



MARSOC

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command



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**PRESS
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Major General Paul E. Lefebvre

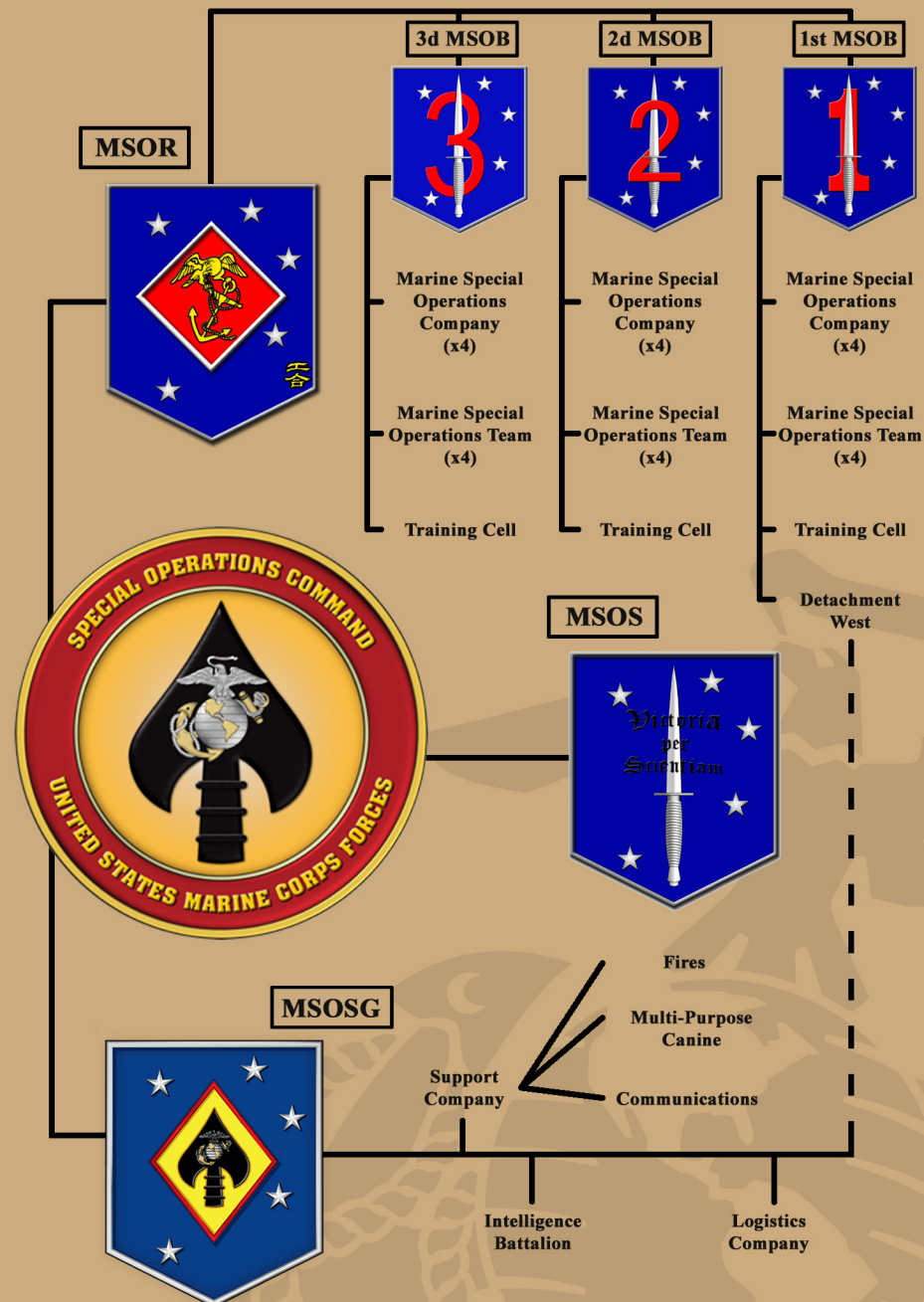
Maj. Gen. Paul E. Lefebvre graduated from Springfield College in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education. Prior to entering the Marine Corps, he coached football at Penn State. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in April 1977 following completion of the Officer Candidate School.

Operational tours include: Rifle, Weapons and 81mm Mortar Platoon Commander, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines (1978-81). Guard Company Commander, Marine Barracks, Earle N.J. (1981-84). H&S and Weapons Company Commander and Operations Officer, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines (1985-88). Current Operations, Joint Special Operations (JSOC), Fort Bragg, N.C. (1992-95). Executive Officer, 8th Marine Regiment (1995). Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines (1995-98). Executive Officer, 2nd Marine Regiment (1998). Commanding Officer 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) (2000-03) Deputy Director for Operations, U.S. Pacific Command, (2004-06). Deputy Commanding General, Multi-National Corps-Iraq (2008-09); Deputy Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force (2009).

Other tours have included Faculty Advisor and Tactics Instructor, Amphibious Warfare School (1988-91). Director Strategic Initiatives Group (SIG), Plans Policies and Operations and simultaneously served as the Director of the Commandant's "War Room" (1999-2000). Director, MAGTF Staff Training Program, Marine Corps Combat Development Command (2003-04). Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Eastern Recruiting Region, Parris Island, South Carolina (2006-08).

He has served on the Board of Governors, Marine Corps Association and the Editorial Board, Marine Corps Gazette.

He was awarded the Leftwich Trophy in 1987 while serving with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines.





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History

In October 2005, the secretary of defense directed the formation of a Marine component of U.S. Special Operations Command. It was determined the Marine Corps would initially form a unit of approximately 2,500 to serve with USSOCOM.

On Feb. 24, 2006 MARSOC activated at Camp Lejeune, N.C. MARSOC initially consisted of a small staff and the Foreign Military Training Unit, which had been formed to conduct foreign internal defense. FMTU was then designated as the Marine Special Operations Advisor Group.

In the months after the activation of MARSOC, the structure and personnel of both 1st and 2d Force Reconnaissance Company transferred to MARSOC to form 1st and 2d Marine Special Operations Battalions.

In April of 2009, MSOAG was re-designated as the Marine Special Operations Regiment with the 1st, 2d, and 3d MSOBs as subordinate units. The newly designated 3d MSOB incorporated the structure and personnel from MSOAG's former companies.

MARSOC also formed the Marine Special Operations Support Group and the Marine Special Operations School. The MSOSG provides combat support and combat service support to MARSOC units, to include: logistics, communication and intelligence. The MSOS screens, assesses, selects and trains Marine Special Operations Forces and is responsible for developing doctrine.

As a service component of USSOCOM, MARSOC is tasked by the commander of USSOCOM to train, organize, equip and when directed by commander of USSOCOM, deploy task organized, scalable and responsive U.S. Marine Corps Special Operations Forces worldwide in support of combatant commanders and other agencies. MARSOC has been directed to conduct foreign internal defense, special reconnaissance, and direct action. Commander, USSOCOM assigns MARSOC missions based on USSOCOM priorities. MARSOC units then deploy under USSOCOM deployment orders.

MARSOC deployed its first units in August 2006, six months after initial activation. Since then, MARSOC has continuously deployed. MARSOC's current deployments include Marine Special Operations Teams conducting foreign internal defense and Marine Special Operations Companies from the Marine Special Operations Battalions conducting foreign internal defense, special reconnaissance and direct action.



Sergeant Major Richard W. Ashton

Sergeant Major Ashton, a native of Maryland was born on 9 October 1960. He graduated from Northern High School in 1979. He enlisted in Baltimore, Maryland and attended 3rd Recruit Training Battalion at Parris Island, South Carolina. Private First Class Ashton graduated from boot camp in October and was assigned to Engineer Company, 4th Engineer Battalion, Reserve Station Baltimore, Maryland. During his tour in the reserves he was trained as a Basic Electrician.

In October 1980 PFC Ashton transferred to active duty with orders to 2d Force Reconnaissance Company, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina where he served in the billets of Scout, Assistant Team Leader, Team Leader.

Sergeant Ashton was transferred to Drill Instructor Duty at Parris Island South Carolina in August 1985 where he was assigned to "D" Company 2d Recruit Training Battalion and held the billets of Drill Instructor, Field Training Unit Instructor and Senior Drill Instructor.

Upon Completion of a successful tour on the Drill Field, October 1987 he was transferred to 1st Battalion 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton California. While assigned to 1/7 he held the billets of Chief Scout Sniper in the Sniper Section, Headquarters and Service Company, 81's Section Leader, Weapons Company and Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant "B" Company. During his tour he held an instructor billet in the Northern Training Area while deployed to Okinawa, Japan. He assisted in the transferring of the entire Battalion to 29 Palms, California and participated in Operation Desert Shield/Storm with Task Force Ripper.

Staff Sergeant Ashton transferred in 1991 to Naval Diving Salvage Training Unit, Panama City, Florida as a Dive Instructor. While at the Dive School he held the billet as Team Leader and Chief Instructor. During his tour he assisted in the development of the Marine Combatant Dive Course.

During August 1995, Gunnery Sergeant Ashton transferred to 3rd Reconnaissance Company, 3rd Marine Division and held billets of Company Gunny and Platoon Sergeant. While at 3rd Recon Company, 1stSgt Ashton assisted in the stand up of 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion with the merging of 5th Force Reconnaissance Company and 3rd Recon Company.

June 2000, 1stSgt Ashton then transferred to the School of Infantry, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and held the billets of 1stSgt "C" Company, Infantry Training Battalion, 1stSgt Student Admin Company and Sergeant Major, Headquarters and Support Battalion.

Sergeant Major Ashton was assigned to 2d Force Reconnaissance Company during April 2004. While at 2d Force Recon Company, SgtMaj Ashton deployed twice to OIF and assisted the the deactivation of 2d Force and the activation of 2d Marine Special Operations Battalion in May of 2006. .

Sergeant Major Ashton's last two years have been as The Basic School's Sergeant Major.





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MSOR

Marine Special Operations Regiment

The Marine Special Operations Regiment (MSOR) consists of a Headquarters Company and three Marine Special Operations Battalions (1st, 2d and 3d). The Regiment provides tailored military combat-skills training and advisor support for identified foreign forces in order to enhance their tactical capabilities and to prepare the environment as directed by USSOCOM as well as the capability to form the nucleus of a Joint Special Operations Task Force. Marines and Sailors of the MSOR train, advise and assist friendly host nation forces - including naval and maritime military and paramilitary forces - to enable them to support their governments' internal security and stability, to counter subversion and to reduce the risk of violence from internal and external threats. MSOR deployments are coordinated by MARSOC, through USSOCOM, in accordance with engagement priorities for Overseas Contingency Operations.



MSOB

Marine Special Operations Battalions

The Marine Special Operations Battalions are organized, trained and equipped to deploy for worldwide missions as directed by MARSOC. The battalions consist of four Marine Special Operations Companies and are task organized with personnel uniquely skilled in special equipment support, intelligence and fire-support. Each MSOC is commanded by a Marine major and capable of deploying task-organized, expeditionary Special Operations Forces for Foreign Internal Defense, special reconnaissance and direct-action missions in support of the geographic combatant commanders. The Marine Special Operations Companies are uniquely organized and tailored to support the geographic combatant commanders with the capability to conduct distributed operations and littoral and counter-insurgency expertise while bringing a language and cultural capability to missions in support of USSOCOM. Each team within the company is designed and capable of limited split-team operations and trained to conduct FID, DA and SR missions both unilaterally and with partnered nation forces.



MSOSG

Marine Special Operations Support Group

The Marine Special Operations Support Group provides support capabilities for worldwide Special Operations missions as directed by the MARSOC commander. The MSOSG specifically provides all-source intelligence fusion, combined arms coordination, multi-purpose canine, special operations communications, and limited combat service support capability to MARSOC forces. The MSOSG deploys these capabilities in tailored operational support detachments.



MSOS

Marine Special Operations School

Marine Special Operations School screens, assesses, selects and trains Marines and Sailors for Special operations assignments in MARSOC; provides advanced individual special operations training; plans and executes the component exercise program; and serves as MARSOC's training and education proponent, in order to support MARSOC requirements.



MSOS is tasked to:

- Conduct a formal Assessment and Selection Program
- Conduct an entry level Special Operations training course to train NCOs and company grade officers for special operations assignments within MARSOC
- Conduct MARSOC's component exercise program
- Conduct Special Operations advanced and specialty courses
- Develop MARSOF standards, doctrine and Tactics, Techniques and Procedures
- Serve as MARSOC's proponent for weapons and optics requirements.
- Serve as the training and education link between MARSOC, USMC and SOCOM component SOF Schools to support MARSOC requirements