



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
3280 RUSSELL ROAD  
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-5103

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
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**NOV 06 2008**

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force  
Via: Commander, US Marine Corps Central Command, Attn G-1,  
7115 South Boundary Blvd, MacDill AFB FL 33621

Subj: PRESENTATION OF THE NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION TO I MARINE  
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (FORWARD) FOR THE PERIOD OF  
28 FEBRUARY 2006 TO 09 FEBRUARY 2007

Ref: (a) CDR, COMUSMARCENT awrds recommendation dated 18 Jan 08

Encl: (1) Citation

1. The Secretary of the Navy has approved the award of the Navy Unit Commendation for I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), from 28 February 2006 to 09 February 2007, in recognition of services as contained in the reference.

2. The enclosure is forwarded for presentation.

*E. M. Hensen*  
E. M. HENSEN  
By direction

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THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

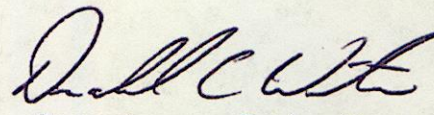
The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the  
NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION to

I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (FORWARD)

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For exceptionally meritorious service during assigned missions from 28 February 2006 to 9 February 2007. The personnel of I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) (Forward) transformed the future of the Anbar Province of Iraq while combating a brutally persistent insurgent threat across a battle space spanning more than 50,000 square miles. This multi-national force of more than 33,000 men and women redefined the concept of valor to meet the unique demands of counterinsurgency operations, combining selfless courage in the face of a lethal enemy with unprecedented restraint and military effectiveness. Displaying unparalleled tenacity, the Marines, Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen confronted insurgents daily, eliminating more than 2,000 and capturing and detaining at least 6,600 while sustaining 308 friendly killed-in-action and 3,134 wounded. Boldly moving to deny insurgent footholds, I MEF systematically established combat outposts in the most dangerous sections of nine critical cities, and then used physical barriers and biometric technology to maintain control of the population and deny insurgents freedom of movement. Additionally, I MEF developed innovative aviation techniques to put the enemy on the defensive, harnessed technology to save lives, achieved a 76 percent casualty return to duty rate through superior medical services and leveraged all manpower assets for success. I MEF enhanced stability and rapidly expanded the size and effectiveness of the Iraqi Security Forces and set the conditions for improved Iraqi self-governance and economic growth. By their outstanding courage, aggressive military skills, and total devotion to duty, the officers and enlisted personnel of I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) reflected great credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

  
Secretary of the Navy