



**Major General Vaughn A. Ary,
United States Marine Corps (Ret.)**

Major General Ary was nominated by the President on December 18, 2009, to serve as the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps and Director, Judge Advocate Division, a position he held until his retirement on July 1, 2014.

As the top military attorney in the Marine Corps, Major General Ary served as a counsel and an advisor to senior leadership on criminal law, international law, ethics, personnel law, family law, administrative law, and legislative issues. The leader of a global law practice, he managed over 1450 attorneys and support staff.

Major General Ary received his law degree from the University of Oklahoma, a Master of Laws Degree (International Law) from George Washington University, and a Masters of Military Studies from Marine Corps Command and Staff College.

Major General Ary began his career in Okinawa, Japan where he served in prosecution, defense, and legal assistance billets. This tour included deployments to Korea, the Philippines, and Southwest Asia in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In the Philippines, he served as the Operations Officer, Combat Service Support Detachment 35, and during Desert Storm, he worked primarily on logistical support for enemy prisoner of war operations.

Subsequent tours of duty included service as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, U.S. Marine Forces, Atlantic; the Head of the Law of Armed Conflict Branch in the Office of the Judge Advocate General of the Navy; and service as a Deputy Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In this assignment, he was responsible for providing legal advice to the Chairman and the Joint Staff on the law of war, arms control, counter-drug operations, and counter-terrorism. He later served as the Officer in Charge of the two trial teams responsible for prosecuting courts-martial for commands at Camp Pendleton, CA. From August 2001 until May 2004, he served as the Staff Judge Advocate for 1st Force Service Support Group and deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom I and II.

Major General Ary served as the Commanding Officer, 2d Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA from June 2004 until June 2006. Following command, he served as the Staff Judge Advocate for the Third Marine Aircraft Wing in Miramar, CA until June 2008 when he was assigned as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant and Deputy Director of the Judge Advocate Division.

His personal decorations include the Defense Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (5 Awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.