

Major General James M. Lariviere
Deputy Director, Politico-Military Affairs (Africa), Joint Staff



Major General Lariviere was born in Rochester, NY. In 1979, he graduated from The Citadel with a Bachelor's Degree in History and was commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Program. Initially assigned as an artillery officer with 10th Marine Regiment, he was transferred to 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, Second Marine Division. As a Reconnaissance Platoon Commander, he deployed with Battalion Landing Team 3/8, 24th MAU as part of the Multinational Force in Beirut, Lebanon.

Promoted to Captain, he was assigned to Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. where he served as Headquarters Company Executive Officer, Headquarters Company Commander and as the Barracks Assistant Operations Officer. Following this tour, he attended the Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, VA. Upon graduation, Captain Lariviere served as a Weapons Company and Rifle Company Commander with Battalion Landing Team 1/8, 24th MEU (SOC) on two deployments to the Mediterranean Sea. Captain Lariviere was then assigned to Landing Force Training Command (Atlantic) where he was an instructor for small boat navigation, coxswain skills, and raid operations until his transfer to the Marine Corps Reserve in 1991.

From 1991-1994, Major Lariviere served as an instructor with the Marine Corps University's Law of War Detachment and on the staff of the School of Advanced Warfighting. From 1994-1996 he was an Assistant Operations Officer with the Second MAGTF Augmentation Command Element participating in Exercise BATTLE GRIFFIN-96. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1997 he was assigned as Assistant Operations Officer with the 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. From 1998 to 2000, Lieutenant Colonel Lariviere commanded 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company, 4th Marine Division, participating in training exercises in Panama and Norway. Following that assignment, he transferred to the 4th Marine Division staff serving with the division's Washington Liaison Detachment in the Office of Legislative Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps, and subsequently as the Assistant Chief of Staff G-5 Plans Officer.

Recalled to active duty in January 2002 in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, Colonel Lariviere served as the Future Operations Officer, 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism). Promoted to colonel he subsequently became Assistant Chief of Staff G-3 Operations of the MEB.

Upon demobilization, he served briefly with the Joint Forces Command IMA Detachment before joining the MAGTF Staff Training Program IMA Detachment as the Assistant Chief of Staff J-3. From July 2004 to September 2006 he was assigned as the Assistant Division Commander, 4th Marine Division. Recalled to active duty again in June 2006, Colonel Lariviere served with the Combined Security Transition Assistance Command-Afghanistan as the Mentor/Advisor to the G-3, Afghan National Army. Upon his release from active duty, he returned to duty with the 4th Marine Division staff. He was promoted to Brigadier General in 2008 and assigned as Director of Reserve Affairs Division, Headquarters Marine Corps. From April 2010 to September 2012 he served as Commanding General, 4th Marine Division. He was promoted to Major General in May 2012.

Major General Lariviere holds a Masters Degree in National Security Affairs from Georgetown University. He is a graduate of the Amphibious Warfare School, Marine Corps Command and Staff College (Non-Resident) and the Air War College (Seminar Program). His personal awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star, and the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal with three gold stars. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Ranger School and is authorized to wear Navy-Marine Corps Parachutist Insignia.

In civilian life, Major General Lariviere worked on Capitol Hill as a military legislative assistant, a Professional Staff Member with the House Armed Services Committee; and as both Staff Director and Minority Staff Director of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.