



March 2023
Stratford Veterans Museum
VETERAN OF THE MONTH



COLONEL ADELE E. HODGES



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ADELE HODGES
COLONEL (RET.) U.S. MARINE CORPS

In 1978, having just finished her BS degree in Recreation and leisure at Southern Connecticut State College, Adele E. Hodges was looking for a job. She decided to see what the Armed Forces had to offer and coincidentally her sister also encountered the Marine recruiter. The recruiter talked her sister, Rosena, into joining the Corps and Adele enlisted as well to “protect” her sister from the mean Marines.

Since joining the Marine Corps Hodges continually advanced through the grades in the service and retired as a colonel in 2011.

“I was pretty shy and withdrawn when I went into the Marine Corps” Hodges said. “It gave me the confidence and strength to take on the role of a leader. I wouldn’t have gotten that on the outside. I valued the sisterhood and brotherhood the Corps gave me and I enjoyed my career, although I believe it was a career I never would have thought I would have chosen for myself.”

Upon enlisting and going through basic training and supply school, she was assigned to the First Medical Battalion of the First Force Service Support Group at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, CA. She was promoted to second lieutenant in 1980 and served as a supply officer at Fleet Marine Force Pacific Headquarters, Camp Smith, Hawaii, from 1983 to 1986 during which time she was promoted to Captain. From 1986-89, Hodges served at the Fourth Marine Air Wing in New Orleans, and from 1990-93 Second Marine Division Headquarters Battalion at Camp Lejeune, NC.

In 1991 she deployed in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as a supply officer with her battalion during the Gulf War Operation Desert Storm.

In 1993 she transferred to the Marine Corps Air-Ground Center, in 29 Palms, CA and was promoted to major. She was posted to the Combined Arms Exercise Program at the Marine Corps Training Programs Branch, at the Training Division, Quantico, VA from 1997 and, in 1999, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. In January 2000 she was transferred to the 1st Force Service Support Group and assigned to the MEU Service Support Group and the First Maintenance Battalion at Camp Pendleton, CA. In 2000, she served in Exercise Natural Fire in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania and took command of the First Maintenance Battalion at Camp Pendleton. She was promoted to Colonel in 2003.

From 2003 to 2005, Hodges was chief of the Joint Training Division at NATO Joint Warfare Center, Stavanger, Norway. In 2006, Hodges became commander of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. From 2008 to 2011, she served as the Director of Readiness Assessments in the Marine Corps Office of the Inspector General. Hodges retired from the Marine Corps in 2011.

“The Marine Corps thrust me into leadership and made me overcome being shy and withdrawn”, she said. “I stepped up and was able to take command. The service also gave me good mentors that I could learn from and emulate. I was grateful for that.”

Hodges’ honors include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Three Stars, and a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Following her military service, she became CEO of RALDFO Group LLC (a family business named for the first letters of her family names) in 2013.