ALLEN



General John Allen '76, USMC (Ret.), was the first Marine to serve as Commandant of Midshipmen (2001-03) and was on the Yard during 9/11. He was the first Marine general officer to command a theater of war (2011-13) when he was Commander of NATO International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces Afghanistan.

Allen's career includes serving as commanding officer at The Basic School (2000-01), commanding General 2d MEB and Deputy Commander Multinational Force-West in Al Anbar Province, Iraq (2006-08). Working with Anbari tribes, he engineered the counterassault in late spring 2007, helping clear Al Qaeda from the province and setting it on course for reunification with Baghdad.

Allen was senior advisor to the Secretary of Defense for Middle East Security and working with John Kerry, he led the Israeli/Palestinian Security Dialogue for Middle East Peace Process (2013-14) and was Special Presidential Envoy to the Global Coalition to Counter the Islamic State (2014-15).

He is the co-inventor and recipient of five patents for artificial intelligence enabled marine surface and subsurface weapons systems. Allen now serves as CEO of the Brookings Institute.