



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

Hometown: Grew up in Chitina and Fairbanks, Alaska

School and College Career:

Graduated from Lathrop High School, Fairbanks, Alaska in 1969. Enlisted in the Marine Corps Aviation Officer Candidate (Scholarship) Program in 1972. Received a Bachelor's Degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1983. Received a Master's Degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1994.

Date Commissioned/Source:

March 1973, Officer Candidate School (OCS)

Date of Designation: 14 February 1975

Dates of Active Duty: 5 January, 1973 to 31 October, 2010

Total Flight Hours: 4824

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

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



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, Marine Corps Training and Education Command (TECOM), September 2005-July 2006

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).

Awards:

Distinguished Service Medal-Navy (Operation Iraqi Freedom I)
Defense Superior Service Medal (Operation Enduring Freedom)
Air Medal-Strike/Flight with numeral '2'
Distinguished Service Medal-Navy (Retirement award as CG Marine Forces Pacific)
Navy League's John A. Lejeune Award for Inspirational Leadership in 1987
Legion of Merit

Duty Assignment Chronology

01/73-10/73 Officer's Candidate School (OCS) and The Basic School (TBS), Quantico, VA.

11/73-03/74 Primary Flight Training, Pensacola, FL (T-34B).

04/74-02/75 Intermediate and Advanced Flight Training, NAS Chase, Beeville, TX (T-2C, TA-4J).

03/75-10/75 F-4 Replacement Pilot, VMFAT-101, MCAS Yuma, AZ (F-4, T-28).

11/75-04/78 VMFA-333, CVW-8, USS *Nimitz*, one Med cruise, and MCAS Beaufort, SC (F-4).

06/78-09/81 VMFA-235, two West Pac unit deployments, attended MAWTS-1's Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) course, MCAS Kaneohe, HI (F-4).

10/81-07/84 VFA-125, initial F/A-18 instructor cadre, NAS Lemoore, CA (F/A-18)

08/84-06/85 Marine Corps Command and Staff College student, Quantico, VA.

06/85-02/88 VMFA-115, Aircraft Maintenance Officer, one European and one West Pac deployment, MCAS Beaufort, SC (F/A-18).

02/88-05/90 Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1, Operations Officer, MCAS Yuma, AZ (F/A-18, CH-46, TA-4, UH-1, AV-8B).

06/90-03/92 CO, VMFA-531, one West Pac deployment, MCAS El Toro, CA (F/A-18).

04/92-06/92 MAG-11 staff, MCAS El Toro, CA (F/A-18).

08/92-02/93 NATO Defense College student, Rome, Italy.

02/93-05/95 US European Command J-5, Stuttgart, Germany.

05/95-07/98 XO and CO, 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).

07/98-05/00 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).

05/00-07/02 CG Marine Forces Central Command (Forward) and Deputy Director for Plans and Policy, US Central Command, MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL.

07/02-05/04 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).

05/04-08/05 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).

09/05-07/06 CG Marine Corps Training and Education Command, Quantico, VA

08/06-07/08 CG II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC (F/A-18, CH-46, MV-22).

08/08-09/10 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 airline flying the DC-3, Volpar, and various single engine airplanes. Bought an airplane at age 17.
- (2) Selected for the first cadre of eight Marine F/A-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, the first east coast Marine Hornet squadron and made the first F/A-18 West Pac deployment.
- (4) Assigned as Operations Officer of Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1 in 1988. Helped to introduce the F/A-18 to the Marine Corps Weapons Tactics and Training Program. Supported operational development, training, and tactics for the introductions of the AV8B, AH-1W, CH-53E, Night Vision systems and new weapons including HARM, AIM-9M, and AMRAAM.
- (5) 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. Worked extensively to advance V-22, AH-1Z, UH-1Y, F/A-18E/F, KC-130J, and AV8B capabilities.
- (6) A key contributor to the post 9/11/01 planning and execution of combat operations in Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom as the U.S. Central Command Deputy J-5.
- (7) A key contributor to the planning and execution of combat operations for the liberation of Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom I as Deputy CG I MEF. 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.
- (8) 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.
- (9) 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 and begin the assault by Coalition Ground Forces.
- (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) Made eight major overseas deployments, two were combat deployments.

Personal

- (1) Married Susan in 2007.
- (2) Children Bethany (Mike) and Grant (Rebecca) and grandchildren Sarah, Theodora, and Jacob.

Association Membership Boards

- (1) National Commander of the Marine Corps Aviation Association (MCAA) from 2012 until 2018.
- (2) Golden Eagles Pilot from 2022 until 2024
- (3) Tailhook Association member
- (4) 50-year member of the U.S. Naval Institute
- (5) Founder and CEO of KSA Integration, LLC a technical consulting and Warrior Care provider to commercial and government customers, including DoD and DHS. KSA Integration was a multiple awardee of Inc. magazine's "Best Places to Work", a national competition, Marine Times "Best for Vets", and the U.S. Department of Labor's "Hire Vets" Platinum awards.