repute we who are Marines today have received from those who preceded us in the corps. With it we also received from them the eternal spirit which has animated our Corps from generation to generation and has been the distinguishing mark of Marines in every age. So long as that spirit continues to flourish Marines will be found equal to every emergency in the future as they have been in the past, and the men of our Nation will regard us as worthy successors to the long line of illustrious men who have served as "Soldiers of the Sea" since the founding of the Corps.

John Lejeune
Lieutenant General
U.S. Marine Corps



Commanding Officer **Col Sean P Dynan** 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit



Colonel Sean Dynan is a Marine Corps Infantry Officer. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1998 and commissioned as a Marine Corps Second Lieutenant. Since commissioning, Col Dynan has had the opportunity to lead Marine platoons, companies, and an infantry battalion. A veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan; Col Dynan led a company in Ramadi, Iraq, during the Al Anbar awakening, 2006-2007, and was a

company commander during the Marine Corps' initial deployment to Helmand Province in 2008. In subsequent combat deployments, Col Dynan was assigned as a planner; to include assignment as the lead planner for Counter Narcotics and Counter Threat Finance in Helmand Province from 2011 to 2012 and operations officer for the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) during the evacuation of the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa, Yemen, in 2015. Additionally, Col Dynan has conducted three non-combat deployments to South East Asia during his career.

Prior to arriving at the 15th MEU, Col Dynan was assigned as a US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) J5 strategic planner and lead planner for The Special Operations Forces Operating Concept 2030. Following his joint tour at USSOCOM, Col Dynan led the Cyber Operations – Integrated Planning Element at USSOCOM, supporting USSOCOM components offensive and defensive cyber operations globally on behalf of Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command and United States Cyber Command. Col Dynan assumed command of 15th MEU on July 21, 2021.

Col Dynan's personal decorations include the Bronze Star with combat "V", Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V" and a gold star, Joint Achievement Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon with a gold star, and Sea Service ribbon with a silver and a gold star. He has earned Masters Degrees in Military Studies, Operational Studies, and National Security and Strategic Studies. He is a distinguished graduate of the Marine Corps Command and Staff College and graduated with highest distinction from the Naval War College.



Guest of Honor Col Robert Coates (Ret.)

A native New Yorker, Colonel Coates was commissioned in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1977 upon graduation from the University of South Carolina. As a company grade officer, served in the Operational Forces with Company F 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, Company A 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, Company

B 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, and the 1st Marines Regimental Enhanced Training Section (RETS).

Assignments included: Rifle Platoon Commander, Weapons Platoon Commander, Rifle Company Executive Officer, Reconnaissance Platoon Commander, Officer-in-Charge of RETS, and Rifle Company Commander.

As a field grade officer, served as the Training Officer for the 1st Marine Division, Operations Officer for the 15th MEU(SOC) for deployment to the CENTCOM AOR for participation in OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH (OSW) and as Executive Officer/Maritime Special Purpose Force Commander for a subsequent forward deployment to the CENTCOM AOR for participation in OSW, AC/S G-7 I MEF, Commanding Officer 1st Force Reconnaissance Company and Officer-in-Charge of 1st Special Operations Training Group, I MEF.

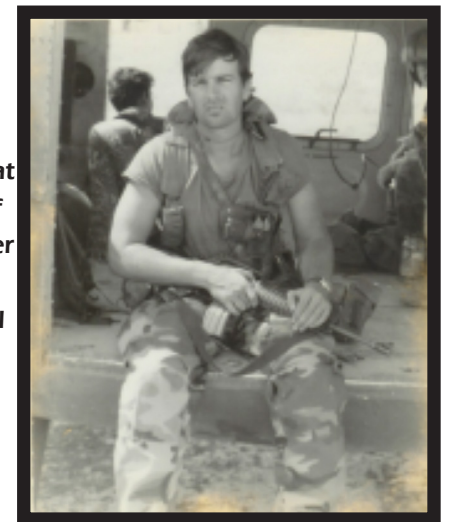
Colonel Coates was selected to activate and serve as the Commanding Officer for the Marine Corps' first purpose-built unit contribution to U.S. Special Operations Command, Marine Corps Special Operations Command Detachment One (MCSOCOM Det One) and deployed to the IRAQI THEATER of OPERATIONS (ITO) for operations in OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM II (OIF II).



Upon deactivation of MCSOCOM Det One, was ordered to I MEF (FWD) for deployment ITO (Al Anbar, Iraq) for participation in OIF 05-07 as the AC/S G-10 (Iraqi Security Forces-Al Anbar). Upon return from the ITO, assigned as the AC/S G-7, I MEF. Assigned as Commanding Officer SPMAGTF (MEB) for RIMPAC.

In the Supporting Establishment, served as the Officer-in-Charge of the Amphibious Reconnaissance School at Landing Force Training Command Pacific, Coronado, CA, served as an infantry battalion advisor for Combat and Special Operations in El Salvador, detailed to the Central Intelligence Agency for CounterTerrorism /Intelligence and Special Operations.

Personal decorations include: Legion of Merit with Gold Star in lieu of 2nd award, Bronze Star Medal with Gold Star in lieu of 2nd award, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three Gold Stars in lieu of 4th award, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon with Gold Star in lieu of 2nd award. Colonel Coates retired after 32 plus years of active duty and was inducted into the United States Special Operations Command's Commando Hall of Honor in 2016.





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Vanguard