6th Engineer Support Battalion



Change of Command

LtCol Franklin H. Freeman

LtCol Kevan D. Lewis

26 June 2020

Sequence of events

Pre Ceremony Music

Invocation

Change of Command

National Anthem

Presentation of Award

Remarks

Anchors Away and Marines Hymn

Lineage
of
6th Engineer Support Battalion

1940-1946

ACTIVATED 1 NOVEMBER 1944 AT GUADALCANAL AS 6TH ENGINEER BATTALION,
6TH MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE

PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II CAMPAIGN

OWKINAWA

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE OCCUPATION OF JAPAN, AUGUST-NOVEMBER 1945

REDEPLOYED DURING OCTOBER 1945 TO TSINGTAO, CHINA

DEACTIVATED 26 MARCH 1945

1957-1990

REACTIVATED 1 NOVEMBER 1957 SWAN ISLAND, PORTLAND, OREGON, AS 3D ENGINEER BATTALION,
FLEET MARINE FORCE, U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

REDESIGNATED 1 JULY 1962 AS 5TH ENGINEER BATTALION, FORCE TROOPS,
FLEET MARINE FORCE, U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

REDESIGNATED 1 FEBRUARY 1967 AS 10TH ENGINEER BATTALION

REDESIGNATED 2 OCTOBER 1971 AS 6TH ENGINEER BATTALION

REDESIGNATED 31 MAY 1976 AS 6TH ENGINEER SUPPORT BATTALION, 4TH FORCE SERVICE SUPPORT GROUP,
FLEET MARINE FORCE, U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

1991-2009

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD AND DESERT STORM, SOUTHWEST ASIA,

JANUARY-APRIL 1991

MOBILIZED IN SUPPORT OF THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM, AND DEPLOYED TO
CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA, DURING JANUARY 2003

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

PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, IRAQ, MARCH-JUNE 2003

DEMOBILIZED DURING JUNE 2003

4TH FORCE SERVICE SUPPORT GROUP REDESINATED DURING 2006 AS 4TH MARINE LOGISTIC GROUP

ELEMENTS MOBILIZED AND PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, IRAQ, MARCH 2004-MAY 2009



Lieutenant Colonel Franklin H. Freeman

Lieutenant Colonel (LtCol) Freeman was born 03 November 1974. He attended North Carolina State University, graduating May 1999.

LtCol Freeman began his military career by enlisting into the United States Marine Corps Reserve in 1996, earning the 3043 (Supply Administrative Clerk) MOS. He spent three years at 4th Supply Co (minus), 4th FSSG, in Raleigh, NC and commissioned 15 May 1999.

LtCol Freeman attended The Basic School, November 1999, earning the 1302 (Combat Engineer) MOS. He attended Engineer School and reported to 1st CEB in September 2000. LtCol Freeman deployed in support of Battalion Landing Team 3/1, 11th MEU (SOC) and Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF).

LtCol Freeman returned to The Basic School in August 2003 where he served as an Academic Instructor, Staff Platoon Commander, and Engineer Instructor Platoon Commander. He reported to 8th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB) in June 2006, deployed to Iraq in support of OIF 06-08 and Afghanistan in support of Headquarters, International Security Assistance Force. LtCol Freeman reported to Current Operations Branch, PP&O in August 2009 where he served as Senior Watch Officer, Marine Corps Operations Center and Action Officer, Global Force Management, Future Operations Group.

LtCol Freeman reported to Camp Lejeune in 2012 and held billets of Bn Executive Officer (XO), 2d CEB, G-3 Future Operations Officer, 2d MARDIV, and Bn XO, 8th ESB. Additionally, LtCol Freeman completed Security Force Advisor and Assist Training – Gold training and deployed with the II MEF Advise & Assist Team in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE.

LtCol Freeman was reassigned for two years to Marine Raider Support Group, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command as the MRSG XO. He reported to 6th Engineer Support Battalion, July 2018, and assumed duties as the Battalion Inspector-Instructor. LtCol Freeman will report to Marine Corps Engineer School, Training Command, to assume duties as the Operations Officer (G-3).

LtCol Freeman lists among his military accolades the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and Combat Action Ribbon. He married the former Dr. Callie Anne Prater of Lexington, KY in March 2008. They have a daughter, Emerson Paige (9), and son, Everett Hudson (7).



Lieutenant Colonel Kevan D. Lewis

LtCol Lewis enlisted in 1998 and served one tour at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., where he supported multiple White House and Commandant of the Marine Corps engagements, including the inauguration of President George W. Bush.

He was commissioned in Dec 2001. Upon graduation from The Basic School and Engineer School, he reported to 1st Combat Engineer Battalion (CEB) at Camp Pendleton, CA in 2002. While at 1st CEB he served as Platoon Commander, Company Executive Officer, and S-3 Staff Officer. He deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) as an Engineer Platoon Commander in 2003, and again with BLT 1/1, 15th MEU, in 2004, in support of Operation Unified Response and OIF.

In 2006, LtCol Lewis began a course of study in Regional Security Affairs—Middle East / North Africa, at Navy Postgraduate School, followed by Arabic Language Training at Defense Language Institute, both in Monterey, CA. He reported to the US Embassy, Cairo, Egypt in 2008 for in-country training as a Foreign Area Officer.

In 2009, LtCol Lewis reported to Marine Wing Support Squadron-372 at Camp Pendleton, CA, and served as the Engineer Company Commander and Operations Officer, deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in 2009 as Engineer Company Commander. In 2011, he transferred to Marine Wing Support Squadron-371 in Yuma, AZ where he served as the Operations Officer, again deploying in support of OEF as the Operations Officer.

In 2012, LtCol Lewis reported to US Central Command, and served as an Engineer Planner in the J-4 Directorate of Logistics and Engineering, where his portfolio included Engineer Force Generation and Contingency and Operation Planning.

In 2015, LtCol Lewis reported to 7th Engineer Support Battalion and served as the Operations Officer. In 2015 he deployed as an Engineer Planner to Combined-Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve, in Kuwait. Upon his return, he served as the Battalion Executive Officer until May 2018.

From July 2018 to May 2020, LtCol Lewis served as the Force Engineer at U.S. Marine Forces, Pacific, where his team oversaw engineer planning, training, and operations in the Indo-Pacific Theater.

LtCol Lewis and his wife Sara are the parents of five children.

Marines Prayer

Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose in deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family. Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Make me considerate of those committed to my leadership. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold. If I am inclined to doubt; steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again. Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer.

Amen.

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 ev'ry 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.

