

## **Lieutenant Colonel Thornton O'Duggan Commander, 3<sup>RD</sup> Brigade**

Lieutenant Colonel Thornton O'Duggan joined the United States Marine Corps straight out of high school as a Private. Following Basic Training, he went to Vietnam where he served as a combat engineer with an infantry unit. Colonel O'Duggan completed two combat tours and spent a total of seven years on active duty with the USMC.

Following his discharge from the United States Marine Corps in 1969 and using the GI Bill, Colonel O'Duggan obtained a BA in Business Law and then obtained a Masters in International Law. The Colonel returned to the USMC Reserve as an intelligence officer and remained in the USMC Reserves until retirement, culminating in 28 years of distinguished military service.

During his civilian service, Colonel O'Duggan served as a deputy sheriff in Florida where he rose up the ranks as a state fire marshal investigator. He finished his Intel career serving the Federal Government up until his retirement.

In 1978, Colonel O'Duggan was commissioned as a 2LT Reserve Officer with an MOS in military intelligence. In 1989, he left the Ready Reserves to join Individual Ready Reserves. During Desert Shield/Desert Storm, he was called back to the Ready Reserves to serve with Central Command. It was during this period that he gathered intelligence while overseas and served as adviser to General Schwarzkopf on intelligence matters. Following his retirement as Staff Sergeant (E-6) in 1991, he served in the LDO (Limited Duty Officers) program, obtaining the rank of Major (O-4).

In 1996, Colonel O'Duggan joined the North Carolina State Guard as a Major and held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel until the governor ordered the Guard to stand down in 1998. His unit remained active until he was unofficially promoted to Colonel in 2004, serving as chief of staff for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade.

Colonel O'Duggan joined the South Carolina State Guard in April 2012, commissioned as a Major. He started as a battalion commander with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade and was promoted to Provost Marshal as a security specialist. He obtained his CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) instructor credentials, and served as intelligence officer.

Colonel O'Duggan's awards include a Silver Star medal and two purple hearts. His SC SG awards include a Service Ribbon and a Military Proficiency Ribbon with gold torch device.

Colonel O'Duggan and his wife, Melinda, live on a farm near Asheville, North Carolina. Together, they have two girls and three boys, five horses, four dogs, and two cats.