

# United States Marine Corps (Ret.)

## Brigadier General Denis L. Shortal

Brigadier General Denis L. Shortal retired from the Marine Corps November 1, 1994. His last assignment was as the Commanding General, 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

General Shortal enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in October 1962 and was commissioned via the NROTC Program, a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve upon graduation from the University of Missouri in June 1964. Following completion of The Basic School, at Quantico, Virginia, he received a regular commission from the Commanding Officer, The Basic School. He underwent flight training at the NAS Pensacola, Florida, and upon completion was designated a Naval Aviator in September 1966. During this tour, he was promoted to first lieutenant in December 1965.

His first operational squadron was VMFA-513, MAG-24, at MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina, where he flew the F-4 Phantom and was the Assistant Administration Officer. He was promoted to captain in July 1967.

Ordered overseas, General Shortal was assigned to VMFA-115, MAG-13, in the Republic of Vietnam, where he served as the Squadron Logistics (S-4) Officer and flew over 300 combat missions in the F-4B.

Upon completion of this tour, he was assigned to VT-22, NAS Kingsville, Texas. In addition to being a flight instructor, he was the Aircraft Division Officer. In March 1970, he was released from active duty and accepted a reserve commission.

General Shortal's first reserve squadron was VMA-142, NAS Jacksonville, Florida, where he flew the A-4L and was the Pilot Training Officer. In October 1972, he transferred to VMA-543, NAS Glenview, Illinois, where he continued to fly the A-4L and was the Ordnance Officer and Assistant Maintenance Officer until the squadron was decommissioned in 1974.

Transferring to VMR-234, at NAS Glenview, he flew the C-119F. In 1975, the squadron was redesignated VMGR-234, when it transitioned to the KC-130F. During this period, he was promoted to major and assigned as the Maintenance Officer.

In June 1976, he was detached from VMGR-234 and served with MTU AVN-9, NAS Glenview. The following June, he rejoined VMGR-234 and served with this unit until September 1984. During this tour he served as Operations Officer, Executive Officer and Commanding Officer, and was promoted to lieutenant colonel. In September 1983, General Shortal flew the initial operational flight in the first factory new aircraft delivered to a Marine Corps Reserve Squadron, a KC-130T.

From September 1984 until December 1988, he served as the Administration Officer, Executive Officer and Mobilization Coordinator/Deputy Group Commander of MACG-48, NAS Glenview. He was promoted to colonel in May 1986.

He was assigned duties as the Officer in Charge, Marine Corps Mobilization Station, Atlanta in December 1988. While serving in this capacity, he was selected for promotion to brigadier general in December 1989. He was advanced to his present grade on June 2, 1990, and assigned as the Director, Marine Corps Reserve Support Center, Overland Park, Kansas (designated mobilization assignment on July 14, 1990). He served in this capacity until May 30, 1992. General Shortal was assigned duty as Assistant Wing Commander, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, New Orleans, La., (designated mobilization assignment) on May 31, 1992. He assumed command of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade on June 12, 1993.

General Shortal has attended the Marine Air Weapons Training Unit, MCAS Cherry Point; Aviation Staff Planning, NAB Coronado, California; Joint Aviation Supply and Maintenance Material Management (C)/XO Course, Athens, Georgia; and Aviation Safety Command Course, Monterey, California.

He served on the Marine Corps Reserve Policy Board from 1991 through 1993 and had previously served on this board from 1983 through 1985.

His decorations include: the Distinguished Flying Cross with gold star in lieu of a second award; Air Medal with numeral "23"; Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V"; National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal; Marine Corps Reserve Medal; and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

In his civilian career he was a Commercial Pilot for Northwest Airlines from which he retired on February 1, 2007.

In March of 2008 he became the Co-Chair of "Dunwoody Yes" a committee which lead the drive for the citizens of unincorporated Dunwoody to approve city hood for Dunwoody. The vote passed on 15 JUL 2008 by over 81%. Thus, on 1 DEC 2008 Dunwoody became the newest city in Georgia. In September, 2008 he was elected to the first Dunwoody City Council representing District One. In December, 2008 he was elected Mayor Pro Tem of Dunwoody by the Dunwoody City Council.

(Updated 03 November 2009)