

EDWARD J. O'CONNELL
Lieutenant Colonel, United States Marine Corps
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Career Marine Corps Officer and Battalion Commander experienced in leading diverse teams in complex environments. Excellent communicator and leader with the ability to navigate ambiguous situations, develop creative solutions, and advise senior-level decision makers in the implementation of campaigns and resource development. Broad career experiences balanced with training and education via three separate master's programs. Proven critical thinker, chosen for multiple highly competitive Marine Corps programs over the course of a career currently spanning over 19 years.

EDUCATION

MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY – SCHOOL OF ADVANCED WARFIGHTING Quantico, VA
Master of Operational Studies, 2015
Thesis: *Modernizing Marine Corps Air Defense*

MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY – COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE Quantico, VA
Master of Military Studies, 2014
Distinguished Graduate
Thesis: *Designing an Ethical Command Climate: A Systems Approach*

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND College Park, MD
Master of Professional Studies, Leadership Education and Development, 2008
Distinguished Graduate

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME Notre Dame, IN
Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance, 2003

DISTINCTIONS

Commandant of the Marine Corps Strategist Fellow, Academic Year 2022 Cohort
German Armed Forces Badge of Proficiency in Gold, 2014
Distinguished Graduate, USMC Expeditionary Warfare School, 2011
Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Instructor, 2011
US Naval Academy Leadership Education and Development Cohort, 2007-2008
Secretary of the Navy Distinguished Midshipman Graduate, 2003
Colonel Brian Regan Award, presented to the University of Notre Dame NROTC Marine Honor Graduate, 2003
University of Notre Dame Eugene D. Fanning Award for Excellence in Business Communication, 2002
University of Notre Dame Monogram, Football, 2002

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

U.S. MARINE CORPS OFFICER **MAY 2003–PRESENT**

Commanding Officer, 2d Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion June 2020–present
II Marine Aircraft Wing, Cherry Point, NC

Command of a battalion of 400 Marines; competed with peers and selected by board for this role.
Oversee the training, welfare and combat readiness of all air defense forces in II Marine Expeditionary Force. Air defense operations across the globe, including: Japan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Australia, and Norway. Manage an annual operating budget in excess of \$80 M.
Serve as Chairperson of the Marine Corps Ground Based Air Defense Committee and Working Group. Direct the development of air defense programs and tactics in support of USMC strategy.

Instructed future Marine officers as adjunct professor of Marine Corps non-resident Expeditionary Warfare School.

Executive Officer, Marine Air Control Group 38 April 2019–June 2020
III Marine Aircraft Wing, Miramar, CA

Supervised all staff and administrative duties in order to maintain the operational readiness of 5 separate units consisting of over 2000 Marines. Planned and implemented early regulations, protocols and risk-mitigation procedures to ensure the preservation of the force in readiness at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. Oversaw the maintenance and accountability for thousands of classified and unclassified systems and equipment.

Instructed future Marine officers as adjunct professor of Marine Corps non-resident Expeditionary Warfare School.

Executive Officer, 3d Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion
Camp Pendleton, CA

June 2018 – April 2019

Directed all staff actions, administrative requirements, legal actions, and maintained the operational readiness of a battalion consisting of 350 Marines. Supported exercises and operations across the globe as part of Marine Expeditionary Force.

Instructed future Marine officers as adjunct professor of Marine Corps non-resident Expeditionary Warfare School.

Chief of Deliberate Plans, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Southern Command
Doral, FL

June 2015 – June 2018

Chief operational planner for US Marine Corps equities in the Southern Command Area of Responsibility. Synthesized national policies, Department of Defense strategy, and US Marine Corps operating concepts. Developed an operational approach and campaign plan that integrated USMC activities to achieve operational and strategic end states. Core member of joint planning team that conceived Southern Command's campaign plan, posture plan, and all contingency planning efforts as a core member of the Joint Planning Team. Deployed as future operations officer in support of Humanitarian Relief operations in response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Student, School of Advanced Warfighting
Quantico, VA

Jun 2014 – June 2015

Studied graduate level military history concentrated on operational art and the conduct of campaigns at the operational level of war. Synthesized and assimilated the operational lessons derived from 50 historical case studies and staff rides covering two-dozen campaigns across eight countries. Developed the capability and capacity to serve as key and trusted operational planner on the staffs of General Officers. Graduated in the top 20% of a class of highly talented officers.

Earned a Master of Operational Studies. Authored future war research paper titled "The Modernization of Marine Corps Air Defense."

Student, Marine Corps Command and Staff College
Quantico, VA

June 2013 – June 2014

Examined military history, security studies, and operational planning at the graduate level. Selected as Distinguished Graduate, top 20% of 220 students and #1 overall officer in a conference group of 15 joint service (Army, Air Force, Navy), international, and interagency (Department of state, etc) all-stars. Competed with peers and selected by board to attend resident intermediate professional military education school.

Awarded a Master of Military Studies. Wrote an award-nominated paper titled "Designing an Ethical Command Climate: A Systems Approach."

Senior Air Coordinator, Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 38
Miramar, CA

May 2012 – June 2013

Supervised and oversaw aviation operations for Regional Command Southwest, Afghanistan during combat deployment in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

Battery Commander, 3d Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion
Camp Pendleton, CA

June 2010 – May 2012

Coordinated the daily training and combat readiness of over 100 Marines. Directed actions in support of major service level exercises and prepared several different detachments for deployments in support of Marine Expeditionary Units.

Completed non-resident Marine Corps Expeditionary Warfare School as a distinguished graduate.

6th Company Officer, US Naval Academy

June 2008 – June 2010

Annapolis, MD

Shaped the daily training and mentoring of a company of 150 Midshipmen. Coached Midshipmen as an assistant for the Varsity Sprint Football Team. Instructed as an adjunct professor for the leadership, ethics, and law department. Served as Marine mentor, professional development instructor, and officer representative for the Semper Fidelis Society.

Student, Leadership Education and Development Program, University of Maryland June 2007 – June 2008
College Park, MD

Competed with peers and selected by board to attend graduate school in preparation for duties as a Company Officer at the US Naval Academy. Earned a Master's degree in Professional Studies with a focus on leadership and education.

Platoon Commander, 2d Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion May 2004 – June 2007
Cherry Point, NC

Led a platoon of 65 Marines through a rigorous Combat deployment in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Convoy commander and security patrol leader for operations in support of logistical requirements in Anbar Province

Entry Level Marine Corps Officer Training June 2003 – May 2004
Quantico, VA

TEACHING AND COACHING

Faculty: USMC Expeditionary Warfare School (non-resident) 2018-2021

Faculty: US Naval Academy Leadership, Ethics, and Law Department, 2008-2009; US Naval Academy Marine Corps Practicum, 2008-2010

Coach: US Naval Academy Sprint Football, 2008-2010

Augment instructor and evaluator for a litany of service level exercises and other courses relating to operational planning, and tactics, techniques, and procedures

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICE

Member, Marine Corps Association and Foundation, 2003–present

Member, Notre Dame Alumni Association, 2003-present

Member, Notre Dame Monogram Club, Football 2003-present

PROFESSIONAL DECORATIONS AND HONORS

Distinguished Graduate, USMC Command and Staff College

Distinguished Graduate, USMC Expeditionary Warfare School

Military Awards:

- Meritorious Service Medal
- Joint Services Commendation Medal
- Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (x3)
- Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (x2)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

Military Occupational Specialty Qualifications:

- Aviation Command and Control Officer (7202)
- Weapons and Tactics Instructor (7277)
- Low Altitude Air Defense Officer (7204)
- Marine Air Ground Task Force OPERATIONAL PLANNER (0505)
- Training and Education Officer (8802)