

Colonel Blair J. Sokol



Colonel Blair J. Sokol currently serves as the Director of the Marine Corps War College, Quantico VA.

Colonel Sokol is a native of Newark, Delaware and earned his commission from the United States Naval Academy in 1994, graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree. After graduation from The Basic School and Infantry Officers Course, Second Lieutenant Sokol reported to 2d Battalion, 4th Marines and deployed with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit out of Okinawa, Japan, as a combined anti-armor platoon commander.

In 1997, Captain Sokol served as a tactics officer, company commander, and battalion operations officer at the School of Infantry (West). He then attended the Amphibious Warfare School in 2000 and was subsequently assigned as a Company Commander with the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines in Camp Pendleton, California.

At 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, Captain Sokol deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) as a mechanized company commander and participated in The Opening Gambit in the Southern Ramaila Oilfields and the Battle for Baghdad. After returning from Iraq, he was reassigned to serve as 1st Battalion, 5th Marines' Mobile Assault Company Commander and redeployed to Iraq for OIF II. After participating in the first Battle of Fallujah, he assumed the duty of Battalion Operations Officer.

Major Sokol reported to the Tactical Training and Exercise Control Group in 29 Palms, California as a "Coyote" live-fire controller in 2004. In 2006, he served as Officer in Charge of the live-fire training and mid-to-high-intensity combat academic curriculum of the Mojave Viper program, which trained all infantry battalions deploying to OIF and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Major Sokol then attended the Army's Command and General Staff College, where he received a Master's Degree of Military Art and Science (General Studies). He went on to earn a Master's Degree in Operations at the Army's School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS).

In 2009, Major Sokol reported to III MEF, Okinawa, Japan, to serve as the lead Northeast Asia Planner in the G-5. During his tour, he was the principal author of the MEF's war plans for both the defense of South Korea and the response to a North Korean regime collapse.

Lieutenant Colonel Sokol assumed command of 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion in 2010 and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom 11.1 in Southern Afghanistan. After a brief tour as the 2d Marine Division's Future Operations Officer, he attended the National War College, graduating with the Class of 2013 as a distinguished graduate and earning

a Master's Degree in National Security Strategy.

Lieutenant Colonel Sokol reported to the Joint Staff in 2013 and served as the Strategic Assessment Branch Chief in J-5, partaking in the Joint Staff's Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) efforts and the development of the National Military Strategy (NMS). During his second two years, he served as a special assistant to both the 18th and 19th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs' of Staff in the Chairman's Action Group as the lead of its strategy team. After completing his tour in the Pentagon, he served as the Deputy Director of the Marine Air Ground Task Force Staff Training Program (MSTP).

In June 2017, Colonel Sokol took command of 2d Marine Regiment and served as the Deputy Commander of Task Force Southwest in Afghanistan during Operation Resolute Support 19.1.

Colonel Sokol's personal awards include the Bronze Star for Valor, two Bronze Stars (Meritorious), Meritorious Service Medal (Third Award), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon.