

Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 269



DEACTIVATION *Ceremony*

FRIDAY
9 DECEMBER 2022



ONE O'CLOCK
IN THE AFTERNOON

MCAS NEW RIVER

Welcome

to the
Deactivation Ceremony
in which

**Marine Light Attack
Helicopter Squadron 269**

will retire the squadron
colors and end service in the

United States Marine Corps

at MCAS New River, North Carolina



Sequence of Events

Key Personnel

Forming of the Staff

*Invocation

Adjutant's Call

Ceremonial Dressing of the Formation

Pass in Final Review

*March on the Colors

*National Anthem

Casing of the Colors

*Playing of Anchors Aweigh

*Playing of the Marines' Hymn

Dismissal

(* *Audience Please Stand*)

Drill Master

SSgt Joseph M. Dino Jr.

Chaplain

CDR Peter N. Ott

Commander of Troops

Maj David A. Hirt

Adjutant

1stLt Alex M. Norris

Band OIC

Unit Leader

SSgt Michael A. Cook

Narrator

Maj Liam E. Flemming

First Platoon Commander

GySgt Jancel R. Rodriguez

Second Platoon Commander

GySgt Dennis J. Miller

Color Sergeant

Sgt Cameron M. Hiller



Photo by Sgt. Stormy Mendez

United States Marine Corps



HONORS

AWARDED

MARINE LIGHT ATTACK HELICOPTER SQUADRON 269

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER

IRAQ
2003

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER WITH ONE SILVER STAR

SOUTHWEST ASIA
1990 - 1991

HAITI
2003

IRAQ
2006 - 2007
2007
2008 - 2009
2009

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER

1985 - 1986

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH TWO BRONZE STARS

SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE STREAMER WITH THREE BRONZE STARS

AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

IRAQ CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH ONE SILVER STAR

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE STREAMER

2 APRIL 2013

DATE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Jones", written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the text "COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS" is printed in small capital letters.

United States Marine Corps



LINEAGE

OF

MARINE LIGHT ATTACK HELICOPTER SQUADRON 269

1971 – 2013

CADRE FORMED 22 FEBRUARY 1971 AT NEW RIVER, NORTH CAROLINA, AS MARINE ATTACK HELICOPTER SQUADRON 269
ACTIVATION CADRE AND ASSIGNED TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 26, 2D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING,
FLEET MARINE FORCE, ATLANTIC

FORMALLY ACTIVATED 1 JULY 1971 AS MARINE ATTACK HELICOPTER SQUADRON 269

REASSIGNED DURING MAY 1972 TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 29

REDESIGNATED 1 APRIL 1986 AS MARINE LIGHT ATTACK HELICOPTER SQUADRON 269

PARTICIPATED IN OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD AND DESERT STORM, SOUTHWEST ASIA,
AUGUST 1990 – APRIL 1991

ELEMENT PARTICIPATED IN OPERATIONS IN SOMALIA, JANUARY 1991

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN MULTIPLE OPERATIONS IN BOSNIA, ALBANIA, ZAIRE, SOMALIA,
AND AFGHANISTAN, 1995 – 2001

DEPLOYED DURING FEBRUARY 2003 TO KUWAIT IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, IRAQ, MARCH-APRIL 2003, FEBRUARY – AUGUST 2005,
JANUARY-AUGUST 2006, FEBRUARY-AUGUST 2007, AUGUST 2008 – FEBRUARY 2009,
AND AUGUST-DECEMBER 2009

ELEMENT PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION SECURE TOMORROW, HAITI, MARCH-MAY 2004

PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, AFGHANISTAN, MAY 2011 – JANUARY 2012

2 APRIL 2013

DATE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John A. ...", written over a horizontal line.

COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

HMLA-269

"The First and The Finest"

HMLA-269 was formed at Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina on 22 February 1971, and activated on 1 July 1971 as the Marine Corps' first designated Attack Helicopter squadron. Equipped with the AH-1J Sea Cobra, HMA-269's mission was to provide close-in fire support during aerial and ground escort operations during ship to shore movement, as well as the subsequent operations ashore.

In December 1977, HMA-269 received the delivery of the first AH-1T (TOW) Cobra. The squadron opened a new era of attack helicopter aviation in 1979 by being the first Marine Corps squadron to fire the TOW anti-tank missile from an airborne platform. From that day, HMLA-269 has not relinquished the lead in developing a wide range of new anti-armor tactics. In the early Eighties, with the addition of the UH-1N, HMLA-269 expanded its primary mission to include utility helicopter support. Though heavily committed, HMLA-269 maintained its impressive list of firsts; first flight testing of biochemical protective suits in the AH-1T (TOW), first flight testing of fast rope insertion equipment, and first to refine the TOW missile engagement parameters. Additionally, the squadron participated in the first actual movement of 2d Marine Aircraft Wing assets in an air contingency drill. In 1986, the Gunrunners achieved yet another first when they fired a Sidewinder air-to-air missile at a target drone over the Desert of China Lake. These achievements earned the squadron a Meritorious Unit Commendation and selection as the Marine Corps Helicopter Squadron of the Year for 1986.

In 1990, the Gunrunners deployed to Southwest Asia with twelve AH-1Ws, three AH-1Ts, and six UH-1Ns. These assets participated in 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade major exercises during Operation DESERT SHIELD. During operation DESERT STORM, the squadron conducted critical, on-call, close-in fire support, escort for minesweeping aircraft, Surface Combat Air Patrol, and air intercept operations. Meanwhile, Gunrunner Hueys played a vital role in the raid on Faylaka Island, firing in excess of seventy-five 2.75 rockets at fortified Iraqi positions under NVG low light level conditions.

Following the Gulf War, the Gunrunners continued to support requirements of Landing Force 6th Fleet (LF6F) deployments in such areas as Yugoslavia, Somalia, and the Middle East. The squadron supported numerous 2d Marine Aircraft Wing and Marine Forces Atlantic exercises, both CONUS and abroad, including exercises in Norway and Puerto Rico. In 1994, the Gunrunners were tasked with providing a short notice detachment to HMM-264 for Special Purpose MAGTF-CARIB in support of Operation UPHOLD/SUPPORT DEMOCRACY in Haiti. One year later, in June 1995, two Gunrunner Cobras assigned to HMM-263 escorted two CH-53Es from the USS Kearsarge to successfully rescue Air Force Captain Scott O'Grady. During this deployment, HMLA-269 also became the first squadron to deploy the new Night Targeting System on all of its Cobras, adding increased combat compatibility to the forward deployed forces. These achievements earned the Gunrunners the title of Squadron of the Year in 1995.

In 1997, the squadron also supported detachments with LF6F deployments that supported Operation ASSURED RESPONSE in Liberia. The HMLA detachment assigned to HMM-365 supported Operation SILVER WAKE in Albania and Operation GUARDIAN RETRIEVAL in the Congo. In recognition of its hard-earned reputation for setting the standard in attack helicopter aviation, the Gunrunners were designated the Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron of the Year in 1998 by the Marine Corps Aviation Association.

In the wake of the events on September 11, 2001, the Gunrunners attached to HMM-365 (REIN) with 26th MEU (SOC) and flew combat missions in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF) from forward operating Bases Rhino and Kandahar in Afghanistan. In 2002, the Gunrunners attached to HMM-263 (REIN) with the 24th MEU (SOC) flying in Kosovo, the Horn of Africa, OEF, and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF). In January of 2003, the Gunrunners deployed as a squadron in



support of OIF. In 55 days, HMLA-269 flew nearly 3,000 combat hours, maintaining 24-hour operations with no personnel losses due to enemy action or mishaps. Gunrunners delivered deadly fire on enemy positions, protecting our Marines as they pressed towards Baghdad.

The Gunrunners continued to deploy to Iraq in support of OIF during 2005, 2006, and 2007. During 2005 the Gunrunners flew more than 5,951 hours and 3,994 sorties, in 2006 they flew more than 5,452 hours and 4,025 sorties, and in 2007 the Gunrunners flew more than 4,791 hours and 3,478 sorties. Between each deployment the squadron's Marines were home for a period of only 5 months before re-entering the fight.

In August 2008, the Gunrunners deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan in support of OIF and OEF. The Gunrunner main body resided in Al Asad, Iraq and a detachment of 4 AH-1Ws and 51 personnel were sent to Camp Bastion, Afghanistan. In December 2008, HMLA-269's main body was called upon to make a difficult intra-theater movement to Al Taqaddum, Iraq. The Gunrunners were tasked with conducting their cross-country movement while maintaining uninterrupted combat operations. The Gunrunners rose to the occasion and executed the move with nonstop combat support. OIF and OEF combined, the Gunrunners flew over 3,800 hours and 3,294 sorties. During this deployment, the Gunrunners adopted their notorious deployment call sign "Lawman" and initiated the use of the Lawman Star.

Once again, after only five months at home, the Gunrunners deployed to Iraq. In August 2009, the squadron departed for Iraq in support of OIF where they maintained dual site operations at Al Asad and Al Taqaddum. In December 2009, the Gunrunners left Iraq as the last Marine Corps attack aircraft to be stationed in Iraq in support of OIF. While deployed, the squadron flew 1,821 combat hours in support of 1,963 sorties. Following the squadron's return to MCAS New River, they were announced as the recipients of the 2009 Marine Corps Aviation Association's HMLA of the Year award.

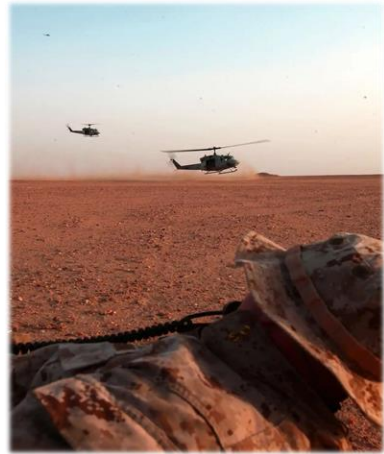
In May 2011, the squadron deployed to Regional Command Southwest in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan in support of OEF 11.1-11.2. Operating out of Forward Operating Base Dwyer, the squadron flew over 3,100 combat hours in support of over 2,650 sorties. While providing Close Air Support to 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, HMLA-269 became the first squadron to shoot a HELLFIRE in combat using the RQ-7 Shadow UAS as the designating platform, and spearheaded the development of the UAS "buddy-LASE" tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) now universally used by VMU and attack squadrons.

In December 2011, the squadron supported HMM-265(REIN) and the 31st MEU with a detachment of H-1s. Gunrunners participated in Exercise Ssang Yong, a combined, MEB-level amphibious exercise, and theater security cooperation efforts until their return in June 2012. A squadron detachment deployed with VMM-261 (REIN) and the 24th MEU in February 2012.

April 2012 marked the beginning of the squadron's transition to the UH-1Y, with maintenance personnel attending Differences Training at Camp Pendleton. In July, the first series conversion pilots finished HMLAT-303 and the squadron received its first two UH-1Ys. At the end of 2012, MAG-29 designated the squadron as the lead for entry-level series conversion pilot training, a first for an east coast HMLA.

Throughout 2013 and 2014, the Gunrunners supported numerous CONUS exercises including two Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) External Air Support events and a Bold Alligator in November 2014. While supporting these exercises, the Squadron also continued to support MEU Detachments sourcing the 22nd and 24th MEUs simultaneously beginning in 2013 into 2015.

HMLA-269 began 2015 with initial Digital Interoperability (DI) training, a capability that allows multiple cockpits and friendly forces on the ground to join the same network on handheld devices, greatly enhancing the situational awareness of everyone involved. HMLA-269 conducted DI training with Infantry Officers Course, Marine Special Operations Command, and





Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Atlantic in 2015. This led to the reception of intelligence systems' and UAS' video feed in the AH-1W cockpit for the first time. While DI training took place stateside, the Gunrunner family also detached Marines in support of the 24th MEU and Unit Deployment Program (UDP) 15-2. During UDP 15-2 the squadron

supported Aviation Assault Support Exercise and Bilateral Tactical Exercise 15.2 in the Philippines. This detachment integrated day and night flights with academic training alongside Philippine Air Force personnel, representing several firsts. HMLA-269 also took part in Operation Blue Chromite, during which Gunrunner aircraft participated in validating the VMM Spider FARP concept, conducting both refueling and rearming operations at an expeditionary site. By the end of UDP, HMLA-269 received a Bravo Zulu from the Commanding Officer of MAG-31 for both operational excellence and unprecedented aircraft readiness. For their dedication to professionalism and can-do spirit, the Marine Corps Aviation Association awarded HMLA-269 the John P. Giguere Award for Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron of the Year 2016 Award.

In 2016, the Gunrunners of HMLA-269 continued to demonstrate their tireless devotion to mission accomplishment while simultaneously operating in as many as five separate locations world-wide. These locations include supporting Operation ODYSSEY LIGHTNING (OOL) with the 22nd MEU, WTI courses 2-16 and 1-17, Integrated Training Exercise 3-16, the 24th and 31st MEU, and maintaining an operational squadron (-) (-) supporting II MEF at home. The 22nd MEU was directed to the Gulf of Sidra in support of OOL near the city of Sirte, Libya. OOL supported U.S. Special Operations Forces which enabled the Government of National Accord (GNA) to liberate the city of Sirte from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant – Libya (ISIL-L). During the operation, the HMLA detachment delivered 164 AGM-114 Hellfire missiles against ISIL-L elements within the urban confines of Sirte. The detachment demonstrated its operational flexibility by conducting AGM-114 strikes from three different ships, which included the first AGM-114 delivery in combat from an LPD-17 class ship and the first AGM-114 delivered in combat from a Military Sealift Command (MSC) Maritime Support Vessel (MSV). Because of the operational constraints placed on H-1 employment, the detachment pioneered new TTPs to maximize offensive fires against the enemy. These innovative TTPs included delivering AGM-114s from higher altitudes and greater ranges than any HMLA had previously attempted. Of the 164 Hellfire employed, 64% were delivered within danger close distances, enabling friendly forces to maneuver in contested urban terrain. In May 2016, HMLA-269 deployed a detachment to the 31st MEU who would soon conduct three operational exercises while afloat, in the vicinity of Guam, Philippines, and Okinawa. During the ship's transit of the contested waterways near Chinese-questioned Spratly Islands, the HMLA-269 detachment positioned a UH-1Y facing aft on the flight deck of the USS GREEN BAY and utilized the Bristestar (FLIR) to detect, identify, and record People's Liberation Army Navy vessels shadowing the GREEN BAY. The GREEN BAY had no organic night vision devices available, and when the ship's Commanding Officer expressed concern about the tracking and identification of these shadowing vessels the detachment's WTIs pioneered this method, later to be incorporated into the ship's standard operating procedure for future deployments. In August, the squadron supported a third detachment to the 24th MEU and with the squadron stretched thin, a fourth detachment supported WTI Course 1-17 in September. The WTI detachment became the fourth element of HMLA-269 to simultaneously operate away from the flag, making HMLA-269 a five-sited squadron.

In 2017, HMLA-269 led the Fleet in readiness, execution, and innovation. The Gunrunners achieved over 85,000 mishap free maintenance hours, over 5,000 mishap free flight hours, and over 3,000 sorties as an HMLA minus (-). With the implementation of an annual Campaign Plan and integrated Maintenance/Operations Plan, the squadron's two structural giants were able to work in tandem to sustain the highest aircraft readiness and operational tempo, unrivaled by any other HMLA. Over the year, the Gunrunners flew over 118% of their Sortie-Based Training Plan, while simultaneously averaging 15 of 23 Ready Based Aircraft and maintaining a T-1 readiness rating.

The Gunrunners conducted deployments for training to Fort Drum, NY, Avon Park, FL, and Alpena, MI to further refine TTPs for close air support, forward air controller (airborne), assault support, utility operations, and Joint and SOF interoperability. On top of peerless readiness and execution, HMLA-269 influenced the future of DI by providing the bedrock for 2d MAW DI efforts. HMLA-269 directly influenced the innovation, standardization, and execution of DI tactical application throughout the Wing, with an indelible impact across the Marine Corps.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Elias Pimentel

2018 saw the Gunrunners execute exercise Trident Juncture in Norway while embarked on the USS Iwo Jima to project power and keep NATO adversaries at bay from our allies. Shortly after, the Gunrunners executed a change of operational posture for a detachment of four AH-1Ws and three UH-1Ys to VMM-264 (REIN) for a deployment on the 22nd MEU, where they returned to Libya to support Operation Odyssey Resolve on the USS Arlington. In support of U.S. Special Operations forces on the ground, the HMLA-269 detachment played a vital role in maritime security and power projection to maintain stability between the GNA and Libyan National Army. In 2019, the squadron was the first light attack unit to conduct training with the 2nd Marine Division at the inaugural MAGTF Warfighting Exercise (MWX) at ITX 1-20 at the Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, California.

In 2020, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic led to significant adversity across the range of military operations, training, and readiness. In response, the Gunrunners displayed their flexibility, adaptability, and dedication to mission accomplishment by mitigating COVID-19 with de-conflicted teams working separate schedules that kept the squadron running. The Gunrunners' unique solution to alleviate the risks associated with COVID-19 enabled the squadron to continue flight operations, stay in the fight, and stand ready to support the MAGTF. In the midst of the pandemic, HMLA-269 was able to fly 64 percent of its forecasted flight hour goals despite the squadron working in two separate teams that totaled only fifty percent manning at any given time. As COVID related restrictions lifted over the course of the year, the Gunrunners made it a point to solidify their position as the Marine Corps' premier light attack aviation unit for advanced base, joint, and integrated operations by pioneering embedded direct support operations with 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines and also participating in the multinational exercise Jaded Thunder at Salina, KS and Exercise Shark Flag at Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta, GA. These training evolutions proved the Gunrunners' dedication to readiness, mission accomplishment, and the progressive development of advanced joint TTPs.

In 2021, HMLA-269 participated in several exercises that allowed the squadron to maintain tactical proficiency and provided the Gunrunners the opportunity to improve their talents away from home field. Throughout 2021, the squadron with a detachment supporting the 24th MEU, continued to maintain a high state of readiness back at New River. To start off the year, the squadron sent out a detachment to Moody Air Force Base, and simultaneously conducted several high priority training missions back home. The squadron then spent the next few months preparing for Service Level Training Exercise 3-21 in Twentynine Palms, CA, where the Gunrunners successfully conducted integrated training with ground units throughout the exercise. Simultaneously, HMLA-269 sent several pilots and aircrew to WTI in Yuma, AZ, and upon their return from the West Coast, the Gunrunners sent a second and third detachment to both Moody Air Force Base and exercise Jaded Thunder at Camp Atterbury, IN. In September, the Gunrunners sent a detachment of UH-1Y's to Lima, Peru to conduct joint training and participate in the UNITAS exercise with both United States and Peruvian naval forces. In all aspects, the Gunrunners proved their flexibility and expertise while maintaining a high operational tempo.

2022 marked the beginning of the end for the Gunrunners, as the squadron prepared for deactivation in order to meet force design requirements. Nevertheless, the squadron began the year by sending a detachment to MCAS Yuma, AZ. Upon completion of this training, a contingent of Gunrunners

traveled to Norway to partake in NATO exercise Cold Response 2022. The Gunrunners integrated at both the joint and international level as they built relationships with our allies abroad. Throughout 2022, HMLA-269 participated in multiple exercises away from home; sending a detachment first to Avon Park, FL before participating in exercise Jaded Thunder in Salina, KS. As the end of 2022 approached, the Gunrunners continued to prepare for the 26th MEU while executing the deactivation. Though 2022 brought many changes to HMLA-269, the Gunrunners' dedication to the mission and achieving excellence never wavered.



Photo by LCpl Steven M. Walls



Photo by Sgt. Jonathon Wiederhold



Photo by Sgt Jonathon Wiederhold



Photo by PO1 Mitchell Meppelink



Photo by PFC Rowdy Vanskike

Colonel Richard D. Joyce United States Marine Corps



Colonel Richard D. Joyce graduated from Florida State University and was commissioned in December 1995. After completing The Basic School, he reported for flight training at NAS Pensacola, Florida. He was designated a Naval Aviator on 7 August 1998 and reported to MCAS Camp Pendleton, California for instruction as an AH-1W attack helicopter pilot at HMT-303 “Atlas.”

Operational Assignments: HMLA-369 “Gunfighters” completing three deployments including HMM-262(REIN) and the 31st MEU in 2000, Unit Deployment Program in 2002, and HMM-163(REIN) and the 13th MEU deploying to OIF and OEF from 2003-2004; the “Six Guns” of B Company 1st Battalion 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) deploying numerous times to OIF and OEF from 2004-2007 as an AH-6J/M Fully Mission Qualified pilot; HMLA-169 “Vipers” deploying twice to OEF from 2008-2011; and the Commanding Officer of HMLA-469 “Vengeance” from 2012-2014.

Staff Assignments: Headquarters Marine Corps Aviation - Aviation Policy, Programs, Budgeting, and Congressional Affairs Branch (APP); Director of the Commandant’s Staff Group for the 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Robert B. Neller; Expeditionary Air Warfare Branch Head at OPNAV N98; and the Assistant Chief of Staff for Safety & Standardization at 2d MAW.

Joint Assignments: Division Chief, Individual Training Division, Directorate of Force Management and Development at U.S. Special Operations Command.

Colonel Joyce has accumulated over 3,600 military flight hours in multiple airframes. He is a graduate of the Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) Course, Distinguished Graduate from Marine Corps Command and Staff College earning a Masters of Military Studies, and graduated with Highest Distinction from the Naval War College earning a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies.

Colonel Joyce’s personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Gold Star, Distinguished Flying Cross with “V”, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with “V” Gold Numeral 3 and Strike/Flight Numeral 26, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



Commanding Officer, HMLA-269

Lieutenant Colonel Ralph B. Tompkins

United States Marine Corps

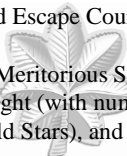


Lieutenant Colonel Tompkins graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in May 2003, attended the Officer Candidate Course in October 2003, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in December 2003. After graduating from The Basic School in July 2004, he attended Aviation Pre-Flight Indoctrination in Pensacola, Florida, Primary Flight School in Corpus Christi, Texas, and completed Advanced Flight School in Pensacola, Florida, receiving his wings in April 2006. He selected the AH-1 platform and attended the Replacement Air Group at Camp Pendleton, California, completing initial training in December 2006.

Lieutenant Colonel Tompkins was assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 167, Marine Aircraft Group 29, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina from January 2007 until November 2011. During this time, he held the billets of Schedule Writer, S-4b Officer, Quality Assurance Officer, and Future Operations Officer/Pilot Training Officer. During this time he also deployed to OIF from September 2007-March 2008 (deployed with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773, Marine Aircraft Group 42, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Naval Air Station Atlanta, Georgia) and OEF/OIF from February-August 2009. He was next assigned to Marine Special Operations Company F, 2d Marine Special Operations Battalion, Marine Special Operations Command, Jacksonville, North Carolina from December 2011 until May 2013. During this assignment Lieutenant Colonel Tompkins served as the Marine Special Operations Regimental Air Officer and as the Marine Special Operations Company F Air Officer. He deployed to OEF from August 2012-March 2013 as the Advanced Operations Base West Air Officer. Lieutenant Colonel Tompkins then executed Orders to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona from June 2013 until June 2016. He served as an AH-1 Instructor Pilot and as AH-1 Division Head during this timeframe. Upon completion of duties as an Instructor Pilot, he attended the United States Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and the University of Kansas for graduate education from 2016 to 2017. His most recent assignment was to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii from 2017-2020. During this timeframe Lieutenant Colonel Tompkins served as the Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367 Tactics and Aircraft Maintenance Officer from 2017 to 2018. He then was assigned as the Aide-de-Camp to the Commander, Marine Corps Forces Pacific, Camp Smith, Hawaii from 2018 to 2019, and then returned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367 where he served as the Executive Officer from 2019-2020.

Lieutenant Colonel Tompkins holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Communication from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Master of Arts in International Studies from the University of Kansas. He is a graduate of the Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course, the Tactical Air Control Party Course, the Aircraft Maintenance Officer Course, and the Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape Course.

His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal Individual Action (with V), Air Medal Strike/Flight (with numeral 8), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (with Two Gold Stars), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (with Gold Star).



Maintenance Chief, HMLA-269

Master Gunnery Sergeant Lawrence F. Reeve, Jr.

United States Marine Corps



Master Gunnery Sergeant Reeve was born in Camden, New Jersey. After graduating from Overbrook Regional High School in June of 1993, he reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina for Recruit Training on 07 July 1993. After graduating Recruit Training in October 1993 MGySgt Reeve was meritoriously promoted to Lance Corporal. Master Gunnery Sergeant Reeve was then transferred to Camp Geiger in Jacksonville, North Carolina for Marine Combat Training (MCT).



In November of 1993, Master Gunnery Sergeant Reeve was transferred to MATSG-90 aboard NAS Memphis Millington, Tennessee for Basic Helicopter Course (BHC). Upon graduation in July of 1994 from HMT-303 Master Gunnery Sergeant Reeve received the MOS 6114 UH/AH-1 Helicopter Mechanic. Following HMT-303, he received orders to Helicopter Marine Light Attack Squadron-269 and was assigned to the Flight Line division.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Reeve was promoted to the rank of Corporal in May of 1995. In November of 1996, Master Gunnery Sergeant Reeve was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and received his Air Crew Wings as an Aerial Observer and Collateral Duty Assurance Representative (CDQAR) qualification. In June of 1997 he earned the MOS of 6174.

In September of 1998, Master Gunnery Sergeant Reeve attended the Weapons and Tactics Crew Chief Instructor Course at Marine Aviation Weapons Tactics Squadron (MAWTS) 1 Yuma, Arizona where he earned the MOS of 6177 Weapons Tactics Crew Chief Instructor (WTTTCI).

In February of 2000 Master Gunnery Sergeant Reeve was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. In April of 2001 he reported for Basic Recruiters School with follow on orders to Recruiting Station Andover, MA as a Canvassing Recruiter.

In May of 2004, Master Gunnery Sergeant Reeve received orders back to HMLA-269. In September of 2004, he was promoted to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant.

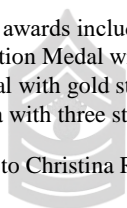
In March of 2011, Master Gunnery Sergeant Reeve was promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant and received orders to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron-261 as the Maintenance Control Chief.

In June of 2013, Master Gunnery Sergeant Reeve was transferred to MALS-26. In 2014, he was assigned to HMH-464. In August of 2016, Master Gunnery Sergeant Reeve was promoted to his current rank and executed orders to Aviation Maintenance Squadron 1, Marine Training Support Group-23 at Naval Air Station Pensacola as the Maintenance Chief. While assigned to AMS-1 MGySgt Reeve completed his Bachelor's degree in Aeronautical Science.

In August of 2019, Master Gunnery Sergeant Reeve executed orders to HMLA-269 MAG-29 2D MAW where he currently serves as the Maintenance Chief.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Reeve's personal awards include the Air Medal/Strike with the Numeral 10, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star in lieu of fourth award, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star in lieu of fourth award, and the Navy and Marine Corps Combat Aircrew Insignia with three stars.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Reeve is married to Christina Reeve and has three children, Avery 22, Reagan 20, and Charlie 8.



*Commanding Officers of
Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 269*

LtCol Lloyd W. Smith Feb 22, 1970 - May 9, 1972	LtCol Richard W. Spencer May 19, 1995 - Jun 13, 1997
Maj Forrest W. Crane May 10, 1972 - Jun 4, 1973	LtCol Mark D. Mahaffey Jun 14, 1997 - Jun 4, 1999
Maj Ward B. Johnson Jun 5, 1973 - Jul 18, 1974	LtCol Mark E. Monroe Jun 5, 1999 - Mar 2, 2001
LtCol Huey P. Miller Jul 19, 1974 - Nov 9, 1975	LtCol Gary M. "Mike" Denning Mar 2, 2001 - Nov 22, 2002
LtCol Benny D. Rinehart Nov 10, 1975 - Feb 10, 1977	LtCol Jeffrey M. "Huey" Hewlett Nov 23, 2002 - Apr 2, 2004
LtCol William C. Ryan Feb 11, 1977 - Jun 22, 1978	LtCol Joseph M. "Lance" Jeffrey III Apr 2, 2004 - Oct 6, 2005
LtCol Ken H. Johnson Jun 23, 1978 - Sep 7, 1979	LtCol Scott S. "Friar" Jensen Oct 6, 2005 - May 25, 2007
LtCol Richard J. Hooter Sep 8, 1979 - Mar 20, 1981	LtCol James T. "Jinx" Jenkins May 26, 2007 - May 21, 2009
LtCol Gregory W. Lee Mar 21, 1981 - Mar 10, 1982	LtCol Jon M. "Blade" Hackett May 26, 2009 - Oct 1, 2010
LtCol Richard C. Whitener, Jr. Mar 11, 1982 - Oct 4, 1983	LtCol Allen D. "Grimace" Grinalds Oct 1, 2010 - Feb 17, 2012
LtCol James A. Bell Oct 5, 1983 - Mar 7, 1985	LtCol Mark E. "Ike" Van Skike Feb 17, 2012 - Jun 6, 2013
LtCol Randall L. West Mar 8, 1985 - Jul 24, 1986	LtCol Alex K. "Sketch" Fulford Jun 6, 2013 - Dec 11, 2014
LtCol Joseph C. Yanessa Jul 25, 1986 - Jul 15, 1988	LtCol William C. "FAB" Hendricks Dec 11, 2014 - Jun 24, 2016
LtCol Christopher B. Stoops Jul 16, 1986 - Jul 11, 1990	LtCol Russell C. "Phluffer" Rybka Jun 24, 2016 - Dec 14, 2017
LtCol Kenneth W. Hill Jul 12, 1990 - Apr 24, 1992	LtCol Dale R. "Amish" Behm Dec 15, 2017 - Jun 6, 2019
LtCol Patrick K. Halton Apr 25, 1992 - Nov 22, 1993	LtCol Thomas F. "Johnny" Short Jun 6, 2019 - Dec 16, 2020
LtCol Richard E. St. Pierre Nov 23, 1993 - May 18, 1995	LtCol Ralph B. "Wolf" Tompkins Dec 17, 2020 - Dec 9, 2022

The Marines' Hymn

From the Halls of Montezuma,
To the Shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land, and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title of
United States Marine.

Our flag's unfurled to every breeze
From dawn to setting sun;
We have fought in every clime and place
Where we could take a gun;
In the snow of far off northern lands
And in sunny tropic scenes;
You will find us always on the job
The United States Marines.

Here's health to you and to our Corps
Which we are proud to serve;
In many a strife we've fought for life
And never lost our nerve;
If the Army and the Navy
Ever look on Heaven's scenes;
They will find the streets are guarded by
United States Marines.



*Protect the Innocent
Punish the Guilty*



*Gunrunners
First and Finest*

