



The Vice President of the First Florida Chapter earned his FFC MVPA call sign (“**MAJORGUNNY**”) from a military career that spanned over three decades within two branches of the United States military.



Mr. Leirvik’s first military career began in 1983 as a USMC recruit on the training fields and parade grounds of the “Island.” His advanced training prepared him to serve as a mechanic with both diesel and aviation specialties. Rising through the Marine Corps enlisted ranks, Gunnery Sergeant Leirvik procured a highly sought after slot to the Marine Corps Embassy Security Group (MCESG), located at Marine Corps Base Quantico for training as a Marine Security Guard (MSG), also known as a Marine Embassy Guard. The Marine Security Guards number approximately a thousand Marines at 174 posts (also known as "detachments"), organized into nine regional MSG commands and located in over 135 countries in 18 time zones, as well as its headquarters at Marine Corps Base Quantico. His service as a Marine Security Guard included deployments to the US Embassy Nicaragua and the US Embassy Australia with the primary mission of providing Embassy security, particularly the protection of classified information and equipment, as well as providing protection for U.S. citizens and U.S. Government property located within designated U.S. Diplomatic and Consular premises during exigent circumstances, which may require immediate aid or action.

**That’s where the “GUNNY” in “MAJORGUNNY” originates.**

The 1990’s were a busy decade that included a degree from University of North Florida, a wedding to Bridget, and following his discharge from USMC Reserve service, a period of service as a Police Officer with the Saint Augustine City Police Department from 1995 – 2008. Also, there was the arrival two sons to the family.

In 2001, GUNNY Leirvik enlisted in the Florida National Guard to begin his second military career. He received a slot to the Officer Candidate School, receiving his commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in 2004. Assigned to the Florida National Guard’s Camp Blanding Joint Training Center (CBJTC) initially as an Engineering Officer, Eric became the Officer in Charge for Range Control, responsible for the overall operation of all of the live fire ranges on the reservation used primarily by Florida’s National Guard, but also by numerous federal, state and local customers spanning the Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental and Multinational (JIIM) spectrum. With promotions to the rank of Major came leadership opportunities as the Commander of the Camp Blanding Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), and later as the overall Education and Training Officer for the Florida Army National Guard. During his time in various command positions, he oversaw multi-million dollar budgets and command of 300(+) Soldiers. He retired as Major Eric L. Leirvik in 2019 with awards and commendations from both services that include overseas deployment, national defense, assorted service ribbons, achievement medals, commendation medals, meritorious service medals and the Florida Distinguished Service Medal.

**And that’s where the “MAJOR” in “MAJORGUNNY” comes from.**

Eric “MAJORGUNNY” Leirvik has been married for nearly thirty years to Bridget Saffold Leirvik. They have two adult sons and reside in Little Switzerland where Eric has a full schedule restoring military vehicles, maintaining many FFC member vehicles, as well as woodworking and welding activities. He volunteers to manage rifle matches at Camp Blanding and works Security at Fruit Cove Baptist Church on Sunday mornings, as well as a full schedule of activities as our First Florida Chapter Vice President.



Military vehicles restored and owned by MG Leirvik include a 1941 Indian Scout motorcycle, a 1941 Willys MB Slat Grill, and a 1952 Dodge M37 with USMC markings. Restorations in progress include a 1943 Ford matching number GPW with MBT Trailer, a 1952 Willys M38, a 1952 Willys M38A1, and a 1976 Triumph TR-6 which is a present for his bride.

