



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

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

II MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (FORWARD)

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For exceptional meritorious service during assigned missions as Multinational Force-West from 9 February 2009 to 23 January 2010 in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. During this period, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) (II MEF Fwd) increased the self-sufficiency of Iraqi Security Forces, markedly improved governance and civil capacity in Al Anbar Province, and executed a sizeable drawdown of all United States Marine Corps forces from Iraq. The operational leadership and tactical example from within II MEF Fwd increased Iraqi Security Forces' capacity to plan and execute independent and complex security operations to protect its citizens and deny insurgent forces freedom of action. II MEF Fwd transformed rule of law through ground-breaking initiatives resulting in the stand up of the Ramadi Judicial Center, the implementation of an effective court system, and the systematic vetting and release of over 1,500 detainees into the population. These measures significantly increased the government's legitimacy and allowed it to withstand the brutality of a determined insurgent effort to unhinge the government. Concurrent with its aggressive operational, civil, and economic efforts, II MEF Fwd expertly planned and executed a complex redeployment of over 24,000 Marines and Sailors and a retrograde of over 380,000 ground equipment items, thereby safely and responsibly concluding seven years of Marine Corps deployments to Iraq. By their truly distinctive accomplishments, resourcefulness, and unflinching devotion to duty, the officers, enlisted personnel and civilian employees of II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) reflected great credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.



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