



## THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

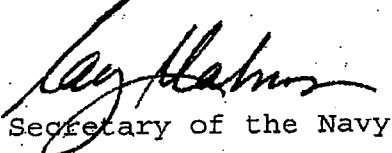
The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the  
NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION to

### II MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (FORWARD)

for service as set forth in the following

#### CITATION:

For exceptionally meritorious achievement during assigned missions as Multinational Force-West from 9 February 2007 to 9 February 2008 in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. II Marine Expeditionary Force Forward (II MEF Fwd) significantly improved the security of Al Anbar Province, thus denying its use as an insurgent stronghold and setting the conditions for Provincial Iraqi Control of this model province. II MEF Fwd executed a campaign that improved relations with the Sunni population, restored security throughout Al Anbar Province and initiated an economic and social recovery plan that resulted in a rejuvenated Anbari government. During this period, the Iraqi Security Forces continued their transformation into an effective fighting force. Close cooperation between II MEF Fwd, Anbari tribal leaders and the Government of Iraq doubled the strength of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Army Divisions, while Marine Corps Military Transition Teams improved Iraqi Army operational capability. Marine Corps Police Transition Teams oversaw the expansion of the Iraqi Police, with young Iraqi men signing up in record numbers resulting in a provincial police force of 23,000 officers and over 120 police stations. Through a series of engagements under Operation FARDH AL QANOON, Marines and partnered Iraqi Security Forces neutralized insurgent activity in Al Anbar Province while simultaneously supporting Multi-National Corps-Iraq's Baghdad Security Plan. The result of this extensive effort was an unprecedented calm that resulted in a ten-fold reduction in attacks, from a weekly high of 458 to a low of 45, with a corresponding reduction in friendly casualties. By their truly distinctive achievements, extensive enthusiasm, and unfailing 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.

  
Secretary of the Navy