



San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

NEWS RELEASE

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Chief Deputy City Attorney John C. Hemmerling Retires From 30 Years in Marine Corps Reserve

Colonel Hemmerling was awarded Bronze Star medal in 2006 during the War in Iraq

San Diego, CA: Chief Deputy City Attorney John C. Hemmerling will retire from the Marine Corps Reserve on October 1, 2014, completing 30 years of faithful service to our country, including active service in the Gulf War and the War in Iraq, for which he was awarded the bronze star. He rose to the rank of colonel in a three decade career that began under President Reagan and ended under President Obama.

Colonel Hemmerling was born in Kansas City, Missouri. He was commissioned in 1987 after graduating from the University of Central Missouri. After completing The Basic School and Basic Field Artillery Course, he was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines at Camp Pendleton, California.

In March 1990, he was assigned as the Artillery Liaison Officer and senior Forward Observer for 1st Battalion, 7th Marines. While in that billet he was deployed to Desert Shield/Storm attached to Task Force Ripper as part of the first unit into Kuwait. He was promoted to Captain in June 1992 and departed active duty in September 1992.

Colonel Hemmerling joined the Marine Corps Reserve in 1993. In 2004, he took command of 5th Battalion, 14th Marines. In 2005, his 1,000 person unit was activated and deployed to Iraq as a provisional military police battalion in Al Anbar Province. They processed over 6,000 suspected insurgents, terrorists and criminals without incident; safely escorted over 300 convoys; occupied and defended Camp Fallujah and approximately 100 square kilometers of battle space surrounding it; and recruited over 1,000 Iraqi Police candidates. In 2006, Colonel Hemmerling was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in a combat zone.

Following the Iraq War, Colonel Hemmerling was assigned as an Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer with primary responsibility to FEMA Region IX in the Southwestern United States. He was deployed in actual disasters and several U.S. Northern Command training exercises. He was promoted to his current rank of colonel in January 2009. In September 2011, he was assigned to Marine Forces Pacific, G3, as Officer in Charge of the Defense Support of Civilian Authorities program. While assigned there he participated in numerous exercises on the West Coast and in Hawaii, as well as on the Korean Peninsula.

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Colonel Hemmerling's military awards include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Korean Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal, the Global War on Terrorism, Iraq Campaign and Southwest Asian Campaign medals, and Kuwait Liberation medal.

From 1994 to 2002, Hemmerling served as a San Diego Police Officer, working in Mid City Patrol, with extensive experience in investigations, gangs and narcotics. He was certified as a Field Training Officer, responsible for supervising and developing recent police academy trainees for duty as police officers.

In 2001, he earned a law degree from the University of San Diego. Since 2002, he has served as a Deputy City Attorney and was recently promoted to Chief Deputy for the Public Safety, Labor and Employment Services Unit.

“Hemingway was right when he said, ‘There is no one better to have beside you when the chips are down than a U.S. Marine.’” said City Attorney Jan Goldsmith. **“Chief Deputy City Attorney John Hemmerling brings courage, honor and commitment to work with him every day in a city he has served for more than 20 years. We look forward to his continued leadership for years to come. Today we honor his 30 years of dedicated service to the Marine Corps and our country.”**

EDITORS: Photos of Colonel John C. Hemmerling are attached for your use.
Credit: John C. Hemmerling

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