



**Colonel Michael B. Richardson**

Colonel Richardson currently serves as the Circuit Military Judge of the Western Judicial Circuit, Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary. In this capacity, he presides over Special and General Courts-Martial, and supervises eight other court-martial judges presiding over all Navy and Marine cases arising west of the Mississippi, an average of four-hundred courts martial per year.

Hailing originally from Mont Vernon, New Hampshire, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps in May of 1988 through the Navy ROTC program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill after graduating as the distinguished midshipman graduate. Following the Basic School, he reported to Armor Officer Basic School in Fort Knox, Kentucky, graduating in the spring of 1989. He then served as a Platoon Commander in Charlie Company, 1st Tank Battalion, Camp Pendleton, California, from 1989 until the conclusion of Operation Desert Storm. In Desert Storm, he led a platoon of five M60 tanks in active combat operations.

Having been accepted into the Funded Law Program while deployed to the Gulf War, First Lieutenant Richardson next returned to UNC-Chapel Hill for law school, graduating with honors in the spring of 1994. Upon completion of Naval Justice School in the fall of 1994, Captain Richardson reported for duty to MCAS New River, North Carolina, where he served as Chief Trial Counsel and subsequently Senior Defense Counsel. He then transferred to the 2d FSSG, where he served as a Trial Counsel, Chief Trial Counsel, and ultimately Military Justice Officer at the Legal Services Support Section, and then as the Executive Officer for Headquarters and Service Battalion.

Major Richardson then attended the Graduate Course of the Judge Advocate General's School for the Army in Charlottesville, Virginia before returning back to Camp Lejeune, this time to serve as Associate Counsel for Labor Law at the Eastern Area Counsel Office from 2001 - 2004. Lieutenant Colonel Richardson was then selected to become a Military Judge, and attended the Military Judge's Course at the Judge Advocate General's School for the Army in the spring of 2004. He then served two years as the Deputy Circuit Military Judge for the Piedmont Judicial Circuit, presiding over 201 cases involving a wide variety of offenses against the UCMJ. Transferring to Okinawa in 2006, he served 24 months as the OIC of the Law Center (LSSS) with additional duties as the 3D MLG Staff Judge Advocate.

He was then selected for command, and served as the Commanding Officer, Headquarters Battalion, MCB Hawaii from June of 2008 to July of 2009. Promoted to his current rank, he was then assigned as the Staff Judge Advocate for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region.

In July of 2010 he assumed his current duties where he has presided over an additional 70 Special and General Courts-Martial covering a host of various offenses. Colonel Richardson is a graduate of The Basic School (Honor Graduate), Armor Officer School (The Distinguished Graduate), Naval Justice School (The Distinguished Graduate), Command and Staff (non-resident), the Graduate Course of the Judge Advocate General's School for the Army (The Distinguished Graduate), Military Judges' Course, and the Air War College (non-resident). He holds a Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Political Science and a Juris Doctorate with Honors, both from UNC-Chapel Hill, and an LLM in Military Law from the Judge Advocate General's School for the Army. His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with silver star in lieu of 6th award, and the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" and Gold Star. He is married to the former Kelli Rae Martin of Atlanta, Georgia, and has three children: Victoria (15), Bailey (13), and Nicholas (11).