



MISSION: READINESS
MILITARY LEADERS FOR KIDS



General Walter E. Boomer

United States Marine Corps (Ret.)

Walter E. Boomer, General, US Marine Corps (Ret.) serves on the Executive Advisory Council of Mission Readiness: Military Leaders for Kids, a nonprofit organization of retired generals, admirals, and other senior military leaders founded in 2008 to ensure continued American security and prosperity into the 21st century by calling for smart investments in the upcoming generation of American children.

General Walter E. Boomer's last billet was as the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, DC.

General Boomer was born in Rich Square, North Carolina, and graduated from Randolph Macon Academy, Front Royal, VA, in 1956. He earned a B.A. degree from Duke University, Durham, NC, in 1960, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He also holds a M.S. degree in Technology of Management from American University, Washington, DC (1973).

After completing The Basic School, Quantico, VA, in January 1961, his first assignments were with the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines and the 2d Battalion, 2d Marines, 2d Marines Division, Camp Lejeune, NC, where he was platoon commander, weapons platoon commander and battalion training officer, respectively, from 1961-1964. He was promoted to first lieutenant in December 1961, and to captain in April 1965.

General Boomer saw combat action from 1966-1967 in the Republic of Vietnam as the Commanding Officer, Company H, 2d Battalion, 4th Marines. Returning from overseas, he attended the Amphibious Warfare School at Quantico. Upon completion of school, he was promoted to major in May 1968, and was transferred to Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, DC, for duty as the Administrative Assistant and Aide-de-Camp to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs. Following this assignment, he attended the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA.

In 1974, he began a three-year tour as a management instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD. During the last year of his tour, he was the Chairman of the Department of Management. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in September 1976.

From July 1977 to June 1980, General Boomer was stationed in Hawaii, where he served as Executive Officer, 3d Marines, 1st Marine Brigade, then as Commanding Officer, 2d Battalion, 3d Marines. Returning to the mainland in July 1980, he attended the Naval War College, Newport, RI, graduating with distinction in June 1981.

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202.464.5224

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He then assumed the duties as the Deputy director of the Fourth Marine Corps District, Philadelphia, PA. He was promoted to colonel on November 1, 1981, and became the Director of the Fourth Marine Corps District on June 17, 1983.

During February 1985, General Boomer returned to Quantico to assume command of the Marine Security Guard Battalion. While serving in this capacity, he was selected in April 1986 for promotion to brigadier general.

He was advanced to that grade on June 2, 1986, and assigned duty as the Director of Public Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps on June 7, 1986. He served in this capacity until May 27, 1988, when he was assigned duty as the Commanding General, 4th Marine Division (Rein), FMF, New Orleans, LA. On March 14, 1989, he was advanced to major general. General Boomer was promoted to lieutenant general on August 8, 1990. On August 15, 1990, General Boomer deployed to Saudi Arabia, where he served as the Commanding General, U.S. Marines Central Command and I Marine Expeditionary Force during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. On April 22, 1991, he returned to Camp Pendleton and assumed duties of Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force/Commanding General, Marine Corps Base. He served in this capacity until September 6, 1991. General Boomer reported to Quantico, VA, on September 27, 1991, where he assumed duty as the Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command. He was promoted to general on September 1, 1992.

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