



*Graduation and
Commissioning*

CEREMONY FOR

OFFICER CANDIDATES CLASS 249
COMPANY A AND COMPANY D



*Officer Candidates
School*

TRAINING COMMAND
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA

2 AUGUST 2025



Sequence of Events

*Invocation**

Staff Awards

March On

Sound Off

Receive the Report

Publish the Order

Officers Center

Honors to Major General Douglas K. Clark

*National Anthem**

Presentation of Awards

Remark by Colonel M. Michelle Melendez

Oath of Office

Remarks by Major General Douglas K. Clark

*Benediction**

Pass in Review

Exchange Guidon

*Anchors Aweigh**

*Marine's Hymn**

**Please Stand*



MAJOR GENERAL DOUGLAS K. CLARK
DEPUTY COMMANDER
U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES RESERVE
U.S. FORCES SOUTH

Raised in Hampton, Virginia, Major General Douglas K. Clark graduated from Virginia Tech in 1990 and received his commission in 1991. His infantry career started with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment during which he participated in Operation PEACEMAKER (Los Angeles Riots-1992); the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit Special Operations Capable (MEU-SOC); and 13th MEU-SOC, including Western Pacific deployment in support of the United Nations in Operation UNITED SHIELD (Somalia- 1995). He was then assigned to the

Amphibious Reconnaissance School, Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Atlantic (1995-1998) and the 4th Supply Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group (1998-1999).

Following his assignment as Platoon Commander in Company D of 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) Battalion, Major General Clark commanded Company C, 4th LAR Bn (2001-2004) deploying in 2003 to Operation IRAQI FREEDOM with Task Force Tarawa. His company then redeployed to Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, in Okinawa, Japan. His following assignments included U.S. Joint Forces Command (2004-2005); executive officer of 4th LAR Bn (2005-2006); U.S. Marine Forces Command (2006- 2007) and command of 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment (2007-2009).

Major General Clark served as the Pakistan Planner and Civil-Military Planner for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Commander in Kabul, Afghanistan (2009-2010) for Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. He was then assigned as the Washington liaison for U.S. Central Command (2010-2012). He completed multiple tours in Headquarters Marine Corps as lead Force Structure Planner for the Quadrennial Defense Review Integration Group (2012-2014), Branch Head in Programs and Resources (2014-2015) and Deputy Chief of Expeditionary Policy and Assistant Director of Operations in Plans, Policy, and Operations (2015-2017). He then served as Marine Detachment Commander in the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command, U.S. Transportation Command (2017-2020) in Norfolk, Virginia. He then became the first Marine to serve as Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff of the NATO Joint Warfare Centre in Stavanger, Norway (2020-2022). He commanded the 4th Marine Division (2022-2024) and posted as the UNC/CFC/USFK Director of Plans, Policy, and Strategy on 10 June 2024.

Major General Clark assumed his present duties as Deputy Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve and U.S. Marine Corps Forces South on 1 Aug 2025.

Major General Clark is a graduate of Joint Advanced Warfighting School, Joint Forces Staff College, Canadian Militia Command and Staff College, USMC Command and Staff Distance Education Program, and Amphibious Warfare School Distance Education Program. His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and Presidential Unit Citation.

COLONEL M. MICHELLE MELENDEZ
COMMANDING OFFICER
OFFICER CANDIDATES SCHOOL



Col Melendez hails from Grapevine, Texas and was commissioned in May of 2000.

A Logistics Officer by trade, she served in a variety of operational assignments and executed multiple deployments throughout the South Pacific while assigned in III Marine Expeditionary Force in Okinawa, Japan from 2001-2004. Subsequently she served in Marine Wing Aviation Support Group 37 and Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, under 3d Marine Aircraft Wing from 2004-2007,

and deployed as a Company Commander in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Col Melendez then served within 1st Marine Logistics Group as a Regimental Operations Officer and Battalion Operations Officer, deploying as part of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit supporting operations in INDOPACOM and CENTCOM. From 2020-2022, she served as the Commanding Officer of I Marine Expeditionary Force Support Battalion, I Marine Information Group.

Her staff assignments include Tactical Logistics Instructor, Tactical Training and Exercise Support Group; Plans Officer, Special Projects Directorate under Director Marine Corps Staff; Inspector General, 1st Marine Logistics Group; and G4 Operations Officer, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

Col Melendez graduated from the Naval Academy with a BS in English. She is a graduate of Logistics Officer Course, Tactical Logistics Officer Course, Maritime Prepositioning Forces Course, Marine Aviation Tactics and Weapons Aviation Ground Support Course, Expeditionary Warfare School, Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and holds a Masters degree in Military Studies. She served as the senior Marine fellow at the Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security in Washington DC, and completed the Timothy T. Day Foundation Marine Corps Executive Fellowship at the Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program.

She most recently served as Director, Marine House Legislative Liaison, Office of Legislative Affairs.



SERGEANT MAJOR CARL J. JACOBSEN

SERGEANT MAJOR

OFFICER CANDIDATES SCHOOL

Sergeant Major Jacobsen reported to MCRD Parris Island SC on 4 September 2002, to 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Company A, Platoon 1102. Upon graduation in late November 2002, he was ordered to report to Marine Combat Training East, Camp Geiger, NC, in January 2003. Graduating in February 2003, Sergeant Major Jacobsen received orders to Aberdeen, Maryland where he went through Small Arms repairman School until he received orders in May 2003.

In May 2003, he reported to Marine Corps Security Company, Bahrain, where he was assigned as the

Armory Chief, Headquarters and Service Company. Once promoted to the rank of corporal meritoriously, he received orders to report to Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools Camp Johnson, NC. He was assigned as the Armory Chief, Headquarters and Service Company. In 2004, he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of sergeant, where he submitted an SDA package to become a Drill Instructor and was then given orders to report to MCRD Parris Island, SC Drill Instructor School.

In June 2006 he graduated from DI School and was assigned to 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Company A. He was meritoriously promoted to Staff Sergeant in July 2008. After a successful tour on Drill Instructor duty, he requested orders to 3d Battalion 8th Marines, Camp Lejeune, NC.

In 2010 he deployed with the 24th MEU ending his deployment in Helmand province, Afghanistan as the battalion Armory Chief. After his meritorious promotion to GySgt, he once again deployed in 2012 as the S4 Chief to Camp Geronimo, Afghanistan in support of the Battalion combat operations. Soon after completing the deployment in 2013, he requested orders to the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy Camp Johnson, NC. During his time with the Academy, Sergeant Major Jacobsen became the Chief faculty Advisor for the Advance Course and the SNCOIC for the Corporals Course. At the end of his time with the Academy he was selected to First Sergeant and requested orders to 3D Battalion 6TH Marines.

Sergeant Major Jacobsen received PCS orders in March 2016 to 3d Battalion, 6th Marines where he served as the Company First Sergeant for Company K. In 2017 he deployed in support of the 26 MEU aboard the USS Carter Hall. Upon his return he received orders to 4th Marine Division, Delta Company Inspector Instructor First Sergeant in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In February of 2021 he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major and served as the Command Senior Enlisted Leader for 2d Radio Battalion II Marine Information Group and Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461, Marine Aircraft Group 29. In August of 2024, he was selected for assignment as the Command Senior Enlisted Leader of Officer Candidates School, Quantico, VA.

His personal awards include: The Meritorious Service Medal w/2 Gold stars in lieu of third award, Navy Commendation Medal w/1 Gold star in lieu of second award, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal w/2 Gold star's in lieu of third award.

OFFICIAL PARTY

Reviewing Officer
Commanding Officer
Sergeant Major
Chaplain

Major General Douglas K. Clark
Colonel M. Michelle Melendez
Sergeant Major Carl J. Jacobsen
Lieutenant Joseph Del Valle

COMMAND STAFF

Executive Officer
Coordinator of Student Activities
S-1 Officer
S-3 Officer
S-3 Chief
Physical Training Advisor
Drill Master
S-4 Officer
Academics Officer
Academics Chief
Senior Medical Officer
OCS Medical Platoon Chief

Lieutenant Colonel Phillip A. Skillman
Captain Ethan A. Osborn
Major Rogelio Jasso
Major Ryan H. Hughes
Master Sergeant Jose M. Montoya
Colour Sergeant David Groom
Gunnery Sergeant Brett E. Thompson
Captain Mikayla R. Schmidt
Major Jolyon M. Gidari
Master Sergeant Mario M. Wilson
Commander Catherine L. Ridings
Senior Chief Petty Officer Ryan C. Junkin

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANY

Company Commander
Company First Sergeant
Company Gunnery Sergeant

Captain Jessica L. Parham
Gunnery Sergeant Brett E. Thompson
Gunnery Sergeant Jeffrey A. Belko



COMPANY A STAFF

Company Commander
Company First Sergeant
Company Executive Officer
Company Gunnery Sergeant
Police Sergeant
Administrative Clerk

Major G. G. Jamero
First Sergeant R. R. Crider
Captain C. B. Patton
Gunnery Sergeant A L. Velez
Lance Corporal C. K. Symeonides
Lance Corporal T. S. Beebe

FIRST PLATOON

Platoon Commander
Platoon Sergeant
Sergeant Instructor
Sergeant Instructor
Sergeant Instructor

Captain H. P. Brock
Staff Sergeant J. Ketter
Gunnery Sergeant S. R. Veliz
Gunnery Sergeant L. R. Watson
Staff Sergeant J. W. Guterrez

SECOND PLATOON

Platoon Commander
Platoon Sergeant
Sergeant Instructor
Sergeant Instructor

Captain R. R. Grusky
Staff Sergeant S. E. Ford
Staff Sergeant J. L. Johnson
Staff Sergeant D. E. Hall

THIRD PLATOON

Platoon Commander
Platoon Sergeant
Sergeant Instructor
Sergeant Instructor
Sergeant Instructor

First Lieutenant B. P. Mansfield
Gunnery Sergeant Z. J. Smith
Gunnery Sergeant A. D. Escalante
Staff Sergeant J. H. Camacho
Staff Sergeant S. M. Adan

FOURTH PLATOON

Platoon Commander
Platoon Sergeant
Sergeant Instructor
Sergeant Instructor
Sergeant Instructor

Captain L. M. Oberreider
Gunnery Sergeant R. C. Barba
Gunnery Sergeant E. Arteaga
Gunnery Sergeant J. D. Budinger
Staff Sergeant C. C. Chestnut II

FIFTH PLATOON

Platoon Commander
Platoon Sergeant
Sergeant Instructor
Sergeant Instructor
Sergeant Instructor

Captain S. S. Flutsch
Gunnery Sergeant J. E. Valdez Jr.
Gunnery Sergeant T. W. Baskerville
Gunnery Sergeant J. M. Bohan
Staff Sergeant R. G. Pascall

COMPANY D STAFF

Company Commander
Company First Sergeant
Company Executive Officer
Company Gunnery Sergeant
Police Sergeant
Administrative Clerk

Major J. J. Lademan
First Sergeant A. D. Bauder
Captain B. T. Arnold
Gunnery Sergeant S. R. Carter
Corporal Y. Vertiz
Lance Corporal C. G. Montiel

FIRST PLATOON

Platoon Commander
Platoon Sergeant
Sergeant Instructor
Sergeant Instructor
Sergeant Instructor

Captain A. H. Welch
Gunnery Sergeant A. J. Rico
Staff Sergeant M. G. Torres
Staff Sergeant T. Hadel
Staff Sergeant C. Campuzano

SECOND PLATOON

Platoon Commander
Platoon Sergeant
Sergeant Instructor
Sergeant Instructor
Sergeant Instructor

Captain J. M. Bennett
Gunnery Sergeant K. Velasco
Gunnery Sergeant J. M. Cerecedes
Gunnery Sergeant J. M. Dino
Staff Sergeant T. B. Cameron

THIRD PLATOON

Platoon Commander
Platoon Sergeant
Sergeant Instructor
Sergeant Instructor

First Lieutenant D. J. Misch
Gunnery Sergeant R. S. Boehringer
Gunnery Sergeant H. A. Ashong
Staff Sergeant T. R. Laughlin

FOURTH PLATOON

Platoon Commander
Platoon Sergeant
Sergeant Instructor
Sergeant Instructor

Captain J. M. Parchem
Gunnery Sergeant T. A. Calderon
Gunnery Sergeant W. A. McDonald
Staff Sergeant C. R. Montecalvo

The History of Officer Candidates School

The origins of the first officer's training school began in 1891 when Marine Corps General Order No. 1 established the first formal resident school for Marine officers, the School of Application at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. To meet the need for officers to serve with the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I, a decision was made to move the instructional effort to Quantico where individual replacements and new units were being formed for the war. Quantico was where all new officers went and the Officers Camp of Instruction, organized at Quantico in July 1917, was the place they received their training. Its original location was near Barnett Avenue, approximately one-half mile south of what is now the town of Quantico. In April of 1918, the school was formalized and titled the Officers Training Camp.

In 1919, the Commanding General of Marine Base Quantico, Major General John A. Lejeune, established the Marine Corps Officers Training School and the Marine Officers Infantry School. These two schools were subsequently combined in 1920 to become the Marine Officers Training School. By 1922, this school had further evolved into the Field Officers Course (modeled after the Army's Command and General Staff School) and the Company Officers Course, both designed to teach tactics, topography, law, administration, and engineering, among other subjects. A third course, called The Basic School (TBS) was designed to indoctrinate new Marine Lieutenants in the duties of infantry leaders.

Having proved itself on the battlefields of France, a still growing Marine Corps began recruiting potential officers from colleges and universities through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) program. Second Lieutenants commissioned from the U.S. Naval Academy, NROTC units, and qualified enlisted Marines who had been commissioned reported to TBS for instruction. Officer training continued to expand and, in 1924, TBS moved to Philadelphia due to a shortage of suitable classrooms and officers billeting in Quantico.

In 1934, the Marine Corps introduced the Platoon Leaders Class (PLC), selecting students from certain colleges that did not have a ROTC. In the spring of 1935, PLC was organized at Quantico and San Diego. Under this new program, college graduates were appointed Second Lieutenants in the Marine Corps Reserve after two six-week training periods. Lieutenant Colonel Clifton B. Cates commanded the first 200 candidates at Quantico in July 1935. In July of 1940, Colonel Lemuel Shepard Jr. headed a special unit tasked with training additional officer candidates. On 1 November 1940, Officer Candidates Class-1 became the first class to graduate in Quantico.

The wartime demands of 1943 prompted the Commandant to establish temporary candidate detachments at Camp Elliot, California and Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The PLC was reestablished in 1944 and except for a temporary move to Parris Island, South Carolina in 1951, it has remained at Quantico. The addition of the PLC program to officer candidate training led to another reorganization, and in 1944, the Officer Candidates Class was renamed Officer Candidates School. TBS reopened in September 1945, and by 1947, through various reorganizations, had assumed responsibility for training all officer candidates, including those of the PLC and NROTC. Coincident with these reorganizations, TBS moved from its first home on Barnett Avenue to Brown Field at the site of the old Airfield No. 1.

TBS headquarters left Brown Field in early 1955 and relocated to Camp Upshur where it could be closer to its training activities. A newly formed unit, the Training and Test Regiment, took over the training activities remaining at Brown Field, and became the unit responsible for training officer candidates of the various officer procurement programs. On 1 June 1963, the regiment was re-designated the Officer Candidates School.



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 ev'ry 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.*