



Major Jake F. Lunsford

Special Operations Officer

Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command



Major Lunsford grew up in Southern Appalachia. He joined the Marine Corps in 2004 and commissioned in 2012. He is married to Lauren and has three sons, Hudson (11), Sawyer (9), Arliss (6), and Atticus (1).

Academic Achievements:

- Master of Public Affairs from Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs
- Magna Cum Laude from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Arts in Arabic and Spanish
- Associate of Arts in Arabic from the Defense Language Institute, Presidio of Monterey
- Graduated with honors from the U.S. Army's Maneuver Captains Career Course

Professional Achievements:

- Major Douglas A. Zembiec Combat Leadership Award
- John A. Lejeune Leadership Award
- William B. Lemly Academic Award
- Major Ken Bailey Honor Graduate Award

Professional Assignments:

- Intelligence professional and Arabic Linguist with Marine Special Operations Command
- Rifle Platoon Commander, 2d Battalion, 1st Marine Division
- Weapons Platoon Commander, 2d Battalion, 1st Marine Division
- Fire Support Team Leader, 2d Battalion, 1st Marine Division
- Marine Special Operations Team Commander, 3d Marine Raider Battalion
- Marine Special Operations Company Executive Officer, 3d Marine Raider Battalion
- Fellow at the Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs

Operational Experience:

- Major Lunsford has served abroad in multiple operational assignments. Over the course of these assignments he has visited the shores of Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, South Korea, Kuwait, Iraq, Djibouti, Qatar, Afghanistan, Kenya, and Somalia
- He has served in combat on both the Continent of Africa and in the Middle East with Marine Special Operations Command
- His operational experience includes close work with the Department of State, USAID, foreign militaries, Non-Governmental Organizations, and both American and foreign political leaders

Personal and Academic Interests:

- Avid cyclist and outdoor enthusiast
- Interested in environmental policy and the use and management of federal public lands
- Fluent speaker of Spanish and Arabic

Personal Awards:

- Bronze Star with Valor for leadership in combat
- Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat device
- Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medal for professional achievement in two separate assignments
- Army Achievement Medal for superior academic achievement at the Defense Language Institute, Presidio of Monterey
- Combat Action Ribbon for combat service on both the continent of Africa and in the Middle East
- Sea Service Deployment Ribbons for five overseas deployments

- Major Lunsford is a Visiting Scholar and National Defense Fellow at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs. He has previously served as an Arabic linguist with Marine Special Operations Command, Platoon Commander and Fire Support Team Leader with 2d Battalion 1st Marines, and Special Operations Team Commander and Executive Officer with Marine Special Operations Command. He received his BA in Arabic and Spanish from the University of Georgia, an MPA from Brown University, and an Associate degree from the Defense Language Institute. A Marine Corps active duty Special Operations Officer, he has participated in combat operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and East Africa. He is the recipient of the Major Douglas A. Zembiec Combat Leadership Award, John A. Lejeune Leadership Award, William B. Lemly Academic Award, the Major Ken Bailey Honor Graduate Award, and Bronze Star with Valor.