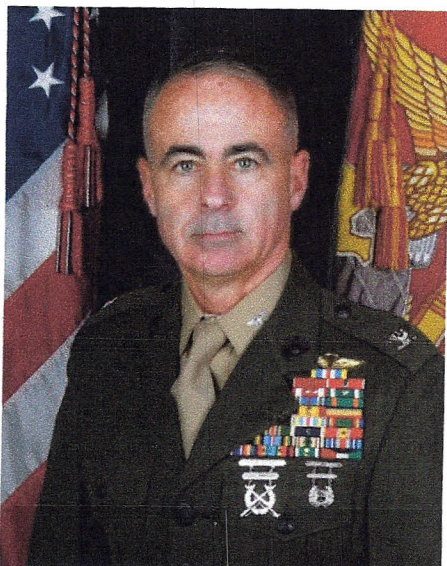


COLONEL CHRISTOPHER C. CONLIN, USMC (RET)



Chris Conlin is a native of Quantico, Virginia. He entered the Marine Corps via the NROTC Program (University of Rochester), and was commissioned in May 1981. After attending The Basic School and Infantry Officer Course, 2ndLt Conlin reported to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines where he served as a rifle platoon and weapons platoon commander, and deployed to the Western Pacific.

In 1984, 1stLt Conlin assumed duties as the Executive Officer and Guard Officer for the Marine Detachment, USS Constellation (CV-64), and deployed to the Persian Gulf. He was selected for Captain in 1986 and assigned as a Tactics Instructor at The Basic School. In 1987 he was selected as an instructor for the Infantry Officer Course. He finished this tour as the Senior Instructor for the Department of State sponsored Mobile Training Team to Mauritania, Africa.

In 1989 Capt Conlin attended the US Army Infantry Officer Advanced Course and also completed Basic Airborne Course in Ft. Benning, GA. Then he was ordered to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines initially serving as the Assistant Operations Officer during their Western Pacific deployment and participation in Operation Classic Resolve (Philippines). In 1990 he assumed command of Charlie Company 1/3 and deployed that August to Operation Desert Shield/Storm for the liberation of Kuwait. He returned in April 1991 and assumed command of the Weapons Company.

He was selected to the rank of Major in 1992 and transferred to Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. He served concurrently as the Marine Corps Security Forces (MCSF) Action Officer at Plans, Policies and Operations Department, and as the MCSF Liaison to Naval Sea Systems Command. In 1995 he transferred to the Chief of Naval Operations Staff, Physical Security/Antiterrorism Department.

In 1996, Major Conlin assumed command of Headquarters and Service Company, Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division. He was reassigned in 1997 as the Executive Officer for 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines and deployed to the Persian Gulf with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) concurrently serving as the Maritime Special Purpose Force Commander during Operations Southern Watch and Desert Thunder. In 1999, LtCol Conlin transferred to the Expeditionary Warfare Training Group, Pacific to serve as the Director, Marine Corps Training Department.

He transferred to the 7th Marine Regiment in May 2002 serving initially as the Operations Officer. On 15 Aug 2002 he assumed command of 1st Battalion 7th Marines. He deployed with the "First Team" in January 2003 to fight for the liberation of Iraq (OIF I), and later served as the Provisional Governor of Najaf Province during subsequent Stabilization Operations. He returned from Iraq on 28 Aug 2003 and reported to US Joint Forces Command serving initially as the Director, Multinational and Interagency Experimentation, and then as the Deputy Director for Joint Experimentation (J-9) until May 2006. Col Conlin commanded Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot from June 2006 to May 2008. In his last assignment, he served as the Operations Officer (G-3) for the Western Recruiting Region/Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego prior to retiring from the Marine Corps in June 2011 with 30 years of honorable service.

In April 2013, Governor Jerry Brown appointed Chris as his Deputy Director for Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation, California Department of Parks and Recreation. He is married to Dr. Ava Marie Conlin, and they have three daughters: Grace, Rose and May.