

**Col David W. Coffman, USMC**  
**Commander, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Pendleton**

Colonel Coffman was born and raised in Eustis, Florida, graduated cum laude from Duke University, and was commissioned a Marine Second Lieutenant through the NROTC Program in May 1985. He completed flight school and was designated a Naval Aviator in May 1987.

As a CH-46 pilot, his operational flying tours include service with HMM-262 out of Hawaii, HMM-163 out of El Toro, California, and as Commanding Officer of HMM-161 stationed at MCAS Miramar. During his squadron tours he held various billets in Operations and Maintenance and completed a variety of deployments including Unit Deployment Program deployments to Okinawa and WESTPAC and MEU(SOC) deployments throughout the PACOM and CENTCOM AORs. As Commanding Officer of HMM-161 from August 2003 to May 2005, then LtCol Coffman led the squadron during their 2004 deployment to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. The squadron served as the primary Casualty Evacuation squadron for I MEF, achieved a 100% mission success rate, and was recognized by the Marine Corps Aviation Association as the Edward C. Dyer Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron of the Year for 2004.

Col Coffman has served on staff at multiple levels of command, including MEU, MAG, MEF, JTF, and Combatant Command. While serving as an Air Officer with 15<sup>th</sup> MEU, he planned and participated in Operation Support Hope in Rwanda, contingency operations in Somalia, and Operation Vigilant Warrior in Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf during 15<sup>th</sup> MEU's 1994 CENTCOM deployment. He was J-3 Air for JTF Noble Response in support of humanitarian relief operations in Kenya in January-March 1998. He worked in the Operations Directorate at USCENTCOM Headquarters from August 1999 to July 2002, where he participated in the development and execution of combined exercise programs with friendly nations on the Arabian Peninsula and supervised the USCENTCOM ARG-MEU Exercise Program. In 2003, he participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom I as MAG-16 Operations Officer. From August 2006 to January 2008 Col Coffman served as Future Operations Officer for I MEF.

Col Coffman graduated with honors from both The Basic School and the Amphibious Warfare School, earned a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies with highest distinction while attending the College of Naval Command and Staff at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, and completed a Top-Level-School-equivalent fellowship with the Rand Corporation in Santa Monica, California where he served as Commandant of the Marine Corps Fellow providing Marine expertise to the ongoing national defense related research conducted at Rand.

Col Coffman was promoted to his present rank 1 November 2006. He assumed command of the 13<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit (13<sup>th</sup> MEU) at Camp Pendleton in January 2008. He led the MEU through a seven month sea-based deployment aboard the BOXER Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) in 2009 during which the 13<sup>th</sup> MEU-BOXER ARG team supported exercises and operations in PACOM, CENTCOM, and AFRICOM AORs, including extended counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and Somali Basin.

Col Coffman's awards include two Bronze Stars for service in OIF, the Purple Heart for wounds received while flying a Casualty Evacuation mission in 2004, multiple single mission and strike flight Air Medals, other personal decorations for meritorious service, and numerous campaign and service medals. He is married to the former Jean Caudle, and they reside in San Diego, California near their two grown sons Cole and Clay.