

Guest Speaker

General Smith is currently serving as the 39th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, and raised in Plano, Texas, General Smith graduated from Texas A&M University and was commissioned in 1987. He has commanded at every level, including Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment during Operation Assured Response in Monrovia, Liberia; 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment during Operation Iraqi Freedom; and 8th Marine Regiment/ Regimental Combat Team 8 during Operation Enduring Freedom. He also served in Caracas, Venezuela as part of the U.S. Military Group.

As a General Officer, he commanded U.S. Marine Corps Forces Southern Command, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

General Smith's staff assignments as a General Officer include serving as the Director of Capability Development Directorate, Combat Development and Integration; Senior Military Assistant to both the Deputy Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Defense; Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration; and the 36th Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.

General Eric M. Smith Commandant of the Marine Corps

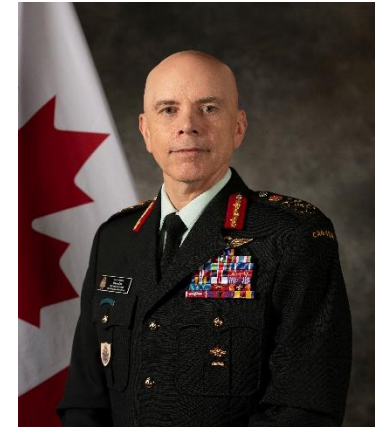


Esteemed Global Alumni Inaugural Class 2026

General Wayne Eyre, Canada

Command and Staff College Class of 2002
School of Advanced Warfighting Class of 2003

General Wayne Eyre served more than 40 years in the Canadian Armed Forces, culminating as Chief of the Defence Staff and Canada's senior military advisor. His distinguished career included senior command and operational leadership across Canada, NATO, and United Nations missions. The first non-U.S. Deputy Commander of United Nations Command Korea, General Eyre is a graduate of Marine Corps University's Command and Staff College and School of Advanced Warfighting and a four-time recipient of the U.S. Legion of Merit.



General Yasunori Morishita, Japan

Command and Staff College Class of 2004



General Yasunori Morishita served more than four decades in the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, culminating as Chief of Staff, its highest-ranking officer. A graduate of Marine Corps University's Command and Staff College, he held senior command and strategic leadership positions and played a pivotal role in shaping Japan's modern defense posture. General Morishita advanced defense modernization, joint training, and interoperability while strengthening cooperation with the United States and regional partners in support of Indo-Pacific security.

Esteemed Global Alumni Inaugural Class 2026

Lieutenant General Chun-Chao Ma, Taiwan

Command and Staff College Class of 1997

Lieutenant General Chun-Chao Ma has served in senior command and staff positions throughout more than three decades of military service, including Commandant of the Taiwan Marine Corps and is currently the Deputy Chief of Navy. A graduate of Marine Corps University's Command and Staff College, his career reflects distinguished leadership in joint operations and strategic planning. Lieutenant General Ma has played a pivotal role in modernizing the Marine Corps, strengthening readiness, and advancing cooperation and interoperability with partner forces.



Brigadier General Ivo Moerman, Netherlands

Command and Staff College Class of 2013



Brigadier General Ivo Moerman serves as the 60th Commandant of the Netherlands Marine Corps, following decades of operational and strategic leadership. His distinguished career includes command and staff assignments, multinational deployments supporting NATO and United Nations missions, and service as an exchange officer with the U.S. Marine Corps. A Distinguished Graduate of Marine Corps University's Command and Staff College, Brigadier General Moerman has advanced combined arms training, interoperability, and enduring cooperation among allied forces.

The Inaugural Class of Marine Corps University's Esteemed Global Alumni

Established in 2026, the Esteemed Global Alumni program recognizes distinguished international graduates whose exceptional leadership, service, and achievements have strengthened their nations' armed forces and advanced the enduring partnerships fostered through Marine Corps University.

Ceremony Schedule

Thursday, 30 July 2026	
0940	All assemble
0945	Opening remarks by BGen Tracy and Gen Smith
1000	EGA Display unveiling
1005	EGA Award presentation and remarks by inductees
1040	Closing remarks
1045	Ceremony ends
1045-1145	Reception





Welcome

Dear colleagues and guests,

Welcome to the inaugural Esteemed Global Alumni Induction Ceremony. Today we recognize distinguished international graduates whose extraordinary leadership, service, and lifelong commitment to their nations reflect the highest ideals of Marine Corps University. Their accomplishments exemplify the enduring value of professional military education and the partnerships forged through shared learning. Congratulations to our inaugural inductees!

Brigadier General Matthew W. Tracy
President, Marine Corps University
Commanding General, Education Command

Esteemed Global Alumni Inaugural Class 2026

Brigadier Ian Langford, Australia

Command and Staff College Class of 2009
School of Advanced Warfighting Class of 2010

Brigadier Ian Langford served more than three decades in the Australian Army, distinguished by combat leadership, strategic innovation, and academic excellence. He commanded the 2nd Commando Regiment and multiple Special Operations Task Groups in complex operational environments worldwide. A three-time recipient of Australia's Distinguished Service Cross, he later helped shape future land warfare and defense capability within the Australian Army. Brigadier Langford is a graduate of Marine Corps University's Command and Staff College and School of Advanced Warfighting.



Colonel Oleksii Popovych, Ukraine

Command and Staff College Class of 2025



Colonel Oleksii Popovych served with Ukraine's Defense Intelligence, distinguishing himself through extraordinary courage, leadership, and combat service. A 2025 graduate of Marine Corps University's Command and Staff College, he returned to Ukraine and applied his advanced education and operational experience to critical missions. Killed in action on August 30, 2025, he was posthumously promoted to Colonel and nominated by the leadership of Defense Intelligence of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine for the title of **Hero of Ukraine**. His legacy of courage and selfless service endures.

MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY

To educate Marines to prevail in combat

“This School is a revolution . . .

We want to make this post and the whole Marine Corps a great university. We want to find out who our most capable people are and to give them opportunities accordingly.”

Brigadier General Smedley D. Butler, USMC
Commander, Marine Corps schools, 1920

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Established 1989

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In conjunction with
Marine Corps University Foundation

Esteemed Global Alumni Inaugural Induction Ceremony

*“Honoring International Leaders whose Service has
Strengthened Military Excellence and Enduring
Global Partnerships.”*

Warner Hall
Marine Corps Base Quantico
30 July 2026

