

**MajGen David R. Heinz,  
United States Marine Corps**

**MajGen Heinz is the Program Executive Officer for the F-35 Lightning II Program in  
Arlington, VA.**

MajGen Heinz was born and spent his formative years in Salt Lake City, Utah and his high school years in the small mining community of Bagdad, Arizona. The third of five children to Kenneth and Patricia Heinz, he received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated with a BS in Systems Engineering in 1978.

Following Basic School, Flight School and A-6E Replacement Aircrew (RAC) training, he reported to VMA(AW)-332 still wearing 2nd Lt bars from 1980 to 1987, he completed four operational tours including two instructor tours and one ground tour as a platoon commander and Communications Company XO before being selected for the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School. After graduating with distinction in Jun 1988, he served at the Strike Aircraft Test Directorate in the F/A-18 shop performing Lot 11 software integration test, Night Attack testing, Tomahawk Operational test and a variety of avionics tests for the A-6E and F/RF-4. He returned to the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School as a systems avionics instructor from Jun 1989 to Jun 1991. During this time, MajGen Heinz was nominated by the Marine Corps as an Astronaut candidate.

MajGen Heinz then reported to 1st Marine Regiment in Camp Pendleton where he served as the Regimental Air Officer from Jun 1991 to Aug 1992 and then completed F/A-18 transition training and was assigned to VMFA(AW)-224 as the Admin and Operations Officer during subsequent deployments for Operation Deny Flight/Enduring Freedom from Apr 1993 to Dec 1995. He was then assigned to the F/A-18 Program Office (PMA-265) at NAVAIR as the Advanced Tactical Aerial Reconnaissance System (ATARS) IPT lead until Jul 1997. Following this acquisition tour, he completed top level school at the Naval Warfare College, Newport, RI. In Jul 1998, he was assigned as the Deputy Department Head for the Aviation Weapons Systems Requirements Branch (APW) at Headquarters, Marine Corps.

After completing of the Advanced Program Managers Course in April 2001, MajGen Heinz served as the Principal Deputy Program Manager for C-130s at the Support/Commercial Derivative Aircraft Program Office (PMA-207) where he oversaw the introduction of the KC-130J aircraft. In October 2002, MajGen Heinz was assigned as the Program Manager for the AV-8B Harrier program, PMA-257, Naval Aviation Systems Command, Patuxent River, Maryland. In June 2005, MajGen Heinz was assigned as the Deputy Director for Operations, National Military Command Center, J-3, Joint Staff, Pentagon.

MajGen Heinz has completed a Master of Science degree in Computer Science with a subspecialty in Artificial Intelligence from the Florida Institute of Technology and a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval Warfare College. MajGen Heinz decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, Air Medal with bronze numeral 4, Navy Commendation Medal with 3 Gold Stars and the Navy Achievement Medal. He has flown over 2,700 flight hours in 22 T/M/S aircraft.

He became F-35 PEO in April 2009.

*Sources: F-35 Joint Program Office; USMC biography.*