

NAVAL ROTC UNIT

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

GySgt Henderson, Claude A

Assistant Marine Officer Instructor

Gunnery Sergeant Claude A. Henderson, USMC, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 2009 from Bluefield, WV. He began his career serving as an Infantry Rifleman in 2nd Battalion 9th Marines. In 2015 he transitioned to Training SNCO at 1st Marine Raider Battalion. In 2017 he transitioned to Drill Instructor Duty at Parris Island, SC. After a successful tour as a Drill Instructor, he reported to 1st Battalion 2nd Marines in Camp Lejeune, NC. In 2022 GySgt Henderson took part in the commandant's 2030 initiative with the reforming of the infantry battalion.



GySgt Henderson's billet assignments during his career include. Rifleman, Team Leader, Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, Platoon Commander, Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor, Testing SNCOIC Recruit Depot Parris Island, SC. Throughout his Career GySgt Henderson has been recognized as a Honor Graduate for Corporals Course 2-14, Distinguished graduate of Advanced School Okinawa, Japan.

GySgt Henderson's operational experience includes 2 Deployments to Marjah Afghanistan, PB Beatley and Dakota. One as a rifleman and 1 as a Team/Squad Leader in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He also has 3 deployments to Okinawa, Japan which include operations in the Philippines, Mt. Fuji, South Korea training alongside host nations military. Most current was Okinawa, Japan where GySgt Henderson was a platoon sergeant in support of the CMC 2030 guidance of the reorganization of an Infantry Battalion

GySgt Henderson was selected in 2022 for Marine Officer Instructor duty at the Virginia Military Institute.

GySgt Henderson's personal awards include the National Defense Medal, Afghanistan Campaign medal in lieu of 1 bronze star, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal in lieu of 2 gold stars, the Good Conduct Medal in lieu of 3 bronze stars, Combat Action Ribbon, 7th Award Expert Rifle Badge, and 5th Award Expert Pistol Badge.