



**Staff Sgt. John Costa
United States Marine Corps**



Staff Sgt. John Costa is a 10-year veteran of the United States Marine Corps and is currently serving as part of the *Why We Serve* speakers program. He recently returned from assignment in Iraq and is speaking to groups around the country about his personal experiences serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In May of 2007, Costa returned after being deployed to Ramadi, Iraq, where he served as chief scout with the Scout Sniper Platoon, 1st Battalion, 6th Marines. Costa is extremely proud of the work he accomplished while deployed, due to the fact that he arrived to a hostile city under siege, and nine months later the city was seen as a counter-insurgency success.

Raised in Somerville, MA, Costa enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in February 1998, and graduated from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island as a private first class in May 1998.

Costa learned at a young age the meaning of the “greater good.” He chose to serve because he understood that Americans need to be protected by individuals who make self sacrifices for the benefit of the nation.

His decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with a combat distinguishing device, the Combat Action Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal with two bronze stars.