

INDIA CO TAC OFFICER

LIEUTENANT COLONEL SHAWN A RICKRODE

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS (RET)



Lieutenant Colonel Shawn A. Rickrode was born in Wheeling, WV to the late Richard A. Jr; and Norma Jean Rickrode on January 20th, 1972. He was raised in Marshall County and is a 1990 graduate of Bishop Donahue Memorial High School. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1991 and attended Recruit Training in Parris Island, SC. After completing the School of Infantry and Marine Security Forces Training, PFC Rickrode reported to the Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team (FAST) Company in Norfolk, VA on June 19, 1992. While at FAST, he served as a member of the Close Quarters Battle, and Reconnaissance and Surveillance Teams with 5th Platoon. He deployed to Mogadishu, Somalia in support of Operation *Restore Hope* and Port-Au-Prince, Haiti for Operation *Provide Comfort*.

In September 1994, Lance Corporal Rickrode transferred to 2d Marine Division aboard Camp Lejeune, NC and was assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marines. Corporal Rickrode deployed to Okinawa, Japan in November 1994 as the Schools NCO in the Operations Section. In July 1995, he attended Scout Sniper School and was subsequently assigned to the Weapons Company as a team leader in the Scout Sniper Platoon. In November 1996, Sergeant Rickrode deployed with Battalion Landing Team 1/8 as part of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) and served as the primary sniper and reconnaissance and surveillance team leader for the Maritime Special Purpose Force. During this deployment, he participated in Operation *Silver Wake* in Tirana, Albania and Operation *Guardian Retrieval* in Kinshasa, Zaire.

In June 1997, Sergeant Rickrode was transferred to the Special Operations Training Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force and served as an Urban Sniper and Reconnaissance and Surveillance Instructor in the Special Missions Branch. The following year he was selected for the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) to pursue a commission as a Marine Officer.

In August 1998, Sergeant Rickrode reported to the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) Unit, The Citadel in Charleston, SC as a MECEP student. He successfully completed Officer Candidates School in August 1999. Staff Sergeant Rickrode then received his degree and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on December 19, 2001.

Following his successful completion of The Basic School and Military Police Basic Officer Course, he was ordered in December 2002 to Camp Lejeune to serve as a platoon commander in 2d Military Police Battalion. He deployed with his platoon in January 2003 and participated in Operation *Iraqi Freedom*. Upon his return to CONUS in August 2003, he supported the installation security and law enforcement mission for the Provost Marshals Office, MCB Camp Lejeune, as a Platoon Commander, Services Officer, Military Police Company Executive Officer and Company Commander until December 2004. In March 2005, he deployed to Fallujah in support of Operation *Iraqi Freedom* as a member of the Operations section with 2d Military Police Battalion.

Upon his return in October 2005, First Lieutenant Rickrode was transferred to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit to serve as the Anti-terrorism/Force Protection Officer. In addition, he served as the Future Operations Officer and Liaison Officer to Commander, 5th Fleet, during their deployment from January to July 2007. During this deployment Captain Rickrode conducted official travel to 27 different countries, conducting threat assessments, and planning for security cooperation exercises with five of our partner nations helping to strengthen relationships and build interoperability to support operations in shared interests.

In July 2008, Captain Rickrode returned to the NROTC Unit, The Citadel as the Marine Officer Instructor charged with developing young men and women for commissioned service in the Marine Corps. He served in this capacity until June 2011.

In July 2011, Captain Rickrode reported the Marine Corps Training and Advisory Group in Virginia Beach, VA and immediately deployed to the Republic of Georgia to serve as Deputy OIC, Georgia Training Team. During this 7-month deployment, he helped prepare the Georgian 23rd Light Infantry Battalion for counter insurgency operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan along side US Marine Corps units. Upon his return to the newly named Marine Corps Security Cooperation Group, Major Rickrode was assigned as the Future Operations Officer until his departure for the Naval War College in Newport, RI in July 2014. Upon graduation in June 2015 he transferred to II Marine Expeditionary Force aboard Camp Lejeune, NC for duty as the Executive Officer, 2d Law Enforcement Battalion. In September 2017 Major Rickrode was assigned as a Marine Corps representative to the Joint Staff with duty at the Joint Center for International Security Force Assistance at Fort Leavenworth, KS. During this tour he served as Chief of the Joint Force Support Division responsible for conducting security force assistance (SFA) task analysis; training and education design, development and implementation; and support to the Services, Combatant Commanders and other Joint Staff organizations in development of strategy and policy. He was chosen as the US lead on a multinational project involving eight partner nations to develop doctrine and education on military advising to the upper echelons of foreign militaries. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in October 2018 and finished his tour as the Deputy Director until June of 2021.

Lieutenant Colonel Rickrode was selected to serve as the Commanding Officer, Support Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC. He was responsible for reception of 20,000 new recruits annually, led the academics, martial arts and combat water survival training in addition to overseeing the recovery and rehabilitation of all recruits that were injured during training. He successfully completed his command tour in 2023 and retired on July 1, 2024, with nearly 33 years of active duty service.

Lieutenant Colonel Rickrode is a graduate of the Expeditionary Warfare School (Distance Education Program), the College of Naval Command and Staff, Joint and Combined Warfighting School, holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Military Affairs from The Citadel and a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. His personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (x3), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (x3), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (x4) and the Combat Action Ribbon. He is married to Rebecca (Becca) Ladd of Melbourne, FL and they live in Summerville, SC with their two Labrador retrievers, Ichabod Crane and Brom Bones.