

Lieutenant Colonel James K. McBride

Commanding Officer, Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 38

LtCol James McBride is a native of Butte, MT. He graduated from Butte Central Catholic High School in May 1992, and began Boot Camp at MCRD San Diego six days later. He graduated Basic Helicopter Course in Millington, TN, and then Naval Aircrew Candidate School in Pensacola, FL, to become a Crew Chief on the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter, serving briefly in HMM-164 in Tustin, CA. However, prior to Boot Camp, he had already begun the application process for acceptance in the Navy ROTC program, which he was accepted into during his enlistment. In late 1993, Lance Corporal McBride was discharged from Active Duty to attend Tulane University in New Orleans, LA, as a Midshipman. He graduated from Tulane in May 1997 with a BA in Economics, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Upon graduating The Basic School in Quantico, VA, in early 1998, he underwent training at VT-10 and VT-86 as a student Naval Flight Officer (NFO) in Pensacola, FL, and earned his NFO wings in June 1999. Designated for the EA-6B program, 1stLt McBride attended EA-6B NFO training at VAQ-129 in Whidbey Island, WA. He graduated as an Electronics Countermeasures Officer (ECMO), and was assigned to VMAQ-1 at MCAS Cherry Point, NC, in early 2001.

While at VMAQ-1, Capt McBride attended Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape (SERE) School in Brunswick, Maine, and then deployed with VMAQ-1 to Incirlik, Turkey, in August 2001 in support of Operation Northern Watch—which enforced the Northern “No-Fly Zone” over northern Iraq—and twice to Prince Sultan Air Base (PSAB), Saudi Arabia—from May to August 2002, and February to April 2003—in support of Operation Southern Watch, which enforced the Southern “No-Fly Zone” over southern Iraq. The second PSAB deployment transitioned to the beginning of the 2003 Iraq war and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF), where Capt McBride participated in combat operations over Iraq in support of the rapid Allied ground operations at the beginning of the conflict.

After returning from his deployment in support of OEF in the skies over Iraq, he volunteered for a tour with the infantry as a Forward Air Controller (FAC) with Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 1/6, 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), first attending Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) School to earn his Joint Tactical Air Control designation, and then deploying with the BLT/MEU in the Winter of 2003 in support of OEF in southern Afghanistan. Operation MOUNTAIN STORM began in April 2004, which began by pushing out of Kandahar into Uruzgan Province to establish a forward operating base (FOB) and expeditionary airfield 90 miles to the north at Tarin Kowt, capturing and killing scores of Taliban, and otherwise setting the conditions for successful voter registration and national-level elections.

In 2005 he was assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 374 in 29 Palms, CA, as the Airfield Company Commander and Operations Officer of the Strategic Expeditionary Landing Field. He deployed with MWSS-374 in 2006 to Al Taqaddum, Iraq, in charge of

providing airfield support services to military and civil fixed and rotary wing aircraft at Al Taqaddum Airfield.

In 2007 he was assigned a second time to the 22d MEU, this time as the MEU Assistant Air Officer, deploying to the Mediterranean in support of OEF, and also responding to Cyclone Sidr, which devastated Bangladesh. Maj McBride coordinated all Marine Corps aviation movements from the USS Kearsarge Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) to provide emergency supplies and rescue operations to save thousands of stranded civilians in Bangladesh during Operation SEA ANGEL II.

During his 2007 deployment, Maj McBride requested a lateral move to a new military occupational specialty (MOS), and was approved in 2008 to become a Marine Air Command and Control officer. He was also selected to attend the resident Marine Corps Command and Staff College in Quantico, VA, which he attended during the 2008-2009 academic year, earning a Master's degree in Military Studies.

His first assignment in his new MOS was to Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron (MTACS) 28, arriving in Cherry Point, NC, in June 2009, and deploying three months later as the MTACS-28 Detachment OIC to Kandahar, Afghanistan, to operate the Marine Aviation Combat Element (ACE) commander's Tactical Air Command Center (TACC). Upon his unit's redeployment to Cherry Point in April 2010, he was assigned as MTACS-28's Operations Officer. In December 2010 he was assigned as the Marine Air Control Group (MACG) 28 Operations Officer, and then the Assistant Operations Officer in June 2011. In May 2012 Maj McBride was assigned as the Executive Officer of 2d Low Altitude Air Defense (LAAD) Battalion, where he remained until June 2013 when he executed orders to report to 29 Palms, CA.

In July 2013, Maj McBride was assigned as the Company Commander of Company C, Air Control Training Squadron, Marine Communications-Electronics School (MCCES). Maj McBride was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on 1 June 2014, and was assigned as the Executive Officer of MCCES on 2 June 2014, and then MCCES Operations Officer in August 2014.

In May 2016, LtCol McBride executed a PCS to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, CA, to be on the staff of MACG-38. On 14 July 2016, he took command of Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 38 (MTACS-38).

LtCol McBride is married and has one son.