



Colonel Aixa R. Dones enlisted in the Marine Corps in May 1994, and attended recruit training at MCRD Parris Island, South Carolina. After graduation in August of 1994, Private First Class Dones attended Cryptologic Technician Operator Course, Corey Station, Pensacola, Florida and was meritoriously promoted. Lance Corporal Dones then reported to Company L, Marine Support Battalion, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba where she served as a Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) Operator. She also participated in Operations ABLE MANOR, SEA SIGNAL UPHOLD DEMOCRACY, and SAFE PASSAGE. She was then transferred to Marine Corps Intelligence Activity, Quantico, Virginia where she served as a SIGINT Operator and Special Security Officer. During this tour, Corporal Dones was selected as the Marine Corps Combat Development Command Noncommissioned Officer of the Year 1996, awarded the USO's Outstanding Volunteer Award, and meritoriously promoted to Sergeant.

In December 1997, Sergeant Dones was ordered to the Office of the Secretary of the Navy where she served as a receptionist until April 1999. Sergeant Dones was selected for the Marine Enlisted Commissioning and Education Program and attended the University of Illinois at Chicago from May 1999 to May 2000 where she was promoted to Staff Sergeant and earned a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice. In March 2002, she was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant.

Second Lieutenant Dones graduated The Basic School in December 2002 with follow on orders to the Adjutant's Course, Camp Johnson, North Carolina. She then received orders to Marine Wing Support Squadron 371, Yuma, Arizona in March 2003. During this tour, she served as the Officer in Charge, Remain Behind Element during the unit's deployment to Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. She received orders to 3D Marine Aircraft Wing, Miramar, California in March 2004 where she served as the Human Affairs and Family Readiness Officer. First Lieutenant Dones was then assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 16 where she served as the Adjutant and deployed to Operation IRAQI FREEDOM 05-07 from January 2006 to February 2007. Captain Dones was then selected for and attended Expeditionary Warfare School, Quantico, Virginia (2007-2008). Captain Dones then augmented a summer cycle at Officer Candidate School as a Platoon Commander with follow on orders to Enlisted Retention (MMEA-6), HQMC. Captain Dones served as the Subsequent and First Term Alignment Plans Officer until she received orders to Fourth Recruit Training Battalion, Parris Island, South Carolina in June 2010. At Fourth Recruit Training Battalion she served as a Series Commander, Company Executive Officer, and Company Commander. Then, Major Dones was assigned to Support Battalion where she served as the Battalion Executive Officer. Major Dones was also selected as the Marine Corps recipient of the 2013 Latina Style Distinguished Military Service Award during this tour.

Major Dones was then ordered to be the Deputy Director, Commandant of the Marine Corps Protocol Directorate, Washington D.C. in June 2013. From November 2014 to May 2015, she attended Naval Command and Staff College at the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island where she received a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies. Major Dones was then selected for command as the Commanding Officer, Recruiting Station Los Angeles from July 2015 to July 2018. Lieutenant Colonel Dones received orders to 1st Marine Division in July 2018 where she initially served as the Command Inspector General and the Assistant Chief of Staff G-7 and then as the Deputy, Assistant Chief of Staff G-1, also earning a Master of Science in International Relations from Troy University. In July 2020, she was selected to attend the United States Army War College for resident Top Level School. Lieutenant Colonel Dones graduated with a Masters National Security Studies in June 2021. Lieutenant Colonel Dones then served as the last Commanding Officer, Fourth Recruit Training Battalion, Parris Island, South Carolina from 2021-2023.

Colonel Dones will assume her duties as the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, Training and Education Command on 1 April 2024

Colonel Dones' personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (Four Gold Stars), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (Three Gold Stars), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (Two Gold Stars), and the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (One Bronze Star).