

## MAJOR GENERAL DOUG O'DELL (RET.)

When Katrina made landfall in 2005, Major General Doug O'Dell was the Commanding General of the 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division, headquartered in New Orleans, Louisiana. O'Dell deployed 2700 Marines and Sailors and assisted in rescuing and evacuating more than 2000 civilians, providing more than 1 million pounds of cargo, and restoring more than 30 buildings to basic functions.<sup>1</sup> In 2007, General Doug O'Dell retired from the United States Marine Corps after a distinguished 39 year career.<sup>2</sup> In 2001, O'Dell retired from the private sector after a successful 28 year business career in investment management. O'Dell has a passion for seeing to the revitalization of the Gulf Coast region. His established credibility and proven leadership, communications, and business acumen make him an ideal selection to be the next Federal Coordinator for the Office of Gulf Coast Rebuilding.

The son of an Army officer and a Navy nurse, he entered the Marine Corps through the Platoon Leaders Class in March 1968. Upon graduation from Rutgers University with a degree in history he was commissioned a second lieutenant. After completing The Basic School at Quantico, he reported to 1st Battalion, 7th Marines as a rifle platoon commander. Thereafter, following a brief assignment with Sub-Unit 1, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, he was transferred to 3d Battalion, 5th Marines wherein he served again as a platoon commander, company executive officer, and Headquarters Commandant. He left active duty in July 1974. He would be activated several times over the course of his military career from which he retired as a Major General in May 2007.

From 1974 to 2001, O'Dell led a very successful business career as an investment manager. From 1988 to 2001, O'Dell served as a partner and Regional Senior Vice President for AIM Investments. He retired from AIM on September 10, 2001.

After the events of September 11, 2001, O'Dell was assigned the role of Commanding General of the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism) headquartered at Camp Lejeune, NC. In 2004, O'Dell was promoted to Commanding General of the entire 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division and moved to headquarters in New Orleans, Louisiana. He had previously lived in New Orleans from 1998 to 2001 when he Vice Chief of Staff for Marine Forces Reserve and Assistant Division Commander of the 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division. During his tenure as Commanding General of the 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division, among other things, O'Dell organized, trained, equipped, and deployed 9 battalions, a division advisory group, and numerous supporting elements to combat operations in Iraq.

In 2005, O'Dell deployed 2700 Marines and Sailors to the US Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. He and his men were responsible for rescuing and evacuating more than 2000 civilians, providing more than 1 million pounds of cargo, and restoring more than 30 buildings to basic functions.<sup>3</sup> In anticipation of Hurricane Rita, O'Dell embarked 1000 Marines to the Gulf Coast and followed the storm's path, thereby allowing the troops to commence relief operations within hours of the storms passage.

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<sup>1</sup> Confirmed by candidate and *Marine Corps After Action Report for Marine Forces Katrina/Rita*

<sup>2</sup> O'Dell's career was in the US Marine Corps Reserves, with various stints of Active Duty assignments.

<sup>3</sup> See Footnote 1.