

## **Colonel Joseph R. Perlak, USMC**

Colonel Joe Perlak entered the Marine Corps through the PLC program in 1988 upon graduation from the College of the Holy Cross. He received a J.D. from Western New England College School of Law in 1991.

Following The Basic School and Naval Justice School in 1992, 1stLt Perlak was assigned to Okinawa, Japan, deploying to the Republic of Korea twice in support of III Marine Expeditionary Force and to Thailand aboard USS BELLEAU WOOD with 9<sup>th</sup> Marines. Captain Perlak was next assigned to Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, SC from 1994-96, serving in a variety of billets. From 1996-99, he served as Special Assistant to the Counsel for the Commandant of the Marine Corps at the Pentagon, practicing ethics law and serving as acting Counsel to the Inspector General of the Marine Corps.

In 1999, Major Perlak was assigned to the Deputy Chief of Staff, (Operations), U.S. Army, as a United Nations Military Observer in the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission, observing and reporting violations of the ceasefire mandate. He was next assigned to Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA, where he supported the Office of Counsel for Marine Corps Combat Development Command/Marine Corps Base, and Deputy Chief of Staff, (G-3), as a special project officer. In 2000, he was a student in the 49<sup>th</sup> Graduate Course at the Judge Advocate General's School, U.S. Army, Charlottesville, VA. In 2001, he received his LL.M. with dual specialization in International/Operational law and Contract/Fiscal law. He reported to Marine Corps Systems Command, Quantico, VA, and served as counsel to several ground weapons programs. He had three extended tours away from SYSCOM, serving as the War Plans Officer, (G-5), COMUSMARCENT, Tampa, FL, 2002; Contingency Contracting Attorney, MARCENT/Marine Logistics Command, Operation *Iraqi Freedom*, 2003; and Contingency Contracting Attorney, (J-4), Operation *Secure Tomorrow*, Haiti, 2004.

As a Lieutenant Colonel, he served from 2004-6 at the Navy-Marine Corps Appellate Review Activity, Washington, DC, as the Deputy Director of the Appellate Defense Division, (Code 45), managing the largest appellate military justice docket in the Department of Defense, while eliminating a historic backlog. In 2006, he deployed to Afghanistan in Operation *Enduring Freedom* as an Operational Analyst for the US Joint Forces Command. From 2006 through 2009, he was assigned to the US European Command, Stuttgart, Germany, first as the chief of administrative and civil law and then, two years, as the chief of operational law.

In 2009, he reported to the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals, Washington, DC, where he was promoted to Colonel and currently serves as the Chief Judge. In 2010, he was appointed by the Secretary of Defense to primary duty as an appellate judge on the United States Court of Military Commission Review, deciding appeals from trials by Military Commission at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.