

PROJECT/OPERATIONS MANAGER

Demonstrated ability to optimize an organization through innovative problem solving, process improvement, and inspirational leadership

ROCK STONE

1 Blair Stone Road, #1
Tallahassee, FL 32301 | 850.591.9995
rockstone@gmail.com
linkedin.com/in/rockstone

Highly capable and charismatic leader with a reputation for responsiveness, reliability, and goal achievement. Known for exceptional tenacity in solving organizational challenges under the most stressful circumstances. Extremely effective in contingency planning and crisis management.

Areas of Expertise:

Strategic planning | Project management | Budgeting | Logistics | Forecasting | Operations management
Training, mentoring, and coaching | Employee performance evaluation and improvement | Cross-functional support

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

United States Marine Corps

2001-2016

ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT HEAD, Oceanside, CA (2014-2016)

Managed multiple mission-critical roles in a department undergoing a transformation and facing a shortfall of pilots and flight leaders. Held three distinct roles simultaneously: weapons and tactics instructor, assistant aircraft maintenance officer, and maintenance department training scheduler. Directly supervises 123 employees, with budgetary responsibility equal to \$3M in flight-related expenses.

- Restored department's ability to utilize secure and anti-jam communications by conducting extensive pilot training, which increased information security and pilot safety.
- Reinstated aircraft survivability equipment program and delivered pilot training on equipment, which provided pilots with protection from missiles.
- Assessed multiple candidates' flight skills for the position of flight leader to address departmental shortfall, involving a considerable amount of planning and coordination.
- Maintained seven helicopters during a five-week training program at Marines' premier flight training academy.
- Led multiple flights less than one month after a 15-month hiatus.

CONSULTANT/EXECUTIVE OFFICER, Afghanistan (2013-2014)

Played a key role in advising an organization of 4,500+ Afghan National Army soldiers with \$500M in assets, facing challenges in supply, maintenance, transportation, and facilities that were impacting their war-fighting effectiveness.

- Addressed challenges in evacuating wounded Afghan soldiers by changing communication procedures, providing pilot and aircrew training, and streamlining request process—all of which furthered the transfer of security responsibilities from U.S. forces to Afghan forces. **Received a Bronze Star** for efforts.
- Implemented first-ever budget for Afghan National Army. Mentored Afghans to build a budget from the ground up by sending representatives to each unit to determine requirements and priorities for the \$28M annual financial plan.
- Planned and executed a personal property transfer of \$30M+ from U.S. Forces to the Afghan Brigade.
- Streamlined leave request process for the Afghan National Army and trained Afghans to take complete ownership for requesting flights, conducting personnel screenings, and manifesting passengers.
- Completed Tactical Air Control Course in Coronado, CA and earned a secondary Military Occupational Specialty as a Forward Air Controller.

United States Marine Corps, *continued***DEPARTMENT HEAD, Camp Pendleton, CA (2012-2013)**

Directed transformation of a production facility to an operational unit that could support assault missions at great distances on short notice. Directly supervised 27 employees; managed scheduling and training of 44 pilots and 67 aircrew members. Managed \$25M+ in flight-related expenses and travel for temporary assignments.

- Conducted detailed planning to execute four major, high-visibility events simultaneously—one of which was support for President Obama in Los Angeles.
- Created a comprehensive flying training syllabus—consisting of coursework, simulators, and flights—to provide pilots with experience flying 6,500 feet above sea level and landing 11,500 feet above sea level.

ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT HEAD, Camp Pendleton, CA (2011-2012)

Laid groundwork for a mission change that was facing strong resistance. Directly supervised 15 employees; managed a \$200k flight simulator contract.

- Planned and executed pilot training at three Air Force bases to give pilots exposure to unfamiliar locations.
- Conducted all training to certify two additional Night Systems instructors to address an impending shortfall.

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER/DIVISION HEAD, Okinawa, Japan (2009-2010)

Assumed responsibility for a department that was vital to the division's mission and faced with challenges in travel reimbursement and compliance with rules and regulations.

- Supported division head by training all employees on policies, which helped organization pass its bi-annual inspection and gave division head the confidence to inspire his employees to excel.

CURRENT OPERATIONS OFFICER, Okinawa, Japan (2009)

Served as liaison between organizations within Marine Aircraft Group.

- Served as an evaluator for Special Operations Training Group, assessing effectiveness of combat pilots prior to deployment.

EXERCISE PLANNER/FUTURE OPERATIONS PLANNER, Okinawa, Japan (2009)

Balanced pilot training with Marines' mission to provide security, emergency response, and deterrence in Asia-Pacific. Planned operationally and logistically complex missions involving other branches of the military and other nations.

- Developed a long-range plan for training focused on enhancing partner nations' strengths and building up capabilities including detailed tracking, planning, and execution. Provided Marines with valuable experience while reinforcing perception of the Marines as flexible, competent, cooperative, and lethal.

DIVISION HEAD, Okinawa, Japan (2008-2009)

Ensured effectiveness and safety of 13 helicopters and served as lead pilot for post-maintenance check flights.

- Completed Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course and earned a secondary Military Occupational Specialty as a Weapons and Tactics Instructor.

LOGISTICS OFFICER, Okinawa, Japan (2007-2008)

Supported department logistics and coordinated deployments via land, sea, and air. Supervised all facilities.

- Earned four Air Medals while flying 235 direct combat support missions and flying in support of two named operations in Iraq.

EDUCATION

Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK — MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (M.B.A.)

Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI — BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.), International Affairs