

United States Marine Corps (Ret.)

Lieutenant General
Martin L. Brandtner



At the time of his retirement, Lieutenant General Martin L. Brandtner was serving as the Director for Operations, J-3, Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.

General Brandtner is a native of Minneapolis, Minn. He was commissioned a second lieutenant via the NROTC Regular Scholarship Program following graduation from the University of Minnesota in June 1960. He also holds a master's degree from George Washington University (1973).

Following graduation from The Basic School in Quantico, Va., in March 1961, General Brandtner remained at Quantico where he was assigned to the Officers Candidates School, serving as a Platoon Leader until January 1962.

Reassigned to the 1st Marine Brigade, FMF, in February 1962, he served with the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines as a rifle platoon commander, battalion staff officer, rifle company executive officer and rifle company commander, respectively.

In February 1965, General Brandtner was assigned to the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Iwakuni, Japan, serving as S-1/Adjutant of Marine Wing Headquarters Group 1. Deploying to the Republic of Vietnam April 7, 1965, he assumed additional duties as Area Defense Coordinator for the Wing, Headquarters compound at Da Nang Airbase, RVN.

Returning from overseas in April 1966, he reported to the Landing Force Training Command, Pacific, where he served as Branch Head of the Basic Amphibious Training Branch.

In July 1968, General Brandtner returned to the Republic of Vietnam, where he joined the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines serving as a rifle company commander, and upon promotion to major in November 1968, as Battalion Operations Officer and Battalion Executive Officer. While serving as Commanding Officer, Company D, he was wounded in action and was twice awarded the Navy Cross, the nation's second highest award for valor in combat. He is one of only two Marines to earn that distinction in the Vietnam War.

In August 1969, General Brandtner returned to the United States and assumed duties as the Inspector-Instructor, 26th Rifle Company, USMCR, Minneapolis, Minn., where he served until selected to attend the Naval War College of Command and General Staff, Newport, R.I., in 1972.

Following graduation in July 1973, General Brandtner reported to Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C., where he served as a Plans Officer in the Plans Division until July 1976.

Again assignment overseas, he reported to the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa, Japan, where he served as the G-1 Operations Officer until he returned to the United States in July 1977. While overseas, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel in April 1977.

From July 1977 to June 1980, General Brandtner was assigned to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif., where he served initially as the Executive Officer, Headquarters and Service Battalion. He subsequently was assigned

as the Commanding Officer, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, where he served until selected to attend the Air War College in July 1980.

Graduation with distinction from the Air War College in July 1981, General Brandtner was selected to be the Senior Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, where he served until July 1984. During this tour, he, was promoted to colonel in July 1992.

Returning to the FMF, General Brandtner was assigned as the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4, I Marine Amphibious Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he served until May 1985. The following month, he assumed command of the 5th Marine Regiment.

In July 1986, he was assigned duty as Chief of Staff, 1st Marine Division, FMF. While serving in this capacity, he was selected in December 1987 for promotion to brigadier general. He was assigned duty as the Assistant Division Commander, 2d Marine Division, FMF Atlantic, Camp Lejeune, N.C., on June 1, 1988 and advanced to brigadier general on July 25, 1988, and assigned duties as the Commanding General, 2d Force Service Support Group (Rein), FMF, Atlantic., Camp Lejeune, N.C., on September 27, 1988, from December 1988 through February 1989, General Brandtner served as the Commanding General, 10th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, at Camp Lejeune. Advanced to major general on May 11, 1990, he was assigned duty as the Vice Director for Operations, J-3, Joint Staff, on July 3, 1990. General Brandtner was promoted to lieutenant general on March 1, 1991, and assumed his current duty as Director for Operations, J-3.

In addition to the Navy Cross with gold star in lieu of a second award, General Brandtner's decorations and medals include: the Defense Superior Service Medal; Legion of Merit with Combat "V"; Purple Heart; Combat Action Ribbon; Presidential Unit Citation with one bronze star; the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon; Meritorious Unit Commendation with two bronze stars and over a dozen campaign and service awards.

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