

Gunnery Sergeant J. D. Sterling (Ret)

Gunnery Sergeant Sterling reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, on 12 December 1980. He graduated from 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, Platoon 2213 as a Squad leader and received a meritorious promotion to the rank of Private First Class.

Following Infantry Training School in Camp Pendleton, California, he reported to Marine Barracks Bermuda, for Security Force Duty.

He was meritoriously promoted to Corporal in October 1982 and was transferred to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, Camp Pendleton, California, where he served as an Infantry Squad leader for Lima Company 3rd Platoon, upon completion of duties he was promoted to Sergeant and attended 5th Marine Regiment Noncommissioned Officer School.



In November 1985, then Sergeant Sterling reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Edson Range as a Primary Marksmanship Instructor, Camp Pendleton, California, where he instructed Recruits in marksmanship and to qualify with the M-16A1 service rifle and .45 caliber pistol.

In May 1987, he received orders to Marine Corps Recruiters School, San Diego, California. Upon completion of school he reported to Eugene, Oregon for recruiting duty where he was promoted to Staff Sergeant in June 1989 and served in the Officer Selection Office until June 1991.

Staff Sergeant Sterling received orders to report to 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines Camp Lejeune, North Carolina where he served as Platoon Sergeant Lima Company 3rd Platoon and Scout Platoon Commander. During this period Staff Sergeant Sterling successfully completed the Noncommissioned Officer Academy Career Course and Infantry Platoon Sergeants Course.

In July 1994 he reported to the Pudget Sound Naval Shipyard as a Marine Cadre, Anti-terrorism Instructor, where he instructed civilian and naval personnel in weapons handling and base security procedures. During this period Gunnery Sergeant Sterling received the Department of Defense Best Base anti-terrorism award.

In July 1996 Gunnery Sergeant Sterling reported as Detachment Gunnery Sergeant to the USS Carl Vinson, Alameda, California where he served until the Marine Corps phased out Marine Detachments onboard Aircraft Carriers.

Gunnery Sergeant Sterling reported to 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines as Company Gunnery Sergeant Lima Company in September 1998. During this period Gunnery Sergeant Sterling completed the Staff Noncommissioned Officers Academy's Advanced Course.

In January 2000 he reported to Camp Geiger, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for Instructor duty at the Close Combat Instructors Trainers Course. He retired from active duty in December 2000.

Gunnery Sergeant Sterling obtained his Associates Degree in Military Science from Belford University.

His personal decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, and the Combat Action Ribbon.