



Keith Stalder, LtGen, USMC (Ret.)
 "Shadow"

Date of Designation: 14 February 1975

Dates of Active Duty: 5 January 1973 - 31 October 2010

Total Flight Hours: 4,824

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 178

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 4,398 Prop: 275 VF/VA: 4,110 VT: 335

Rotary Wing: 154

Combat Tours:

Operation Iraqi Freedom I: CG, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade and Deputy Commander I Marine Expeditionary Force, Jan. 2003 to Sept. 2003 (KC-130, CH-46).

Operation Iraqi Freedom II: Commanding General 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, May 2004 to March 2005 (F/A-18, CH-46, CH-53, UH-1, KC-130).

Total Combat Missions: 95 (F/A-18, CH-46, CH-53, UH-1, KC-130).

Aviation Commands:

CO, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 531, June 1990-March 1992 (F/A-18).

CO, Marine Aviation Weapons & Tactics Squadron One, May 1996-May 1998 (F/A-18, CH-46, CH-53, UH-1, AH-1, EA-6B, AV-8B, KC-130, AH/MH-6, F-5, OH-58, TH-57).

CG, 3rd MAW Aviation Combat Element (ACE) and Deputy CG 3rd MAW, July 1998-May 2000 (F/A-18, AH-1, KC-130, CH-53).

CG, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade and Deputy CG I MEF, July 2002-May 2004 (F/A-18, CH-46, KC-130)

CG, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, May 2004-August 2005 (F/A-18, CH-46, CH-53, UH-1, KC-130).



CG, II Marine Expeditionary Force, August 2006-July 2008 (F/A-18, CH-46, MV-22).

CG, Marine Forces Pacific, August 2008 - September 2010 (CH-53).

Combat/Other Flight Performance Awards:

Distinguished Service Medal-Navy (Operation Iraqi Freedom I)

Defense Superior Service Medal (Operation Enduring Freedom)

Air Medal-Strike/Flight with numeral '2'

Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, eight awards

Duty Assignment Chronology

- 1/73-10/73 Officer's Candidate School (OCS) and The Basic School (TBS), Quantico, VA.
- 11/73-3/74 Primary Flight Training, Pensacola, FL (T-34B).
- 4/74-2/75 Intermediate and Advanced Flight Training, NAS Chase, Beeville, TX (T-2C, TA-4J).
- 3/75-10/75 F-4 Replacement Pilot, VMFAT-101, MCAS Yuma, AZ (F-4, T-28).
- 11/75-4/78 VMFA-333, CVW-8, *USS Nimitz*, one Med cruise, and MCAS Beaufort, SC (F-4).
- 6/78-9/81 VMFA-235, two West Pac unit deployments, MCAS Kaneohe, HI (F-4).
- 10/81-7/84 VFA-125, initial F/A-18 instructor cadre, NAS LeMoore, CA (F/A-18)
- 8/84-6/85 USMC Command and Staff College student, Quantico, VA.
- 6/85-2/88 VMFA-115, Aircraft Maintenance Officer, one European and one West Pac deployment, MCAS Beaufort, SC (F/A-18).
- 2/88-5/90 Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1, Operations Officer, MCAS Yuma, AZ (F/A-18, CH-46, TA-4, UH-1, AV-8B).
- 6/90-3/92 CO, VMFA-531, one West Pac deployment, MCAS El Toro, CA (F/A-18).

Duty Assignment Chronology continued

4/92-6/92 MAG-11 staff, MCAS El Toro, CA (F/A-18).
8/92-2/93 NATO Defense College student, Rome, Italy.
2/93-5/95 US European Command J-5, Stuttgart, Germany.
5/95-7/98 CO and XO, Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1, MCAS Yuma, AZ (F/A-18, CH-46, CH-53, UH-1, AH-1, EA-6B, AV-8B, KC-130, AH/MH-6, F-5, OH-58, TH-57).
7/98-5/00 CG 3rd MAW Aviation Combat Element (ACE) and Deputy CG 3D Marine Aircraft Wing, MCAS Miramar, San Diego, CA (F/A-18, AH-1, KC-130, CH-53).
5/00-7/02 CG Marine Forces Central Command (Forward) and Deputy Director for Plans and Policy, US Central Command, McDill AFB, Tampa, FL.
7/02-5/04 CG 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade and Deputy CG I Marine Expeditionary Force, Iraq combat deployment and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA (F/A-18, CH-46, KC-130).
5/04-8/05 CG 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Iraq combat deployment and MCAS Miramar, San Diego, CA (F/A-18, CH-46, CH-53, UH-1, KC-130).
9/05-7/06 CG Marine Corps Training and Education Command, Quantico, VA.
8/06-7/08 CG II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC (F/A-18, CH-46, MV-22).
8/08-9/10 CG Marine Forces Pacific, Camp HM Smith, Honolulu, HI (CH-53).
10/10 Retired from Active Duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

1. Grew up in Alaska and began flying at age 16; worked for a small bush airline flying the DC-3, Volpar, and various single engine airplanes. Bought my first air plane at 17.
2. Selected for the first cadre of eight Marine F-18 pilots in 1981 and helped to introduce the airplane to the Navy, Marine Corps, Canadians, and Aussies.
3. Assigned as Aviation Maintenance Officer of VMFA-115, first east coast Marine Hornet squadron and made the first F/A-18 West Pac deployment.
4. Received the John A. Lejeune Award for Inspirational Leadership from the Navy League in 1987.
5. Assigned as Operations Officer of Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1 in 1988. Helped to introduce the F-18 to the Marine Corps Weapons Tactics and Training Program. Played a role in technology development, training and tactics for the introduction of AV8B, AH-1W, CH-53E, Night Vision

systems and many new aviation weapons including HARM, AIM-9M, and AMRAAM.

6. Assigned as XO and CO of Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1 from 1995 to 1998. Responsible for training, tactics development, aircraft and equipment enhancements for all of Marine Aviation with a focus on assault support, electronic warfare, command and control, aerial reconnaissance, Anti-Air Warfare and Offensive Air Support. Worked extensively on the V-22, AH-1Z, UH-1Y, F/A-18E/F, KC-130J, and AV8B programs.
7. A key contributor to the post 9/11 planning and execution of combat operations in Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom.
8. A key contributor to the planning and execution of combat operations for the liberation of Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom I. Deployed to Kuwait and Iraq for combat ops in Jan 2003. Led the I MEF Targeting Board as the senior aviator on the I MEF staff.
9. Served as the Commanding General of 3D Marine Aircraft Wing at Al Asad Air Base in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Flew combat sorties in all types of 3D Wing A/C except the AV-8 and EA-6B. Planned and led the aviation execution of Operation Al Fajr (Phantom Fury), the liberation of Fallujah in the fall of 2004. Dropped the first bombs to breach the railroad berm north of Fallujah to begin the assault by Coalition Ground Forces. The most recent Marine Wing Commanding General to command a Wing in combat.
10. As CG II MEF was a key contributor to the successful introduction of MV-22 to the operating forces, including its first three combat deployments to Iraq.
11. Became the National Commander of the Marine Corps Aviation Association (MCAA) in 2013.