

MODERN DAY MARINE

Never underestimate the importance of a highway sign. While stationed at Camp Lejeune in 1991, Dan Clark read from a sign that Greensboro was an All-America City. “I came here often, Greensboro may not be world renowned as a liberty town, but compared to Jacksonville...” Upon his discharge in 1992, Clark settled in his favorite liberty town.

Earlier, Clark had deployed to the Persian Gulf area as a radio operator with the 10th Marines for Desert Shield/Storm. Meritoriously promoted in the field, he became Radio Platoon Sergeant. “We spent eight months practicing assaults and field exercises in various Gulf countries. Compared to the build-up, the war was over in the blink of an eye, but friendships built during those times will last a lifetime.”

Clark’s parents approved his Marine Corps enlistment when he was 17, “I had to wait several months for an opening at Parris Island, but left my hometown on Christmas Day, 1988.” After Boot Camp and Radio School, Clark completed deployments on Okinawa and in Korea as a field radio operator.



Clark wasted no time acclimating to Greensboro. On his way to a Guilford College degree in political science, he first graduated from Guilford Technical College. All the while, he worked as a part-time tire salesman for Sears at Friendly Center and later as full-time auto center supervisor. Still later, he became store manager of a Sears-owned National Tire & Battery Store in Winston-Salem.

“Even though I thoroughly enjoyed college and working at Sears, I truly missed the Marine Corps.” He found the perfect compromise – the Marine Corps Reserve, which he joined in 1993.

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In 1996, Clark completed a 90-day computer systems school at Quantico, Virginia. From that point forward, his world changed from “radio” to “data.” While attached to the Greensboro Marine Corps Reserve unit, Clark’s Data Communications Chief assignments took him to California, New York, Louisiana, Norway, Germany, and locations above the Arctic Circle.



Clark became Data Communication Chief in Dam Neck, Virginia in 2004, but came back to the Greensboro Reserve unit in 2006. In 2010, he was promoted to Company First Sergeant in Tampa, Florida; to Battalion Sergeant Major in Newport News, Virginia in 2011; to Battalion Sergeant Major in Aurora, Colorado in 2012; and to Squadron Sergeant Major in Fort Worth, Texas in 2014.

In May, 2016 Clark will report to the Marine Corps Reserve Unit in Charlotte. In May, 2018, he will face mandatory retirement, based on his completion of 30 years of military service. At the age of 47.

Clark is the first to admit that the Marine Corps isn’t for everyone, “I joined straight out of high school from the small town of Kissimmee, Florida. Since I did not have grades, money, or focus for college, the Marine Corps looked to be a way I could grow up, prove my mettle, gain work experience, and travel beyond Florida and Mickey Mouse.”

He would also be the first to admit the Marine Corps Reserve isn’t for everyone. “I deployed as Data Communications Chief of the 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Operation Iraqi in 2003.”

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His information technology perspective begged the question, “What happens when warfighting and social media meet?” It did not take him long to overpower the thought he had just texted his wife for an answer, “Instant communication is here to stay, but I’ve seen it get too many Marines in trouble, albeit unintentional. Elements of combat can be taken out of context – the horrors of war don’t need videoing back to your mom or girlfriend.”

One other tidbit about Reserve service – mandatory attendance, “Admittedly, my commutes were longer and more complicated than most, but I wouldn’t have had it any other way.”

Communication and data skills grown in the Marine Corps have served Clark well, leading to jobs with Lowe’s Home Improvement and The Todd Organization. He currently serves as Director of Information Technology Infrastructure for ITG Brands (formerly Lorillard).

Suspecting Clark had no time for hobbies, he admitted to being an addicted runner and serious salt water fisherman. No record of fish, but he has completed two Marine Corps Marathons. In addition to serving as a Boy Scout troop leader and with the Communities in Schools program, he has organized multiple 5K and 10K fundraising events for Hope for the Warriors and other charitable causes.

Clark married Kathy Krumm in 2006. They attend Pleasant Ridge Christian Church.

Sergeant Major Clark has served in every enlisted rank. He has seen several generations of Marine recruits come and go. He has a chest-full of personal decorations, and the ethos of a Marine recruiter, “Where else could a young kid lead Marines into battle, handle multi-billion dollar equipment, or fly fighter jets -- all for a great cause? Nowhere!”

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