



**Captain John N. Sand
United States Marine Corps**



Captain John Sand is a thirteen year veteran of the United States Marine Corps and is currently serving as part of the *Why We Serve* speakers program. He has recently returned from an assignment in Iraq and is speaking to groups around the country about his personal experiences serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On 3 May 2006, Captain Sand took command of Battery T, 5th Battalion, 10th Marines. From March through October 2007, Sand served as the Battery Commander for his unit at Camp Fallujah in the Al Anbar Province, Iraq. In this duty, Sand was responsible for providing fire support and mounted security patrols for Regimental Combat Team 6.

Capt Sand is a native of Ottawa, Illinois and entered the USMC on September 10, 1991. He attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruiting Depot San Diego. After serving for 4 years, Sand was honorably discharged in 1995. Upon his discharge from active duty, Captain Sand attended Illinois Valley Community College and Illinois State University, earning a Bachelor's of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He was commissioned a Marine Corps officer on 24 May 1998 and reported to the Basic School, Quantico, Virginia in November of the same year.

Captain Sand and his wife Alyssa have three daughters, Jourdan, Isabella and Ainsley.

Sand's decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal; the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2); Joint Meritorious Unit Award; Meritorious Unit Commendation; Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Medal (2); Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Southwest Asia Service Medal; Iraqi Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (5); United Nations Medal; NATO Medal; Kuwaiti Liberation Medal (Kuwait); Certificate of Commendation, NCO of the Quarter, 2^d Radio Battalion; Marine Fire Support Award; and the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara.