

Master Gunnery Sergeant Kenneth W Merrell was born in Huntsville, Alabama 17 November 1950. After two years at Alabama A&M University he joined the U. S. Marine Corps in June 1971. Upon graduating recruit training at Parris Island South Carolina he attended Infantry Training School at Camp Gieger, Camp LeJeune, North Carolina. Attended the Military Police School at Fort Gordon, Georgia and was assigned as a Military Policeman with the 1st Marine Air Wing, Iwakuni, Japan.

Upon returning stateside he was assigned to Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, California as a Military Policeman where he served as a Patrolman, Patrol Supervisor and on the Deserter Apprehension Team with the Orange County Military Police. In 1974 Sergeant Merrell attended the Army's Military Police Investigators School and was assigned as a Military Police Investigator with the Orange County Military Police.

April 1977 he attended Drill Instructor School and was assigned to 1st Recruit Training Battalion for Drill Instructor Duty. Upon leaving the Drill Field in 1981 Gunnery Sergeant Merrell attended San Diego State University on the Degree Completion Program graduating with a Bachelor's Degree of Science in Criminal Justice.

July 1981 he was assigned to the Military Police at Camp Pendleton, California as a Watch Commander and attended the Army's Criminal Investigators School at Fort McClellan, Alabama. Upon returning he was assigned duty with the Criminal Investigation Division as an Investigator.

Transferred to Okinawa, Japan in July 1984 for duty with the Criminal Investigation Division where he served in various capacities including Operation Chief and Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the CID offices at Camp Kinser, MCAS Futenma, Camp Foster and the Black Market Team.

September 1987 returned stateside, MCAS El Toro California where he was promoted to Master Sergeant and was assigned dual duties as the Provost Sergeant and Chief Criminal Investigator. In August 1990, then Master Gunnery Sergeant Merrell deployed with MAG-70, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing to the Persian Gulf for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm assigned duties as 3rdMAW Provost Sergeant and Chief Criminal Investigator. In January 1992 he was assigned to Security Battalion, MCB Camp Pendleton as the Chief Investigator. Obtained his Masters Degree in Forensic Science from National University in April 1993.

August 1994 MGySgt Merrell was assigned as the Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the Advanced Course at the Staff Noncommissioned Officers Academy at El Toro, California until his retirement in June 1999.

His personal awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal with one gold star, the Navy Unit Commendation, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three stars, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), the Good conduct Medal 6th award, National Defense medal with one star, the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

