

*The 250th Annual
Marine*



*Corps
Birthday Ball*

Welcome
To The Basic School Marine Corps
Birthday Ball



Tonight, we celebrate the unwavering service, sacrifice, and valor forged from our founding at Tun Tavern a quarter millennium ago. From the Revolution to the present day, every generation of Marines has upheld the legacy of the Corps, making the title “Marine” synonymous with character and discipline in every clime and place. As we observe the time-honored traditions of this Birthday Ball, we reaffirm the solemn oath that binds us to our past and guides our future. To our Marines currently serving, our veterans, and our families who support us, we extend our deepest gratitude. We are confident that our ethos of Honor, Courage, and Commitment will ensure the Corps remains the Nation’s most-ready force for centuries to come.

Sequence of Events

Cocktail Hour
1800 - 1855

First Call
1855

Official Ceremony
1900 - 2000

Celebration
2000 - 0000

The Marine's 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 and 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 performances.

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.

Ball Participants

Color Guard

Sgt Eric H. AntonioMartinez (Ordnance)

Cpl Meeko M. Ramos (WFIC)

Sgt Matthew K. Byrd (Career Counselor)

LCpl Athan B. Johnson (Communication)

Cake Escorts

Sgt Boris J. FloresFarfan (Supply)

LCpl Herson A. Sigaran (Supply)

Cpl Josue A. Cuevas (S-1)

HM3 Victor Cabral (Medical Platoon)

Honor Guard

Maj Sean P. Kierman (Warfighting)

Capt Leon B. Pescador (Warfighting)

1stLt John M. Rega (Warfighting)

1stLt Thomas C. Peagler (Warfighting)

GySgt Bobby L. Pittman (Warfighting)

SSgt Daniel N. Morales (MAFCE)

Sgt Isaiah I. Diaz II (Legal)

Cpl Julio A. Bello (S-6)

Sponsors



USAA

First Command Financial



Guest of Honor..... LtGen George W. Smith Jr. (Ret)

Adjutant.....Capt Connor J. Baughman

Oldest Marine.....LtCol Nathan P. Dmochowski

Youngest Marine.....LCpl Yareny PlascenciaFlores

*“There is no such thing as a crowded battlefield.
Battlefields are lonely places.”*

General Alfred M. Grey

Youngest Marine

LCpl Yareny PlascenciaFlores

3043/Supply Chain Management Specialist

Born 15 September 2006

Enlisted 3 September 2024

Years of Service: 1 year and 1 month



Oldest Marine

LtCol Nathan P. Dmochowski

0302/Marine Corps Infantry Officer

Born 21 June 1978

Enlisted 28 January 2003

Years of Service: 22 years and 8 months



A birthday message from
Major General John A. Lejeune

On 10 November 1775, a corps of Marines was created by a resolution of Continental Congress. Since that date many thousand men have borne the name "Marine". In memory of them it is fitting that we who are Marines should commemorate the birthday of our corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history. The record of our corps is one which will bear comparison with that of the most famous military organizations in the world's history. During 90 of the 146 years of its existence the Marine Corps has been in action against the nation's foes. From the battle of Trenton to the Argonne, Marines have won foremost honors in war, and in the long eras of tranquility at home, generation after generation of Marines have grown gray in war in both hemispheres and in every corner of the seven seas, that our country and its citizens might enjoy peace and security. In every battle and skirmish since the birth of our corps, Marines have acquitted themselves with the greatest distinction, winning new honors on each occasion until the term "Marine" has come to signify all that is highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue. This high name of distinction and soldierly repute we who are Marines today have received from those who preceded us in the corps. With it we have also received from them the eternal spirit which has animated our corps from generation to generation and has been the distinguishing mark of the Marines in every age. So long as that spirit continues to flourish Marines will be found equal to every emergency in the future as they have been in the past, and the men of our nation will regard us as worthy successors to the long line of illustrious men who have served as "soldiers of the sea" since the founding of the corps.

Fallen Comrade

Marines, I too have a toast. I would direct your attention to the table at the rear where a place has been set for those Marines who have gone before us. The military way of life is filled with much symbolism. The table provides a way to tell us that members of our profession, whom we call 'brothers', are unable to be with us this evening. It is set for one, yet there are many represented by the single chair. The table is draped in black, symbolizing the color of mourning; the ultimate sacrifice, a table set in honor of our fallen comrades. The single lighted candle reminds us of the flame of eternal life that the memory of our fallen comrades will be with us always. The Purple Heart medal is displayed to reflect the infliction of wounds and the ebb of life in battle. The identification tags blank, yet they could bear the name of Marines of every creed and color, and from every state in the Union. The dinner setting inverted, they dine with us in spirit only. Those who have died so that we may live, our former comrades who have earned the glory and have given to us the respect and pride that we, as Marines, hold so dear.

Marines and honored guests, let us honor our fellow Marines, who have gone before. A toast to all Marines who have died for our beloved Corps.

Guest of Honor
Lt Gen George W. Smith Jr (Ret)



Lieutenant General Smith was commissioned through the NROTC program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May 1985.

A career infantry officer, his assignments in the operating forces include Rifle Platoon Commander and 81mm Mortar Platoon Commander in 2d Battalion, 1st Marines; Logistics Officer and Rifle Company Commander in 1st Battalion, 3d Marines; and Commanding Officer, 1st Force Reconnaissance Company, during which he deployed twice in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF).

Other assignments include Series and Company Commander, MCRD, San Diego and Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General; Inspector-Instructor, 4th Force Reconnaissance Company; Future Operations Planner, I Marine Expeditionary Force G-3 and G-5 where he served as the MEF's lead planner for OIF I; and Deputy Operations Officer, 1st Marine Division.

From 2007 to 2010, Lieutenant General Smith served as the Commanding Officer, The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia. He then served consecutively as Military Assistant to the Assistant Commandant and Military Secretary to the 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

As a General Officer, he served as Commanding General, MAGTF Training Command/Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California; Deputy Commander, Regional Command Southwest in Helmand Province, Afghanistan; Deputy Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Virginia; Director, Manpower Plans and Policy Division, Quantico, Virginia; Director, Strategy, Plans and Policy Directorate, U.S. Central Command, MacDill AFB, Florida; Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense in the Pentagon; and as the Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies, and Operations at Headquarters, Marine Corps. He concluded his over 38 years of service as the Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force in Camp Pendleton, California.

Lieutenant General Smith graduated with honors from: The Basic School, the U.S. Army Infantry Officers Advanced Course where he was the Distinguished Honor Graduate for Class 2-92, Marine Corps Command and Staff College, the School of Advanced Warfighting where he was the recipient of the General Clifton B. Cates Award, and the Marine Corps War College. He is also a graduate of the Joint Forces Staff College and the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School. He qualified as a Military Freefall Parachutist, Jumpmaster, and Marine Combatant Diver.

He was privileged to serve in commands that were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Unit Commendation, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Commanding Officer
Col Robert G. McCarthy III



Colonel McCarthy currently serves as the Commanding Officer of The Basic School. Prior to arriving at The Basic School he served as the Branch Head, Manpower Management Enlisted Assignments (MMEA). He graduated from Maryville University in St. Louis, MO in 1995 and enlisted in the Marine Corps in November 1996. After graduating boot camp from MCRD Parris Island, he attended the School of Infantry and was assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines as an 0311.

Sergeant McCarthy was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in April 2000. From 2001 to 2004, he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 10th Marines where he served as a Forward Observer, Guns Platoon Commander, Liaison Officer, Battery Executive Officer and Battalion S-3A/FDO. During this tour, he deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF I). In June 2004, Captain McCarthy was assigned as a fire support and maneuver coyote, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group (TTECG) aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in 29 Palms, CA. In July 2007, he was reassigned to the Expeditionary Warfare School (EWS) in Quantico where he was a distinguished graduate.

Following EWS, Captain McCarthy served with 2nd Battalion, 10th Marines as the Operations Officer, Logistics Officer and Fox Battery Commander. During his tour with 2/10, Fox Battery attached to 5th Battalion, 10th Marines, Brigade Headquarters Group, Marine Expeditionary Brigade – Afghanistan and deployed to Camp Leatherneck as part of the International Security Assistance Force's (ISAF) surge into southern Afghanistan from March to November 2009.

Major McCarthy served as the Commanding Officer, Headquarters Battery, 10th Marine Regiment from December 2010 to June 2011. From June 2011 to June 2012, Major McCarthy attended the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas where he was a distinguished graduate and the recipient of the College's Excellence in Joint Service Award. From June 2012 to June 2013, Major McCarthy attended the U.S. Army's School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS). From July 2013 to July 2016, Major McCarthy served as a MAGTF planner in the I Marine Expeditionary Force. During this tour, he deployed with the Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, Regional Command Southwest to Helmand Province, Afghanistan from January to November 2014.

From 2016 to 2017 he was the I MEF Deputy Fires and Effects Coordinator. From June 2017 to June 2019, Lieutenant Colonel McCarthy served as the commanding officer 3d Battalion, 11th Marines in 29 Palms, CA. He served as the Inspector General for the First Marine Division from June 2019 to June 2020. From June 2020 to June 2021, LtCol McCarthy attended the Marine Corps War College where he was a distinguished graduate. He served as the combat arms lieutenant colonels' monitor, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, MMOA from June 2021 to June 2022.

Colonel McCarthy holds a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies from Marine Corps University, a Master of Arts in Operational Security from the Command and General Staff College's School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS), and a Master of Arts in International Relations from Webster University of St. Louis, Missouri.

Senior Enlisted Advisor
SgtMaj Leonel S. Cuellar Jr.



SgtMaj Cuellar is a native of Texas, on 2 December 2002, he attended recruit training aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA. Upon completion of recruit training, he attended School of Infantry in Camp Pendleton, CA and designated as an 0311, where he was promoted to Private First Class.

Upon graduation, he would receive orders to V23, E Company where he was later promoted to Lance Corporal. While serving with E Company, SgtMaj Cuellar deployed to Okinawa, Japan where his battalion was assigned to the 31st MEU. On 1 June 2005 he was promoted to Corporal and shortly after deployed to Kunar Province in Afghanistan, upon his return from deployment, SgtMaj Cuellar was reassigned to Third Platoon as a squad leader.

On 1 June 2006, SgtMaj. Cuellar was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. SgtMaj. Cuellar would deploy to Hadithah, Iraq for his third deployment as an infantry squad leader and make his fourth deployment to Karmah, Iraq.

SgtMaj Cuellar deployed on his fifth deployment to Gulistan, Afghanistan as a Scout Sniper Team Leader and would go on his sixth deployment to Marjah, Afghanistan as the Chief Scout / Team Leader for the Scout Sniper Platoon and was promoted to Staff Sergeant on 1 November 2010.

After completing Recruiting School, SgtMaj Cuellar was assigned to RS San Antonio, RSS Corpus Christi as a Canvassing Recruiter in January 2012. SgtMaj Cuellar received PCA orders to RSS South Park as the stations SNCOIC in January of 2013. SgtMaj Cuellar was meritoriously promoted to Gunnery Sergeant on 2 July 2014.

Upon completion of Recruiting Duty SgtMaj Cuellar would receive orders to V33 and assigned as the Scout Sniper Platoon Sergeant. Shortly after his arrival, he would deploy to Okinawa, Japan as part of the UDP-H rotation for his seventh deployment. Upon returning from UDP, SgtMaj Cuellar was reassigned to L Company as the Company Gunnery Sergeant and would also assume the billet as the Company First Sergeant.

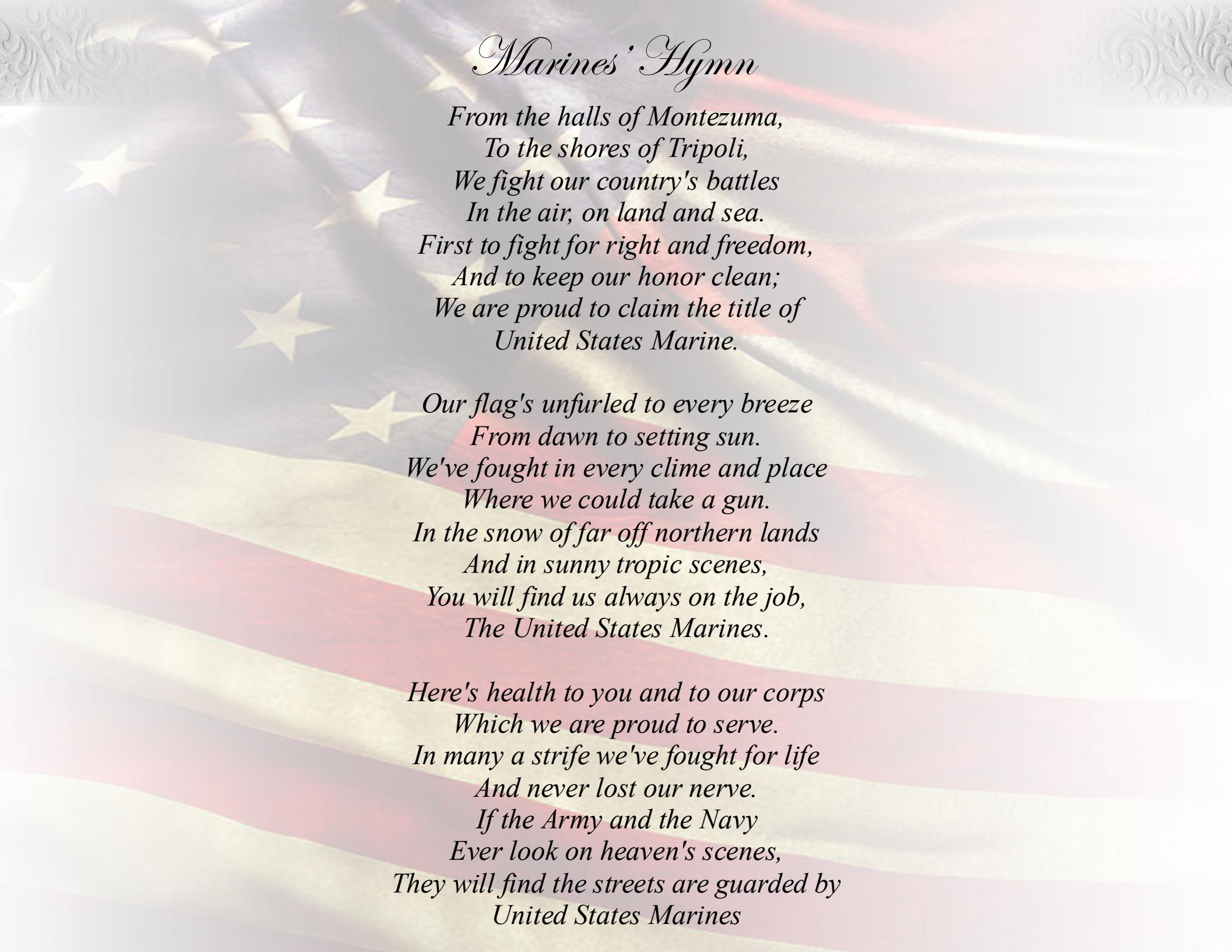
SgtMaj Cuellar received PCA orders aboard MCB Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii to 3d Marine Regiment, Combat Assault Company to serve as the Operations Chief and Company First Sergeant. In the fall of 2017 SgtMaj Sergeant Cuellar would receive his second iteration of SDA orders, this time to Combat Instructor duty, SOI-E aboard Camp Geiger, N.C. and be assigned to Infantry Training Battalion, Alpha Company as the Company Gunnery Sergeant.

After a short stint on Combat Instructor Duty, SgtMaj Cuellar was selected to the rank of First Sergeant and assigned to CLB-8 as the Company First Sergeant for TS Company. Shortly after his arrival to CLB-8, SgtMaj Cuellar would be selected to go on the SPMAGTF-CR-AF 19.1 as the Senior Enlisted Leader for the Logistics Combat Element. After an eighth deployment SgtMaj Cuellar would return to CLB-8 and assume the responsibilities of H&S Company First Sergeant.

In March 2020, SgtMaj Cuellar would PCS to Okinawa, Japan and report to 3d Intel Battalion and assume the responsibilities of BSSC Company First Sergeant. SgtMaj Cuellar received PCA orders to 4th Marine Regiment to assume the duties as the H&S Company First Sergeant. Shortly after his arrival, SgtMaj Cuellar was selected to his current rank and would receive PCA orders. SgtMaj Cuellar assumed the duties and responsibilities as the III MEF Support Battalion Sergeant Major on 5 April 2022.

SgtMaj received PCS orders to Twentynine Palms, Ca and assumed the role of the Battalion Sergeant Major of V37 on 16 March 2023 where he would deploy on a ninth deployment, as part of the UDP-W rotation. He would receive PCA orders for 5 December 2024 to HQBN aboard Twentynine Palms as the Battalion Sergeant Major. SgtMaj Cuellar received PCS orders to The Basic School in Quantico, Va and assumed his current position on 7 July 2025.

SgtMaj Cuellar has a bachelor's degree from American Military University in Business Management, his personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (2nd award), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (4th award), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat V (7th award), Combat Action Ribbon with Gold Star.



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've fought in every 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*