Reserve Forces Policy Board

Colonel Shane A. Donahue
Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve

Colonel Donahue is the Senior Policy Advisor for the Marine Corps Reserve to the Chairman of the Reserve Forces Policy Board in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Washington, D. C. The Reserve Forces Policy Board serves as an independent adviser to the Secretary of Defense, providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary on strategies, policies, and practices designed to improve and enhance the capabilities, efficiency, and effectiveness of the seven Reserve components.

Born and raised in central Florida, Colonel Donahue graduated from The Citadel with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and was commissioned a second lieutenant in May 1999. Upon graduating The Basic School and Logistics Officers Course with honors, Colonel Donahue served as a logistics officer with an infantry battalion in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, deploying twice to Okinawa, Japan. In 2003, Colonel Donahue reported to Marine Barracks 8th and I, Washington, DC where he marched as Parade Adjutant and served at the White House as a Military Social Aide.

In 2006, Colonel Donahue transferred to the Reserve Component and conducted a lateral move to the intelligence field. After graduating first in his class at the Marine Air Ground Task Force Intelligence Officer Course, he remained on active duty for operational support orders serving in staff assignments at Intelligence Department, Headquarters Marine Corps and the I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters, and in operational assignments as a Detachment Commander for the Inaugural Africa Partnership Station and as the Marine and Defense Attaché to Liberia.

In 2011, Colonel Donahue joined the Active Reserve Program and began his first assignment at the I Marine Expeditionary Force as the G-2 Current Operations Officer and also deployed to Afghanistan as Regional Command Southwest's Intelligence Liaison Officer to the ISAF Joint Command and to Iraq as the Senior Intelligence Advisor to the 7th Iraqi Army Division and the Intelligence Officer of Task Force Al Asad.

In 2015 Colonel Donahue attended the U. S. Naval War College where he was selected to serve as an Admiral Arleigh Burke Fellow with the International Officers of the Naval Command College. Upon graduation, he assumed command as the Inspector-Instructor for the 2d Civil Affairs Group and Site Commander for Marine Corps Reserve Training Center, Anacostia in July 2016. In July, 2018, Colonel Donahue was assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense where he served as the Chief of Staff for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Education and Training. Following this assignment Colonel Donahue served in consecutive Service Headquarters assignments as the Director of the Office of Marine Corps Reserve and the Branch Head, Reserve Affairs Personnel Management until assuming his current position in August 2026.

Colonel Donahue's personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, a Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars in lieu of Third Award, a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star in lieu of

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Second Award, and a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star in lieu of second award.

Colonel Donahue is married to Mrs. Gulnaz Tursunbek Donahue an intellectual property attorney and native of Kyrgyzstan, and they have four children: Samara; Mehreem; Aysana; and Arstahn.

(Current as of August 2026)

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