

Chief Warrant Officer – 3 Carmen E. Cole USMC Ret.

CWO-3 Carmen Cole a native of Milwaukee Wisconsin began her military career enlisting in the Marine Corps in November 1980. She completed recruit training at Parris Island S.C., in June 1981 and was trained as a motor transport maintenance mechanic at Camp Johnson formally known as Montford Point. She reported to 2d Maintenance Battalion, Camp Lejeune in November of 1981. While there she was meritoriously promoted to Lance Corporal, Corporal and Sergeant. In 1984 she returned to the Parris Island S.C. as a Drill Instructor and Senior Drill Instructor.



In 1986 she reported to 3rd Maintenance Battalion Okinawa Japan where she served as the battalion administrative chief and as a mechanic. In 1988 she transferred to 7th Motor Transport Maintenance Battalion, Camp Pendleton California serving as a Platoon Sergeant and MIMMS clerk. In 1990 she was promoted to Staff Sergeant and became the first female Motor Transport Maintenance Shop Chief in the command.

In 1993 she was selected as a Warrant Officer becoming the first female in the Marine Corps to be a Motor Transport Maintenance Officer. After completing The Basic School for Warrant Officers and the Motor Transport Maintenance Officers course she was assigned to Marine Air Control Squadron-2, Marine Air Group-31, Beaufort, South Carolina serving as the Maintenance Management Officer. She was promoted to CWO-2 during this tour.

In 1996 CWO-2 Cole returned to 3d Maintenance Battalion, Motor Transport Maintenance Company, Okinawa Japan as the Maintenance Officer. During this tour she assisted with the initial restructuring and merger of the command with 3d Supply Battalion to form 3d Material Readiness Battalion.

In 1998 she was assigned as the Inspector-Instructor Detachment-2, Augusta Ga., 4th Maintenance Battalion becoming the first female I&I to command the active duty staff in support of the Marine Reserve unit at Augusta Ga. During this tour she was promoted to CWO-3.

In 2001 CWO-3 Cole retired from the Marine Corps to accept a position as the Senior Marine Instructor of Marine Corps Junior ROTC, Butler High School becoming the first female instructor at Butler High School in their 30 years of having a MCJROTC program. While at Butler High School she was also the softball and soccer coach, PTA treasurer and Teacher of the Year in 2007.

In 2010 she resigned her position at Butler High and relocated to Marine Corps Junior ROTC headquarters Marine Corps Base, Quantico Virginia to become the Marine Corps Junior ROTC Instructional Systems Specialist (ISS). In 2011 she was reassigned and became the first female to be the Operations Manager for Marine Corps Junior ROTC programs with ISS as an additional responsibility.

As the Operations Manager she is responsible for the daily coordination and operations of 6 Regions with 235 MCJROTC programs. She travels throughout the country to promote the MCJROTC program, looking for new locations and potential instructors, she trains new instructors, and ensures all MCJROTC instructors have the tools they need to lead and mentor their cadets.

Carmen Cole is a 1998 graduate of Park University where she received her Bachelors Degree in Management. She received her Master's Degree in Leadership Education from Augusta State University in 2007. She is married to Angelo Crawford USMC retired, they have 3 daughters; Claudia, Valdosta State University graduate, Taylor, Old Dominion University freshman and Micaela, Colonial Forge High School Sophomore Stafford Va.

Carmen is currently the Montford Point Marine Association Inc., Quantico Chapter 32 Secretary. She is also a member of several veteran and educational organizations.