

United States Marine Corps (Ret.)

Major General (Retired)

Orlo K. Steele



Major General Orlo Keith Steele retired from the Marine Corps on Oct. 1, 1990-

General Steele was born on October 28, 1932 in Oakland, Calif. and graduated from Stanford University in 1955 with a B.A. degree in Political Science.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps in September 1955, and upon completion of the 16th Officer Candidate Course, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in June 1956. After completing The Basic School, he was designated an infantry officer and assigned to the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa, where he served as a Pla-toon Commander and as the Assistant S-3 in the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines.

Returning from overseas in June 1958, he was assigned to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif. There he served first as a Series Officer in the 2d Recruit Training Battalion, and later as aide-de-camp to BGen R.G. Weede, the Commanding General of the Recruit Training Command. In November 1959, he accompanied the General to Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, when the latter was appointed to take command of the 1st Marine Brigade. Subsequent Brigade assignments included Executive Officer, Company B, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion, and Assistant S-3, 4th Marines. Promoted to captain in October 1961. He was reassigned as Commanding Officer, Company C, 1st Bat-talion, and 4th Marines.

General Steele was ordered to the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., where he served two years as the Officer-in-Charge/Senior Instructor Guide of the Mountain Leadership School. Com-pleting this assignment in December 1964, he reported to the Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks, Portsmouth, Va., to activate the fast Marine Detachment assigned for duty aboard USS AMERICA (CVA46). As Command-ing Officer of that detachment during 1965-1966, he participated in several extended deployments with the 2d add 6th Fleets to the Caribbean and Mediterranean Seas. He was promoted to major in October 1966.

Detached from AMERICA J~ December 1966, he was assigned as a student to the Amphibious Warfare School, Quantico, Va. Graduating in July 1967, he was ordered to Vietnam where he served with the 1st Marine Division, first as Commanding Officer, Headquarters Company, Headquarters Battalion (August-January), and later, as Executive Officer, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines (January-September).

Returning to the United States in October 1968, he then began a three-year assignment as the Marine Officer In-structor with the NROTC Unit at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire. Following this assignment, he returned to Quantico as a student in the Marine Corps Command and Staff Coiled, during academic year 1971-1972.

Graduating in June 1972, General Steele returned to the West Coast again for duty with the 1st Marine Division. During the ensuing three years he served consecutively as the S-3, 17th Marine Amphibious Unit; G~3, Tactical Exercise Control Group, First Marine Amphibious Force; the Commanding Officer, 2d Battalion, 1St Marines; and as the Division Training Officer, 1st Marine Division. On July 1, 1973, while serving as the Commanding Officer, 2d Battalion, 1m Marines, he was promoted to lieutenant

colonel. Following this tour with the 1st Marine Division. He was ordered to Okinawa, where he served as the Assistant G-3 for the 3d Marine Division.

Ordered to the Caribbean in November 1976, General Steele began a two and one half-year tour of duty as the Executive Officer, Marine Barracks/Ground Defense Force, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Prior to his detachment in July 1979, he was promoted to colonel.

During academic year 1979-1980, General Steele was a student at the National War College, Washington, D.C. In June 1980, he was reassigned to Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C., for duties with the Plans Division. He served in this capacity until assuming duty as the Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks, on May 5, 1981. While serving in this assignment, he was selected in February 1983 for promotion to brigadier general. He was advanced to that grade on July 7, 1983 and assigned duty as the Commanding General, 1st Marine Brigade, FMF, Pacific, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii on July 29. General Steele served in this capacity until June 1, 1985, when he was assigned duty as the Legislative Assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Headquarters Marine Corps. He was promoted to major general on Sept. 1, 1987, and assigned duty as the Commanding General, 2d Marine Division/Deputy Commander, H Marine Expeditionary Force, FMF, Atlantic, Camp Lejeune, N.C. He was assigned duty as the Deputy Naval Inspector Genia

l for Marine Corps Matters/Inspector General of the Marine Corps on Sept. 29, 1989. General Steele served in this capacity until his retirement from the Marine Corps on Oct. 1, 1990.

His personal decorations and awards include: the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V"; Combat Action Ribbon; Presidential Unit Citation with bronze star; Meritorious Unit Citation with bronze star; National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze stars; Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with gold star; Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Gallantry Cross with Palm; and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with device.

(Revised Oct. 4, 1990 HQMC)



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