



### **Sergeant Major (Ret) Gary Smith United States Marine Corps**

Sergeant Major Smith was born in Walterboro, South Carolina. He attended Walterboro High School and upon graduation, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He attended recruit training at Parris Island, South Carolina and was meritoriously promoted to PFC upon completion of recruit training. Subsequently transferred to Twenty Nine Palms, California where he attended the Field Radio Operator Course and was assigned the MOS 2531.

Upon completion of MOS training, Sergeant Major Smith received orders to 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and was assigned to Headquarters Battalion, Communications Company Radio Platoon. During this tour of duty he was deployed in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In March 1993, Sergeant Major Smith was ordered to Okinawa, Japan. Assigned to 3rd Marine Division, he served with the 12<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, Communications Radio Platoon as a section leader. Upon completion of a one-year tour, Sergeant Major Smith was transferred to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing where he served with Marine Wing Support Squadron-273, MCAS Beaufort, South Carolina. Assigned to the Communications Platoon, he served as the Radio Section leader and was promoted to Sergeant in October 1994.

In July 1995, Sergeant Major Smith requested and received orders to Drill Instructor School, MCRD Parris Island, South Carolina. Upon graduation from Drill Instructor School, he was assigned to 2<sup>nd</sup> Recruit Training Battalion. During this successful tour of duty, he served as a Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor, and Series Gunnery Sergeant with Golf Company.

After his successful tour of duty on the Drill Field, Sergeant Major Smith Was transferred in November 1998 and reported to The Basic School, Quantico, Virginia as the Communications Chief. During this tour he was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant and was subsequently assigned to Officer Candidate School Permanent Personnel where he served as Sergeant Instructor, Platoon Sergeant, Company Gunnery Sergeant, and General Military Subjects Chief.

In June 2002, Sergeant Major Smith received orders to 1<sup>st</sup> MAW and was assigned to Headquarters & Service Company, Marine Wing Communications Squadron- 18 where he served as company First Sergeant. During this tour of duty he also served with the Central Identification

Lab as a Communications Watch Officer for the 81'st mission to Laos for the recovery of U.S. Service Members Remains.

December 2003 Sergeant Major Smith was selected to First Sergeant and was transferred to 7<sup>th</sup> Communications Battalion, IIIMEF Headquarters Group serving as Service Company First Sergeant. March 2005 posted as the Alpha Company First Sergeant. January 2006 transferred to 3<sup>rd</sup> Transportation Support Battalion 3<sup>rd</sup> MLG and posted as the Headquarters & Service Company First Sergeant.

October 2006 Sergeant Major Smith attended the Senior Enlisted Academy (SEA) class 128 in Newport, RI. Sergeant Major Smith was the recipient of the Distinguished Honor graduate award in class 128.

July 2007 transferred to 1<sup>st</sup> BN 10th Marines 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division, posted as the Charlie Battery First Sergeant. October 2007 selected to current rank of Sergeant Major.

July 2008 SgtMaj Smith transferred to Marine Attack Squadron 542, MAG 14, 2<sup>d</sup> MAW and posted as the Squadron Sergeant Major.

May 2010 SgtMaj Smith was selected and posted as the Director of the Quantico Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy. Sergeant Major Smith was responsible for and oversaw the efforts of more than 50 permanent personnel and two civilians who supported and educated more than 3,000 Marines, sister service and international students during the operation of all courses.

January 2012 SgtMaj Smith attends Keystone Command Senior Enlisted Leaders Course at the National Defense University.

July 2012 SgtMaj Smith was selected as the Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa Command Senior Enlisted Leader and posted on 15 July 2012. As the Command Senior Enlisted Leader for CJTF-HOA, Sergeant Major Smith served as the principal advisor to the Commander of CJTF-HOA on all issues affecting the health, morale, welfare and professional development for more than 1,800 Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines joint service personnel in 14 countries on the continent of Africa.

August 2013 SgtMaj Smith transferred to 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Logistics Group, New Orleans, LA. He serves as the principal advisor to the 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Logistics Group Commander on all issues affecting health, morale, welfare and professional development for Marines and Sailors within the command.

May 2016 Sergeant Major Gary Smith transferred to Marine Corps Systems Command (MARCORSYSCOM), Quantico, VA. He served as the principal advisor to the MARCORSYSCOM Commander on all issues affecting health, morale, welfare and professional development for Marines within the command. This was the final Command of Service to both Nation and Corps, it was here SgtMaj Smith retired with a culmination of almost three decades of service.

Sergeant Major Smith's personal decorations include the Legion of Merit (with 1 Gold star in lieu of second award), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with 1 Gold star in lieu of second award), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (with 3 Gold stars in lieu of fourth award), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (with 3 Gold stars in lieu of fourth award) and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Sergeant Major Smith holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management from Excelsior College and Master of Science Degree from Louisiana State University (LSU) School of

Business. SgtMaj Smith also holds a certification as a Professional Counselor through the U.S. Department of Labor.

In Retirement SgtMaj Smith is the Chief Executive Officer for the Smith Leadership Consulting Group (Smithlcg.com) which focuses on Motivational Speaking, Executive Leadership Coaching and Workforce Leadership Development.

Gary is the Regional Chief Instructor for the Enlisted Seminars (Quantico Region) for the College of Distance Education & Training (CDET) at Marine Corps University.

Gary sits on the Board of Directors for Thrive Virginia. Gary is also a Member of The Academy of Human Resource Development (AHRD). Gary is also a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC). Gary is a devoted member of both Louisiana State University (LSU) & Excelsior College Alumni Associations. Gary is a Facilitator for Anger Management Classes for At- Risk Youth for the State of Virginia (Fredericksburg Area). Gary is Member of the Marines Memorial Association & Foundation. Gary is Member of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. SgtMaj Smith is authoring a book that promises to be a Best Seller discussing The Art & Science in Leadership Development, due to be released in early fall 2021.