

Colonel Robert D. Curtis, USMC



Colonel Curtis was born in Milo, Maine. He graduated from Searsport District High School and enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1982. From 1982-1986 he served as an OV-10 mechanic in H&MS-29, VMO-1, and H&MS-36 until he was honorably discharged in 1986.

In 1990 he graduated from Maine Maritime Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering and a U.S. Coast Guard 3rd Engineer's license. Upon graduation he was commissioned a second lieutenant and preceded to The Basic School (TBS) in Quantico, VA. After finishing TBS, he attended Flight School in Pensacola, FL where he was promoted to First Lieutenant. After earning his Naval Aviator's wings in May 1992, he reported to HMT-303 for training in the AH-1W Super Cobra.

In December 1992 he reported to HML/A-167 and served in the S-4, S-3, and CMCC. In 1994 he deployed with HMM-266, 24 MEU(SOC) where he served in the S-4; participating in Operations Restore Hope and Quick Draw in Somalia, Deny Flight and Provide Promise in the Adriatic Sea and Support Democracy in Haiti. In 1994 he was promoted to Captain.

He reported to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines as a Forward Air Controller (FAC) and deployed with 22 MEU (SOC). During the deployment he participated in Operations Joint Endeavor in the Adriatic Sea and Assured Response in Monrovia, Liberia.

In 1996 he reported to HML/A-269 and served as the assistant Operations Officer, Squadron WTI, and Tactics OIC. He graduated from WTI at MAWTS-1 in 1997 and deployed with HMM-263, 24 MEU (SOC) as the Ordnance OIC participating in Operations Joint Guard in the Adriatic Sea, Southern Watch and Desert Thunder in the Arabian Gulf.

In 1998 he was assigned to MAWTS-1 where he served as an AH-1W instructor and the AH-1W Division Head. He was promoted to Major in 1999.

From 2001-2002 he attended Marine Corps Command and Staff College. Upon graduation he was assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps, Aviation Programs and Weapons (APW) department serving as the H-1 legacy and Upgrades action officer. From February to May 2003, while working at the Pentagon, Col Curtis volunteered for an Individual Augment (IA) billet and deployed to OIF-1 as a FAC with Delta Company, 3d LAR and Task Force Tripoli.

In 2005 he reported to 2d Marine Aircraft Wing (2d MAW) and was deployed to Iraq in support of OIF where he served as the Fusion and Assessment Cell OIC in the TACC. During this deployment he flew combat missions with HML/A-167. In October of 2005 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

From March 2006-August 2007 he served as the Executive Officer of HMM-264 (Rein) and deployed with 26 MEU (SOC). During LF6F/5F 26 MEU (SOC) participated in operations and exercises in Kenya, Qatar, Kuwait and Jordan.

From August 2007-May 2008 he served as the Executive Officer of MAG-26.

He assumed Command of VMU-2 in June of 2008 while deployed to Iraq in support of OIF and relinquished Command in December of 2009. After Command he was assigned as the Executive Officer of MACG-28 until March 2010.

In March 2010 was assigned to the Joint Staff (J37), Directorate for Special Operations and Counter Terrorism, was selected as Division Chief of Special Activities Division in March 2011, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Seminar XXI Fellow, and was promoted to Colonel in November 2011.

In June 2012 he was assigned to II MEF (FWD) as the Force Effects Coordinator (FEC) and deployed to Afghanistan in February 2013.

Col Curtis's personal awards include the Good Conduct Medal, 3 Navy Achievement Medals (1 with combat "V"), 2 Combat Action Ribbons, Navy Commendation Medal, 3 Meritorious Service Medals, and Air Medal with numeral "2".

Col Curtis is married and has 4 children.