



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1650
MMMA-2
25 Aug 11

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force,
Unit 35601 FPO AP 96606-5601
Subj: AWARD FOR III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
Encl: (1) Secretary of the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation
1. The enclosure is forwarded for presentation

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. K. Vance", is positioned above the typed name.

S. K. VANCE
By direction



COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

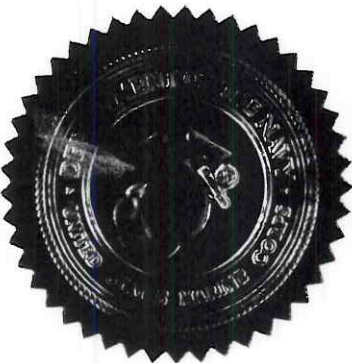
The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION to

III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For meritorious service from 1 August 2008 to 30 October 2010. The personnel of III Marine Expeditionary Force consistently achieved unparalleled success by their contribution to the security and stability in the Western Pacific region and their continued support to combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. III Marine Expeditionary Force participated in 160 exercises and operations within the United States Pacific Command's Area of Responsibility. Through meticulous planning, effective coordination, efficient preparation, aggressive execution and sound policies, III Marine Expeditionary Force forged a warfighting capability, ready to respond to any contingency spanning the entire spectrum of conflict. Their response to emergent crises to include five directed humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions, was a testament to their planning and training as a force in readiness. A constant and active presence in the Western Pacific Theater, III Marine Expeditionary Force played a key role in our nation's strategy of developing strong and stable alliances throughout the Western Pacific. By their truly distinctive achievements, unwavering support to Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM, and unfailing devotion to duty, the officers, enlisted personnel and civilian Marines of III Marine Expeditionary Force reflected great credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.



For the Secretary of the Navy,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "John A. ...", written over a horizontal line.

Commandant of the Marine Corps