

COLONEL DANIEL A. PINEDO

Colonel Pinedo enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in March 1974. After completion of basic training and supply administration training at Camp Pendleton CA, he was assigned to 4th Light Anti-Air Missile Battalion, 4th Marine Air Wing, for duty as a Reservist.

Corporal Pinedo returned to full active duty status in March 1976 and was assigned to Recruiting Duty at a recruiting station in central California. After three years on Recruiting Duty and meritorious promotions to Sergeant and Staff Sergeant, he reported to the BOOST program in March 1979 and was subsequently selected for the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program in August 1980. Staff Sergeant Pinedo was attached to 4th Recon Battalion in Albuquerque, New Mexico and attended the University of New Mexico. He received a BBA in Financial Management and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in December 1983.

After completion of the Basic School and Infantry Officers Course, Second Lieutenant Pinedo was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines in September 1984. Duties included 33 months as a Rifle Platoon Commander, Weapons Platoon Commander, 81mm mortar Platoon Commander, and three months as Company Executive Officer. After completion of two unit deployments to Okinawa, First Lieutenant Pinedo was transferred to Marine Observation Squadron 2 (VMO-2) in September 1987 where he assumed the duties as an Aerial Observer and Operations Training Officer until his promotion to Captain in January 1989. After completion of another unit deployment to Okinawa, he was reassigned as the Squadron Intelligence Officer for the remainder of his tour. As an Aerial Observer, he was designated as a Supporting Arms Coordinator (Airborne), Forward Air Controller (Airborne), Tactical Air Controller (Airborne), Aerial Observer Instructor, and Mission Commander. In August 1990, he was temporarily assigned to HMLA-369, a light attack helicopter unit, as an Aerial Observer and Plans Officer to provide enhanced supporting arms capability for the first Marine aviation unit deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield. Once VMO-2 arrived in theater, he reassumed his duties as Aerial Observer and Intelligence Officer until May 1991. While participating in Operation Desert Storm, Captain Pinedo flew 27 combat missions as an airborne forward air controller and airborne tactical air controller for the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) that included artillery and USS Wisconsin 16 inch Naval Surface Gunfire air spotting missions against Iraqi forces.

In June 1991, Captain Pinedo was transferred to Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, CA and served as the Headquarters Battalion Executive Officer. In June 1993, he was transferred to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines and assumed the duties as the Weapons Company Commander at Camp Pendleton, CA. After completion of the Weapons and Tactics Instructor course at Marine Aviation Weapons & Tactics Squadron-1 in Yuma, AZ, he deployed with 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit in October 1994 and participated in combat actions ashore during Operation United Shield in Mogadishu, Somalia as the Battalion Landing Team 3/1 Fire Support Coordinator.

In June 1995, Captain Pinedo requested and was approved for a lateral move to Financial Management Officer and was assigned to I MEF as the Deputy Comptroller and subsequently promoted to Major in August 1995. In July 1998, Major Pinedo was transferred to Marine Corps Air Station, Camp Pendleton where he served as Comptroller until his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in August 2000. Lieutenant Colonel Pinedo was reassigned as the newly established Air Station Business Management Officer to develop five year strategic plans, establish and implement Installation Business Practices Reform, and numerous other cost saving programs.

In June 2001, Lieutenant Colonel Pinedo was assigned as the Commanding Officer of the Marine Corps Security Force Company, Naval Submarine Base Bangor, WA and was responsible for the continuous security during storage, maintenance, and convoy delivery of the Pacific Fleet's SSBN Trident nuclear weapons until July 2003. In July 2003, he was transferred to 3D Marine Air Wing to assume the duties as Comptroller. In February 2004, Lieutenant Colonel Pinedo deployed to Iraq with 3D Marine Air Wing and was instrumental in the initial build up and establishment of Al Asad Air Base as a fully functioning operational Marine Air Base along with the restoration of the dilapidated infrastructure that would later support thousands of personnel. Lieutenant Colonel Pinedo was promoted to Colonel in November 2005 and was assigned to be the I MEF Comptroller in June 2007.

Colonel Pinedo's personal decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with two stars, three Air Medals with bronze star and #2 Strike Flight Device and Combat V, Navy Commendation Medal with two stars and Combat V, Navy Achievement Medal, and Combat Action Ribbon along with numerous unit and service awards.