

U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, PACIFIC PACIFIC MARINES



2024 CHANGE OF COMMAND



TABLE OF CONTENTS

03 Pacific Marines Narrative

04 Commandant of the Marine Corps

05 Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command

06 Lieutenant General William M. Journey

07 Lieutenant General James F. Glynn

08 Official Press Release

09 Schedule of Events

10 Facts and Figures

11 Points of Contact

In Any Clime

and Place.



PACIFIC MARINES

U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific – collectively known as the “Pacific Marines” – is the Nation’s premier expeditionary force-in-readiness in the Indo-Pacific. Comprising two-thirds of the Marine Corps’ active-duty combat forces, we also serve as the Corps’ largest operational command. Every day, the “Pacific Marines” are forward positioned and actively employed throughout the vast maritime region. Experts in the littorals, nimble and responsive, Pacific Marines organize as air-ground-logistics teams, and are specifically designed to operate across all domains – sea, land, air, space, and cyber. We work with the Joint Force and like-minded allies and partners to deter conflict, respond to crisis, and if the Nation calls, to fight and win.

As an expeditionary force that is always ready and persistently forward, Pacific Marines execute two key roles. We are “stand-in” forces and crisis response forces, tailor built for diverse security challenges.

As “stand-in forces,” Pacific Marines are forward positioned in the First Island Chain and other key maritime terrain to deter malign actors and bolster regional security. These air-ground-logistics teams are specifically designed to persist inside the range of a potential adversary’s weapon systems. While physically standing “in” contested areas, Pacific Marines operate across the range of cooperation, competition, and armed conflict. We work with partners to strengthen military relationships, capabilities, and interoperability. We use organic, all-domain capabilities to sense and understand the operating environment and potential adversaries. We can act or enable actions by the Joint Force, allies, and partners to deter conflict. And if conflict comes, stand-in forces can target – or enable joint and coalition targeting – in all domains to threaten, “hold at risk,” or engage adversary capabilities meant to do harm.

As crisis response forces, Pacific Marines are forward positioned throughout the entire Indo-Pacific, ready to respond immediately to any crisis or contingency – in any clime and place. Embarked on amphibious assault ships, and organized, trained, and equipped as Marine air-ground-logistics teams, Pacific Marines stand ready to execute a wide variety of missions at a moment’s notice. Crisis response missions range from disaster relief and humanitarian assistance to embassy reinforcement and major combat operations. As flexible and scalable forces, we stand ready to meet natural and man-made crises, no matter how unexpected.

Each year, Pacific Marines execute more than 100 exercises and engagements with allies and partners, increasing military readiness and interoperability, and honing skills required to operate together in complex environments. These partnerships both strengthen deterrence and facilitate faster response times across the full range of military operations.

In sum, Pacific Marines provide National leaders with persistently forward and ready forces, positioned in key terrain to prevent conflict and respond to crisis – at any time and in any clime and place. As both stand-in forces and crisis response forces, Pacific Marines reassure partners, deter potential adversaries, and advance a free and open Indo-Pacific



COMMANDANT

General Eric M. Smith

U.S. Marine Corps



General Smith is currently serving as the 39th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, and raised in Plano, Texas, General Smith graduated from Texas A&M University and was commissioned in 1987. He has commanded at every level, including Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment during Operation Assured Response in Monrovia, Liberia; 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment during Operation Iraqi Freedom; and 8th Marine Regiment/Regimental Combat Team 8 during Operation Enduring Freedom. He also served in Caracas, Venezuela as part of the U.S. Military Group.

As a General Officer, he commanded U.S. Marine Corps Forces Southern Command, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

General Smith's staff assignments as a General Officer include serving as the Director of Capability Development Directorate, Combat Development and Integration; Senior Military Assistant to both the Deputy Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Defense; Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration; and the 36th Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.





COMMANDER

Admiral Samuel Paparo

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command



Admiral Sam Paparo, a native of Morton, Pennsylvania, graduated from Villanova University and was commissioned in 1987. He is the son of a former enlisted Marine and the grandson of a World War II enlisted Sailor. He has earned a Master of Arts in International Studies from Old Dominion University and a Master of Science in Systems Analysis from the Naval Postgraduate School. A U.S. Naval Aviator, he is a TOPGUN graduate and has flown over 6,000 hours in the F-14, F-15 and F/A-18 and 1,100 carrier landings.

Operational command tours at sea include Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 195 in the Forward Deployed Naval Forces, Yokosuka, Japan, deploying in Kitty Hawk Strike Group; Commander, Carrier Air Wing 7, embarked in Dwight D. Eisenhower Strike Group and Commander, Carrier Strike Group Ten. On the ground, he commanded Provincial Reconstruction Team, Nuristan Province, Afghanistan, with the 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division and the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Other operational assignments at sea include Fighter Squadron (VF) 14, flying the F-14 Tomcat with USS John F. Kennedy and USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Strike Groups, and VFA-15, flying the F/A-18 Hornet with USS Theodore Roosevelt and USS Enterprise Strike Groups. He served also on exchange duty with the U.S. Air Force flying the F-15C Eagle with the 71st Fighter Squadron, deploying multiple times to Saudi Arabia and Keflavik, Iceland. In joint operational service, he was Battle Director at the Combined Air and Space Operations Center, Al Udeid, Qatar.

Shore assignments include the staff of Commander, Naval Air Forces, as F/A-18 training, readiness and requirements officer. He served as commanding officer of VFA-106 and served on the Chief of Naval Operations staff as OPNAV N80 branch head. He served as executive assistant to Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, and then to the 31st Chief of Naval Operations.

He was Director of Operations, J3, U.S. Central Command. He was Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet/Combined Maritime Forces. His most recent assignment was Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet from May 2021 to April 2024.

Admiral Paparo assumed duties as Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command in May 2024. He is the 27th commander of the nation's oldest and largest combatant command. USINDOPACOM includes 380,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Guardians, Coast Guardsmen and Department of Defense civilians and is responsible for all U.S. military activities in the Indo-Pacific, covering 36 nations, 14 time zones, and 60 percent of the world's population.



COMMANDER

Lieutenant General William M. Journey
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific



Lieutenant General Bill Journey is relinquishing command of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific.

Lieutenant General Journey graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1986. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1987 as an infantryman. In 1988, he was commissioned through the Enlisted Commissioning Program. From 1989-1992, he served as a Rifle Platoon Commander and Company Executive Officer in 2d Battalion, 4th Marines participating with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) in support of Operation Sharp Edge in Monrovia, Liberia and deploying in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Other operational assignments include Rifle Company Commander and Battalion Operations Officer with 3d Battalion, 8th Marines (1996-2000). While serving as the Operations Officer for BLT 3/8, he deployed with the 26th MEU which provided security to refugee camps in Albania (JTF Shining Hope) and conducted peace support operations in Kosovo (Joint Guardian). From 2004-2007, he served as the Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, deploying the battalion twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to the cities of Fallujah and Ramadi. In 2011, he assumed command of 2d Marine Regiment until deploying in 2013 to Afghanistan for duty as the Executive Officer to the Commander, International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

His service outside the Fleet Marine Forces (FMF) include: Company Commander and Assistant Director of Drill Instructor School at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island (1992-1995); Commanding Officer, Recruiting Station Baltimore (2001-2004); and Chief of Plans, U.S. Joint Forces Command (2009-2011).

General Officer assignments include: Deputy Director for Joint Training, Joint Staff J7 (2014-2016); Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region (2016-2018); Commanding General, 3d Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan (2018-2020); Commanding General, MAGTF Training Command and the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (2020-2021); and Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force (2021-2022).

In addition to The Basic School and the Infantry Officers Course, Lieutenant General Journey is a graduate of the Amphibious Warfare School, Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and the Naval War College. He has earned master's degrees in Military Studies, and in National Security and Strategic Studies.

His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with combat distinguishing device with gold star, Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars, Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon with two gold stars. He is also a recipient of the Navy League's General Holland M. Smith Award for Operational Competence, and the Lieutenant General John A. Lejeune Leadership Award.



COMMANDER

Lieutenant General James F. Glynn
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific



Lieutenant General James F. Glynn is assuming command of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, the largest operational command in the Marine Corps which consists of two-thirds of the Marine Corps' active-duty forces, I Marine Expeditionary Force and III Marine Expeditionary Force.

A native of Albany, New York, Lieutenant General Glynn graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Lieutenant General Glynn served as rifle platoon commander during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm and 81mm mortar platoon commander with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment; as company commander and operations officer with 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment; as Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Recruiting Station, San Antonio, Texas; as Battalion Landing Team Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, with both 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) during Operation Iraqi Freedom and 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable); and as Commanding Officer, Marine Special Operations School.

His staff assignments include duties at Marine Barracks 8th and I, Washington, D.C.; Future Operations Planner (G35), I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), Fallujah, Iraq; Director, Theater Engagement and Plans (J5) and Operations Director (J3) for Theater Special Operations Command - Africa in Stuttgart, Germany; and Military Assistant to the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.

As a General Officer, he served as Director, Office of U.S. Marine Corps Communication; Deputy Commanding General, Special Operations Joint Task Force, Operation Inherent Resolve (Forward), Baghdad, Iraq; Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina and the Eastern Recruiting Region; and Commander, Marine Forces Special Operations Command (MARFORSOC).

Lieutenant General Glynn is a graduate of the Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School, Marine Corps Command and Staff College, U.S. Army War College, and Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program.



OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

New Commander Takes Charge of Pacific Marines

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII – Lt. Gen. William M. Journey relinquished command of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific to Lt. Gen. James F. Glynn during a ceremony aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Sept. 12, 2024. Journey also retired from the Marine Corps during the ceremony.

“You don’t get here by happenstance,” said Gen. Eric M. Smith, Commandant of the Marine Corps. “You get here by determination, by hard work, by commitment to your profession. You’re hand selected to come here based on your integrity, your vision, and your warfighting expertise.”

Journey, a native of Statesville, North Carolina, commanded MARFORPAC since September 2022. After graduating from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1987, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and retired with more than 37 years of service.

“The Marines and Sailors standing in front of you today represent two Marine Expeditionary Forces, both I and III MEF, and our headquarters,” stated Journey during his last address as commander. “The MEFs and MARFORPAC represent approximately two-thirds of the entire United States Marines Corps’ combat power. Every day, over 80,000 Marines and Sailors make sacrifices for our country, and we do not forget them for their service.”

During Journey’s tenure, Pacific Marines participated in several significant events, including the first deployment of the Amphibious Combat Vehicle with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, the redesignation of 12th Marine Regiment to 12th Marine Littoral Regiment, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3’s transition from the RQ-21A to the MQ-9A MUX/MALE, and support to more than 120 exercises and engagements throughout the Indo-Pacific theater.

Reflecting on the achievements and progress made while in command, Journey highlighted the dedication and readiness of Pacific Marines.

“They stand ready to fight – and to fight and win – on behalf of our Nation and on behalf of our Nation’s commitment to our Allies and to our partners,” continued Journey. “Our capabilities of readiness are possible because of strong partnerships and our strong alliances.”

A native of Albany, New York, Glynn graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and commissioned in 1989. He most recently served as Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, based in Quantico, Virginia.

“You should expect me to be out front ensuring that you have what you need and that you are taken care of so that we can achieve the things in support of our partners and Allies,” Glynn said during his first remarks to Pacific Marines. “So, we can do the things that are required to prevail – that are expected of us as individuals and as a group. So, know those standards and exceed those standards at every occasion.”

The ceremony featured marching units, the MARFORPAC Band, a combined color guard representing MARFORPAC and its subordinate commands, an artillery salute, and the traditional passing of the unit colors from the outgoing to the incoming commander, signifying the transfer of authority and accountability of the command.

Distinguished guests included Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Eric M. Smith, who served as the reviewing officer of the ceremony, U.S. Indo-Pacific Commander Adm. Samuel Paparo, other flag and general officers, Congressional and Hawaii state elected officials, and many others.

“Our job is to be ready to fight and win and return home with our honor clean as Marines have done throughout the decades,” Smith said during the ceremony.

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific is the largest operational command in the Marine Corps. It comprises two-thirds of the Marine Corps’ active-duty combat forces, collectively known as the “Pacific Marines.” Pacific Marines serve as an expeditionary force-in-readiness. They operate as air-ground-logistics teams and are forward positioned and actively employed throughout the Indo-Pacific every day. Pacific Marines live and work alongside the joint force and like-minded allies and partners to prevent conflict, respond to crisis, and if the Nation calls, to fight and win.

- 30 -

Images from the official ceremony are published at <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/marforpac>.

For any media queries, please contact U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, Communication Strategy and Operations, at marforpaccommstrat@usmc.mil.



FACTS AND FIGURES

Pacific Marines

- ◇ Pacific Marines is comprised of roughly 75,000 Marines, Sailors, and Civilians—about two-thirds of the Marine Corps' active-duty combat forces.
- ◇ We are the Marine Corps' largest operational command, forward positioned, with more than 25,000 Marines West of the International Date Line every day.
- ◇ We are comprised of three entities:
 - ◇ U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, Headquarters based in Hawaii
 - ◇ I Marine Expeditionary Force based in California and Arizona
 - ◇ III Marine Expeditionary Force based in Hawaii and Japan
- ◇ Each year, Pacific Marines participate in more than 100 operations, activities, and investments throughout the Indo-Pacific.
- ◇ Pacific Marines, on average, train annually with 20 of the 36 countries in the Indo-Pacific.

Indo-Pacific By the Numbers

- ◇ The region covers more than 100 million square miles and covers approximately 52% of the Earth's surface.
- ◇ Contains an estimated 155,000 miles of coastline—enough to circumnavigate the globe more than six times.
- ◇ The Pacific Ocean makes up approximately 46% of the global surface water area.
- ◇ Home to more than half of the world's population.
- ◇ Comprised of 36 countries spanning 16 time zones.
- ◇ Hosts six of the 10 largest militaries and armed forces in the world.



POINTS OF CONTACT

Col. Rob Shuford

Assistant Chief of Staff
Communication Strategy & Operations
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific
Email: robert.shuford@usmc.mil
Front Desk: 808-477-8588

Maj. Miraquel "Kel" Ridenhour

Current Operations Branch Head
Communication Strategy and Operations
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific
Email: miraquel.ridenhour@usmc.mil
Office: 808-477-8638
Gov Cell: 808-475-2590

Kevin Chambers

Media Support
Communication Strategy and Operations
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific
Email: kevin.l.chambers.ctr@usmc.mil
Office: 808-477-8788

MARFORPAC Media

Website: <https://www.marforpac.marines.mil/>
DVIDS: <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/MarForPac>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pacificmarines/>
Instagram: @pacificmarines
Twitter: @PacificMarines

U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, PACIFIC

Pacific Marines

Contact Us



Phone

(808) 477-8788



Website

<https://www.marforpac.marines.mil>
<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/MarForPac>



E-mail

marforpaccommstrat@usmc.mil



Address

PO BOX 64124

