

JAMES T. AVERHART, JR.  
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FIVE (RETIRED)  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

James T. Averhart, Jr, is a native of Mobile, AL. He is a retired Commissioned Officer of the United States Marine Corps, attaining the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Five (CWO5). He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Delayed Entry Program in January 1987 as a Basic Infantryman. He shipped to recruit training on August 18, 1987, to Parris Island, SC. He was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Private First Class (PFC) upon completion of recruit training.



After graduation, PFC Averhart was transferred to the School of Infantry (SOI), Camp Pendleton, CA. Upon completion from SOI, he was ordered to Marine Barracks, Marine Corps Security Force Company, Bangor Naval Submarine Base, Bremerton, WA, where he served as a Marine Security Sentry and Corporal (Cpl) of the Guard.

In February 1990, Cpl Averhart was transferred to Camp Lejeune NC, where he was assigned duties with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Marines, 2nd Marine Division, Weapons Company. During this tour, he was also deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield as a Squad Leader.

In the summer of 1992, Cpl Averhart made a lateral move to the (5800) Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), Military Police and Corrections Specialist (5831) and was assigned to the Marine Corps Base Brig, Camp Lejeune, NC. The next summer, he was transferred to Marine Barracks, Naval Base Pearl Harbor, HI. He was assigned duties at the Naval Brig, Ford Island, where he performed duties as a Correctional Specialist. Cpl Averhart eventually received the Job Qualification Requirement (JQR) for Brig Duty Officer; the first Marine to be assigned to this billet in the history of the facility and was soon after meritoriously promoted to Sergeant (Sgt). In June 1995, Sgt Averhart returned to Marine Corps Base Brig, Camp Lejeune, NC, and held the billets of Watch Supervisor, Special Quarters Supervisor/Chief and Security Operations Supervisor.

In September 1997, Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Averhart completed Drill Instructor School at Parris Island, SC and was subsequently assigned to the Recruit Training Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Bravo Company, where he fulfilled the duties as a Drill Instructor and Senior Drill Instructor, directly training young civilian men to become United States Marines. . During this tour, he was also assigned as a Drill Instructor for the Recruit Separation Platoon, Senior Drill Instructor for 1<sup>st</sup> Recruit Administrative Discharge Platoon and the Assistant 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion S-3 Officer after being selected for Warrant Officer (WO).

In February 1999, SSgt Averhart was promoted to Warrant Officer (WO) and attended the Warrant Officer Basic Course (WOBC) in Quantico, VA. Upon completion of WOBC, WO Averhart was assigned to Marine Corps Base Brig, Camp Lejeune, NC, where he served as the Security Officer, Programs Officer, Prisoner Services Officer and Correctional Custody Unit Officer; during this timeframe he was promoted CWO2/CWO3, respectively.

In June 2004, CWO3 Averhart received orders to Headquarters, United States Marine Corps (HQMC), Plans, Policies and Operations, Physical Security, Law Enforcement and Corrections Branch, where he was assigned as the Officer-in-Charge of the Marine Absentee Collection Unit (MCACU). Additionally, he assumed the duties of the Occupational Field Sponsor and Manager, as well as the duties of the Action Officer for Security and Law Enforcement/Correction Branch in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On January 19, 2007, CWO3 Averhart assumed dual duties as the Commanding Officer of Marine Corps Base Brig Camp Lejeune, and Company Commander, Brig Company, Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC. He was promoted to CWO4 on 1 June 2007. During this period, he also assumed duties at the Camp Lejeune Business Office as an Assistant Program Analyst and Liaison.

CWO4 Averhart received orders on June 31, 2009 to Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA. He was assigned duties at the Security Battalion where he served as the Battalion Operations Officer (S-3) and would later assume the duties and

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responsibilities as the Commanding Officer of the Quantico Base Brig. During his tenure he facilitated the Brig transition from a Level One Confinement facility to a Pre-trial confinement facility in February 2011 in response to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decision.

On March 9, 2011, CWO4 Averhart executed Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders to Naval Station Norfolk and assumed duties as the Marine Detachment Commander and Brig Operations Officer. On August 10, 2011, he supervised the closing of the Naval Base Norfolk Brig and transitioned all designated staff and prisoners to the newly constructed Level Two Regional Confinement Facility, Northwest Annex, Chesapeake, VA. He orchestrated a mass prisoner transport convoy with the support of the Virginia State Police and Local Law Enforcement Officers. He held several collateral duties to include, Anti-Terrorism Force Protection Officer, Hostage Negotiation Commander and Diversity Officer.

CWO4 Averhart executed Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders on January 17, 2014 and assumed duties at Headquarters United States Marine Corps (HQMC), Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management Branch, (MPE) as the Marine Corps Diversity Management Liaison Officer, Action Officer and Marine Corps Leadership Seminar (MCLS) Operation Officer. While serving in this capacity, he was promoted to CWO5.

CWO5 Averhart final duty assignment was at Headquarters United States Marine Corps (HQMC), Plans, Policies and Operations (PPO), Physical Security, Law Enforcement and Corrections Branch, as the Head of Marine Corps Corrections/Occupational Field Sponsor and Manager with oversight of five Marine Corps Correctional facilities to include the Marine Corps Absentee Collection Center/Deserter Information Point (DIP), and Marine Corps Corrections Academy.

While on active duty, CWO5 Averhart volunteered as a public servant during his off-duty time. He served as the 17<sup>th</sup> National President of the National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc. (NMPMA) from July 25, 2009 to August 15, 2015; an active member of the Association for the past 24 years. In the 54 years of history of the Montford Point Marines Association, he is the first active duty Marine who was not, and Original Montford Point Marine, World War II Veteran, to be elected to serve as the National President of the 501(c) (3) non-profit veteran organization. In the performance of his duties, he was tasked with overseeing the operation and management of 42 active chapters nationwide, to include Okinawa, Japan and all Montford Point Marine Association assets ([www.montfordpointmarines.org](http://www.montfordpointmarines.org)). The major contributions and accomplishments under his leadership and guidance were the Congressional Gold Medal awarding to the Montford Point Marines, the naming of August 26, as Montford Point Marine Day, the naming of United States Naval Ship (USNS) MLP-1 Montford Point (now named USNS Montford Point (T-ESD-1); the lead ship of her class of Expeditionary Transfer Docks), and the ground breaking of a \$1.8 million-dollar National Monument (Montford Point Marine Memorial) located in Jacksonville, NC honoring the Montford Point Marines.

CWO5 Averhart is an active member in his church, community, and several National and Civic Organizations to include the American Corrections Association (ACA), National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc., National Naval Officers Association (NNOA), Blacks in Government (BIG), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Marine Corps Association (MCA), Marine Corps League (MCL), Veterans of Foreign War (VFW), and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc (OPPF).

CWO5 Averhart is a graduate of the U.S. Army Airborne School, Non-Lethal Weapons Instructor Course, Weapons of Mass Destruction Trainer Course and Hostage Negotiation School. He also pursued his educational goals while serving on active duty and attained a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, and a Master of Arts Degree in Security Management from the American Military University. He attained a Doctorate Degree in Theology and Biblical Studies from the North Carolina College of Theology and Seminary. He is currently working toward attaining a Doctorate Degree in Organizational Management and Leadership from the University of the Rockies, Denver, CO., which has now transitioned to Ashford University.

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CWO5 Averhart reached the highest rank in his Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) and held the senior billet in the MOS, by being hand-selected by the Deputy Commandant, HQMC, PPO as Head of Marine Corrections with a culmination of 30 plus years of active Military service.

CWO5 Averhart personal military decorations include the Legion of Merit; Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (w/Four Gold stars in lieu of fifth award); Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (w/gold star in lieu of third award); Combat Action Ribbon; Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (w/three bronze stars); and the Marine Corps Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (w/gold star in lieu of second award).

CWO5 Averhart has been the recipient of a myriad of civilian awards while on active duty to name a few: Governor of Maryland Citation; Governor of Alabama Certificate of Appreciation; Proclamation from the City of Mobile, AL proclaiming November 2, 2012 as “Dr. James T. Averhart, Day”; 2016 Jeffries Carey National Achievement Award; 2016 Inductee in the National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc., Hall of Fame; Two time recipient of the Colonel Charles D. Young, Military Leadership Award, Proclamation from the City of Mobile, AL and a Resolution from the Mobile County Commission both proclaiming October 20, 2017 as “James T. Averhart, Jr. Day”. He also received the Key to the City of Mobile, AL on 20 October 2017.

CWO5 James T. Averhart, Jr., served on active duty from 1987 to 2017 in the United States Marine Corps. He retired from active military duty on October 31, 2017 after 30 plus years of Honorable and Faithful Service in the United States Marine Corps. He is a combat tested veteran having served in direct combat action in Operations Desert Shield and the ground offensive in Desert Storm. CWO5 Averhart also served in support of the Global War on Terrorism, Operations Enduring Freedom (OEF) Afghanistan / and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) Iraq. Retiring from the Pentagon as the Head of Marine Corps Corrections Branch, he completed 30 years 2 months and 12 days of honorable and faithful service.

He is staunch advocate for Equal and Civil rights and looks forward to continuing to be a public servant to his Community, State, and Country.

**CWO5 James T. Averhart, Jr.  
Last Official Military Photo**

