



**James F. Amos, General USMC (Ret.)**  
"Tamer"

On October 22, 2010 General James F. Amos assumed the duties as Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Born in the Northwest, General Amos is a graduate of the University of Idaho. A Marine Aviator, General Amos held command at all levels, from Lieutenant Colonel to General.

General Amos' command tours include: Marine Wing Support Squadron 173 from 1985-1986; Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312, attached to Carrier Air Wing 8, onboard USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71), 1991-1993; Marine Aircraft Group 31, 1996-1998; 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing in combat during Operations IRAQI FREEDOM I and II, 2002-2004; II Marine Expeditionary Force from 2004-2006; Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, and Deputy Commandant, Combat Development and Integration, 2006 to July 2008; and Commandant of the Marine Corps, 2010-2014.

Joining Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 (VMFA-212) in January of 1972, his early operational assignments included tours with VMFA-235, VMFA-232, and VMFA-122 where he flew the F-4 Phantom II. In the fall of 1978 Amos left the active duty to become a commercial pilot for Braniff International Airways. He was employed with Braniff for 25 months, returning to the Marine Corps in January 1981. After a three year posting as a Flight Instructor in Advanced Jet Training, attendance at the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia as a Major, and a 13-month overseas staff assignment to the III Marine Amphibious Force, Okinawa, Japan, he was transferred to Marine Aircraft Group 24, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, he assumed command of Marine Air Base Squadron 24, later re-designated as Marine Wing Support Squadron 173. Joining VMFA-212, in 1987, Lieutenant Colonel Amos deployed to the western pacific as the squadron's Executive Officer for what would be called "Operation Last Dance," the last overseas deployment of the Marine F-4 Phantom before it was phased out and retired.



Transitioning to the F/A-18 Hornet in the spring of 1990, he assumed command of the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312, VMFA-312, and took delivery of 12 new F/A-18C aircraft, becoming the Marine Corps' first single-seat Night Attack Hornet squadron. In the spring of 1992, he and his squadron joined Carrier Air Wing Eight onboard the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71). The squadron's strong performance was recognized in 1993 with the awarding of the Marine Corps Aviation Association's Hanson Trophy, recognizing 312 as the Marine Corps' top Fighter/Attack squadron.

Following a two-year staff instructor assignment at Quantico, Virginia, where he was promoted to Colonel, Amos took command of Marine Aircraft Group 31, Beaufort, South Carolina in May 1996. Promoted to Brigadier General in 1998, General Amos was assigned to NATO as the Deputy Commander, Naval Striking Forces, Southern Europe, Naples, Italy. During this tour, he stood up and then commanded NATO's Kosovo Verification and Coordination Center in Skopje, Macedonia, and later served as the Chief of Staff, U.S. Joint Task Force Noble Anvil during the air campaign over Yugoslavia and Kosovo.

Transferred to the Pentagon in the summer of 2000, General Amos' other one star assignments included posting as the Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation in 2000, and the Assistant Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies and Operations in 2001.

In August 2002, he was promoted to Major General and assumed command of the 15,000 Marines of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing based out of Miramar, California leading them in combat twice between 2003 and 2004, during Operations IRAQI FREEDOM I and II. Receiving his third star in 2004, Lieutenant General Amos assumed command of the 48,000 Marines and Sailors of the II Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune, NC. In 2006 he was reassigned as the Commanding General, Marine Corps' Combat Development Command, and as the Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration, at Quantico, VA, where he was

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responsible for the training of all Marines, their combat units, their continuing education, and for the identification of all Marine equipment requirements.

Receiving his fourth star in July 2008, he assumed duties as the 31st Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, based at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. In June 2010, Amos was recommended for nomination by U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates to become the 35th Commandant of the Marine Corp. Nominated by President Barack Obama on July 20, he was confirmed by the Senate Armed Services Committee on September 21. On October 22, 2010, at a ceremony at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. he assumed the position as Commandant of the Marine Corps. This marked the first time a Marine aviator has held the position of Commandant, and the first time since 1983 that a sitting Assistant Commandant had moved up to become Commandant.

General Amos retired from active duty on 1 December 2014.

His personal decorations include the Department of Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal with Gold Star, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Gold Star, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. Additionally, the Emperor of Japan awarded him the Order of the Rising Sun, the President of the Republic of Georgia awarded him the Order of the Golden Fleece, and the President of the Republic of France awarded General Amos the Ordre National Du Merite.