

## **Major General John P. McLaren, Jr.**

John P. McLaren, Jr. served in the United States Army from 1974 to 2011. He retired at the rank of Major General in the United States Army on August 29, 2011. He served in the United States Army on both Active and Reserve status for over thirty-seven years.

Born in Savannah, GA and raised in an Air Force family, he entered the Army in 1974. After receiving his Regular Army commission as a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers, he served at Fort Meade, MD with a Combat Heavy Engineer Battalion. His assignments included Vertical, Horizontal, Battalion Equipment Platoons, and Battalion Construction Officer. He left active duty in May 1978.

In 1978, he became a member of the 80th Division (Training), first serving as a training officer, with the 4th Brigade, Infantry One Station Unit Training.

Once assigned to the 80th Division, General McLaren changed his Military Occupational Specialty from Combat Engineer to Infantry. During his years of service in the 80th Division he held numerous Company, Battalion, Brigade, Division, and Training Command level command and staff positions. General McLaren served as the Assistant Division Commander— Operations for the 80th Division (Institutional Training) from August 2002 to April 2005.

General McLaren was mobilized to active duty from April 2005 to July 2006, serving as the commander of the Iraq Assistance Group within Multinational Corps – Iraq. As the commander of the group, from July 2005 to July 2006, he served with both XVIII Airborne Corps and V Corps and directed the military transition teams assigned to Iraqi army units at the battalion, brigade and division level—coaching, mentoring, and partnering with them as they began fighting the counterinsurgency battle in Iraq. The Military Transition Teams, National Police, and Border Police Transition Teams assigned to the Iraq Assistance Group served with Iraqi units in over two hundred locations across Iraq. During this mission, then Brigadier General McLaren, was the senior representative of the largest mobilization call up of 80th Division Soldiers since World War II.

On his return from Iraq he was promoted to Major General, re-mobilized, and assigned as the Vice Commander of the Joint Warfighting Center and Deputy Joint Force Trainer at U.S. Joint Forces Command in Suffolk, Virginia. In this assignment he helped in leading the USJFCOM joint force training effort to conduct and support the development of capabilities to train the individual services to fight together as a team. He also served as the Deputy Commander of Second Fleet for Joint Task Force Operations. During this time, Second United States Fleet served with the U.S. Southern Command as a Joint

Task Force for contingency operations.

Major General McLaren served as the last Commander of the 80<sup>th</sup> Division and the first Commanding General of the 80th Training Command (TASS) from May 17, 2008 to August 29, 2011. During this assignment, the newly reconstituted 80th Training Command (TASS) trained over 100,000 Soldiers of the Army Reserve, National Guard, and Regular Army in over 160 distinct courses of instruction in all Combat Service and Combat Service Support Military Occupational Specialties in the Army. The 80th Training Command, during his tenure, became a National Command with units in 34 States and with Soldiers residing in all 50 States.

As a Citizen-Soldier, Major General McLaren retired after over thirty-three years of federal service as a Supervisory Civil Engineer - Director of Construction from the U.S. Navy's Atlantic Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command - a \$1.7 Billion government engineering, design, and construction agency. He was fully responsible for operations support, construction management, budget preparation, general management, training support, and specific personnel actions to the field offices for seven subordinate Navy Engineering Commands across the United States, the Caribbean, and Europe. The ninety-two construction offices in the Command placed \$1.7 Billion in construction each year and accomplish this work for the Navy, Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, NATO and other Government and foreign agencies. He coordinated with the Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy Fleet Staffs, and with other government agencies on operational and mission support routines. His staff developed strategic planning initiatives and metrics to work more effectively with all Military Departments and other Governmental agency customers on matters relating to contract execution and construction contract problem resolution. From 1994 to 2000 McLaren supervised all construction activities in the Resident Officer In Charge of Construction Office's for the Norfolk Naval Base, the largest ROICC office in NAVFAC, averaging over \$100 million of construction and facilities work in place each year. He was cited for innovation and cost savings at the Command and National level and for leadership in these efforts. From 1986 to 1992 he supervised the office at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, accomplishing over \$60 million in construction each year and responsible for interface with critical non-nuclear and nuclear ship overhauls. In this position he was mentioned for developing and leading the best field office in the Command. A Warranted Contracting Officer, he was responsible for the administration, award, and oversight of more than 1000 construction, demolition, design/build, and environmental contracts. He authored a model Quality Management Plan for field offices in the Command and chaired Executive Steering Groups. He headed the Marine/Air Force Branch of the Programs and Project Management Division, responsible for the award and administration of design contracts for the Marine Corps and Air Force, from Maine to North Carolina. This position combined the responsibility

for project development, appropriation, congressional authorization, and design execution, acquisition and construction management for all projects in this area. In this position he was responsible for development of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 93 construction strategies to move all Atlantic Fleet air assets from Cecil Field Florida to other east coast bases in the United States. McLaren, upon his retirement from the civil service, worked for two construction companies in Newport News Virginia as the Director of Construction and later the Executive Vice President. After leaving these private firms he started a small construction company. He has since fully retired. He has two grown children and three grandchildren, all living in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Major General McLaren graduated from the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Infantry Advanced Course, the Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College. He has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Virginia Military Institute and a master's degree in strategic studies from the Army War College. He is a registered professional engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia and was a licensed Class A contractor.

His awards and decorations include the Army Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal with one silver and two bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Ranger Tab and the Parachutist Badge.



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