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Title: Region Director of Operations - Central  
Location: Texas  
Military Branch: U.S. Marine Corps  
Military Rank: Captain  
Service Dates: 1982 -1989



I was attached to the 32nd MAU, Beirut, Lebanon in 1983. During this deployment, I supported the Multinational Peace Keeping Forces, comprised of American, French, Italian and Lebanese forces. This was a major effort by the U.S. to get the Israeli army out of Lebanon, help stabilize the region and secure a peaceful existence for the Lebanese people, a mission I was proud to be part of and left a lasting impression on my life.



At the time the Marine Corps had never trained to just be a "presence". In Lebanon, we were faced with Druze and Shia Muslims backed by the Syrians against the Christians. We were helping the Lebanese Army fill the gap as the Israeli were pulling out, while the PLO was creeping back in. Only a few of these groups liked the U.S., and there were 2,000 years of ancestral hatred between them. We were in the middle as they

fought each other, firing over and through our positions at times. I can't imagine a more difficult situation to be in. We held our ground and deescalated the fighting around us.



One of the most challenging events that I experienced during my time in the military was the suicide terrorist attack of the Marine BLT Headquarters building. For the Marines, this was the highest loss of life in a single day since D-Day on Iwo Jima in 1945. It was a

harbinger of future terrorist attacks against the U.S. leading up to 9/11. My views of the Middle East and the dangers for the U.S. were changed forever.

"I'm proud I was able to serve our country during this difficult period. It changed my life."