

Colonel Carol K. Joyce USMC

Colonel Joyce was commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduating from Arizona State University in 1981 and has been serving the Marine Corps continuously on active duty for over 32 years. After completing The Basic School, she started her military career as a Ground Supply Officer, consisting of assignments to 7th Communications Battalion, 3d Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan, and Marine Wing Squadron Group 27, Marine Corps Air Station, New River, North Carolina.

After selection into the Excess Leave (Law) Program, Colonel Joyce earned her law degree in 1989 from Suffolk University Law School, Boston, Massachusetts. She is admitted to practice before the courts of the State of Massachusetts and the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. Graduating from the Naval Justice School, Newport, Rhode Island, she reported to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where she served as Chief Special Assistant to the U.S. Attorney's Office (SAUSA) in the Eastern District of North Carolina, and later as Chief Trial Counsel to the Military Justice Section.



Colonel Joyce's years as a judge advocate afforded her a wide range of assignments throughout her career. Upon transferring from Camp Lejeune, Colonel Joyce held several key legal billets; such as Action Officer and Occupational Field Sponsor for the Judge Advocate Division (JAD), Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; Government Contracts Attorney for Marine Corps Systems Command (MARCORSYSCOM), Quantico; Chief Trial Counsel (CTC) to the Legal Services Support Section (LSSS), Camp Lejeune, prosecuting numerous high profile cases such as the EA-6B mishap in Aviano, Italy; Regional Defense Counsel (RDC) for the Pacific Region, Okinawa, Japan; Deputy Chief Prosecutor for the Office of Military Commissions (OMC), overseeing the prosecution of detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Chief Defense Counsel (CDC) of the Marine Corps when allegations of misconduct arose out of Haditha, Iraq; Staff Judge Advocate to the Combatant Commander of U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM), Nebraska, providing legal advice on matters involving nuclear deterrence, space issues, and computer network operations; Staff Judge Advocate to the Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force (II MEF); a one year deployment as Staff Judge Advocate to the Commander, Regional Command (Southwest) in Afghanistan; and most recently, Appellate Court Judge for the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals, Washington, D.C.

Colonel Joyce also had the distinct pleasure of serving as a White House Social Aide from 1993 to 1995, with a follow-on tour as a resident student at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Quantico, Virginia. She was later selected to command Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1 (MWHS-1) in Okinawa, Japan, from 2001 to 2003, and was then assigned as Deputy Director to the Analysis and Assessment Branch and then selected as the Executive Assistant for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Manpower and Reserve Affairs (ASN, M&RA) at the Pentagon, where she was promoted to her current rank.

Colonel Joyce was asked to stand up the Marine Corps' first Victims' Legal Counsel Organization (VLCO) and assumed her current duties as Officer in Charge (OIC) of the VLCO in September 2013.

Colonel Joyce's personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars in lieu of third award, Navy Commendation Medal with one gold star in lieu of second award, and Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Colonel Joyce is married to Lieutenant Colonel Francis P. Joyce III, USMC retired, a former CH-46 Pilot. They have a daughter, Caitlin.