



Joseph J. McMenamain
Performing the Duties of the
Assistant Secretary of Defense for
Special Operations/Low-Intensity
Conflict



CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Joe McMenamain is currently Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict. Among his responsibilities are all special operations, irregular warfare, counterterrorism, and information operations policy issues and the oversight of special operations peculiar administrative matters, on behalf of the Secretary.

PAST EXPERIENCE: Mr. McMenamain previously served as the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and Principal Director for Counternarcotics and Global Threats overseeing DoD's efforts to disrupt and degrade national security threats posed by illicit drugs and other illicit commodities, transnational organized crime, threat finance networks, and any potential nexus among these activities. Prior to that he held various positions in OUSD/Policy, including Principal Director for Homeland Defense Integration and Defense Support to Civil Authorities, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, and Principal Director for Stability Operations Capabilities.

Prior to joining Policy, he served 32 years as a Marine Corps Officer retiring as a Brigadier General. He served in a variety of operational, policy, training and recruiting positions. His last active duty assignment was the Assistant Division Commander for the 2d Marine Division both in Iraq and at Camp Lejeune, NC. As the Assistant Division Commander in Iraq, he worked the economic and governance lines of operation. Returning to Camp Lejeune, he oversaw the training of all 2d Marine Division forces deploying to Iraq. Prior to his assignment at Camp Lejeune, he was the Director of the Iraq Survey Group, Baghdad, Iraq tasked with finding the truth about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. He also served as the Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot and Eastern Recruiting Region, Parris Island, South Carolina.

Operational experience includes command from platoon to Commanding General, Division (Rear) with numerous deployments to the Western Pacific and the Middle East. He is a veteran of the Mayaguez rescue and the assault on Koh Tang Island, led a deployment to Peru in support of counterdrug/counterterrorist training, and participated in Operation Sea Angel in Bangladesh in addition to his time in Iraq.

His military decorations include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of Second Award, Legion of Merit Medal, Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon and various unit commendations and campaign awards.

EDUCATION: Mr. McMenamain received his Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Villanova University.