

Colonel William H. Parrish USMC (ret)

During his Marine Corps career, Parrish served as an Infantry Officer in a variety of commands. He served as the commanding officer of U.S. Marine Corps Security Forces, a unit comprised of nearly 4,000 Marines charged with providing anti-terrorism security to U.S. government installations around the world and U.S. Navy ships in port and at sea. In this assignment he was responsible for expanding the capabilities of Fleet Antiterrorism Security Teams (FAST) in support of anti-terrorism operations worldwide. As commander of FAST, Colonel Parrish led a specialized anti-terrorism unit in response to the Khobar Towers bombing, and developed an extensive force protection and anti-terrorism security plan for U.S. installations in Bahrain. Colonel Parrish also served as Director of Operations and Plans, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic and U.S. Marine Corps Forces South.

Parrish reentered government service following 9-11 where he established the first Office of Anti-Terrorism in U.S. Customs Service on October 23, 2001. There he served as the Commissioner of Customs' senior advisor for anti-terrorism programs within Customs. He directed and managed the Office of Anti-Terrorism's efforts to coordinate all policy, programs, training, and matters relating to combating terrorism in order to ensure that the Customs Service maximized its anti-terrorism efforts. This included anti-terrorism security programs at ports of entry (air, land and maritime), supply chain security, and support to the intelligence community and federal law enforcement agencies. The primary focus of these efforts was to protect the American public from the entry of terrorists and the instruments of terrorism to include weapons of mass destruction (WMD) from entering into the U.S. In November of 2001 he was appointed to the National Security Council's Counterterrorism Security Group where he served until 2004. The Secretary of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge requested Parrish join his leadership team in February 2003.

During his tenure in the newly established Department, Parrish served as a special assistant to Secretary Ridge. In March of 2003, Parrish was tasked by the White House to develop a security plan to protect the US from internal terrorist attacks. He was the lead planner and coordinated the implementation of Operation Liberty Shield, a comprehensive national security operation that was executed within the fifty states and six U.S. Territories during the U.S. Military's Operation Iraqi Freedom. Operation Liberty Shield provided a comprehensive security plan that implemented a variety of protective measures across state and local governments along with critical infrastructure areas within the private sector. He served as the first Associate Director for Homeland Security at the Presidential directed Terrorist Threat Integration Center (National Counterterrorism Center, NCCT). In June 2003 he was appointed as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Information and Analysis (Intelligence). His last assignment was the first Department of Homeland Security Senior Representative to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

After leaving Government he served as an Associate Professor in the School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia from October 2004 until May 2012 where he was instrumental in the development and establishment of the Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Undergraduate and Graduate programs. In June of 2006 he was appointed by the Secretary of Homeland Security to the Homeland Security Advisory Council's Academe, Policy and Research Senior Advisory Committee for a three year term. Parrish was awarded the Medal for Outstanding Public Service in March 2009 for his service with the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Parrish received his undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Missouri. He attended the Naval War College, earning a Master's Degree in International Strategic Studies as well as a Masters in Management from Salve Regina University. He is also a graduate of the John F. Kennedy School of Government's Senior Executive program for International and National Security.