



A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS


It is an honor to congratulate TIYM Publishing on the inaugural edition of the Arab American Yearbook. This publication will be a valued resource that includes the many achievements of Arab Americans in our Nation.

A growing number of the Corps' finest leaders are Arab American. One of these distinguished leaders is Gunnery Sergeant Jamal S. Baadani, National Director for the Middle East Cultural Outreach Program at Marine Corps Recruiting Command. The program was incorporated in 2006 to promote and develop a long-term partnership between the Marine Corps and Arab American communities throughout the Nation. Another outstanding Arab American Marine is Lance Corporal Ismile Althaibani, a Purple Heart recipient, who was honored by the Arab American community at the 2006 Arab American Institute National Leadership Conference in Washington, DC for his service in Iraq.

While serving as cultural ambassadors, the dedication and faithful service of these Marines honor the proud heritage of Arab Americans.

The United States Marine Corps commends TIYM Publishing for recognizing the accomplishments of Arab Americans throughout our Nation. I wish you the very best for future success with this endeavor.

Semper Fidelis,


M. W. Hagee
General, U.S. Marine Corps

THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS. THE FEW. THE PROUD. ARAB AMERICAN MARINES



The call "Send in the Marines!" has been sounded more than 200 times since the end of World War II – an average of once every 90 days. Our nation's leaders have great confidence in the Marine Corps' ability to succeed anytime, anywhere, and in any situation. The warfighting excellence and warrior culture displayed by today's Marine Corps is part of a legacy that extends back 231 years.

United States Marines have engaged in battle and defended the American people since before the Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence. Congress authorized the formation of two battalions of Marines on November 10, 1775 – the official birth date of the Marine Corps.

The foresight of Congress to mandate the existence of an always ready, combined-arms expeditionary

force seems particularly discerning in light of the current Global War on Terrorism.

The ongoing Global War on Terrorism is different than any war America has ever fought, and the stakes are high. In this new kind of conflict our military must be responsive, agile, decisive, and expeditionary in order to quickly respond to crises and conflict when needed.

Every Marine and Marine unit is trained and ready to rapidly task-organize and deploy from the United States or while stationed abroad. When crises erupt anywhere in the world, the nation may call upon the Marine Corps to rapidly carry out the nation's foreign policy and security objectives. Throughout our history, the Marine Corps has been the force most ready when the nation is least ready.

EVERY MARINE IS A LEADER. WE'RE TAUGHT TO ACT DECISIVELY, AND MAKE DECISIONS IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS.

THE BRAVE HAVE ALWAYS DEFINED WHAT THE REST OF US WISH TO BE.
BUT BRAVERY IS MISUNDERSTOOD. IT IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF FEAR,
BUT THE WILL TO OVERCOME IT.

Gunnery Sergeant Jamal S. Baadani is currently serving as the National Director of the Middle East Cultural Outreach Program for the United States Marine Corps. This new, innovative program was created to promote and develop a long-term partnership between the Marine Corps and the Arab American Communities nationwide. It is his responsibility to plan, develop and implement the program nationally. This is the first time in the history of the Marine Corps that a comprehensive program is being developed by an Arab American Marine.

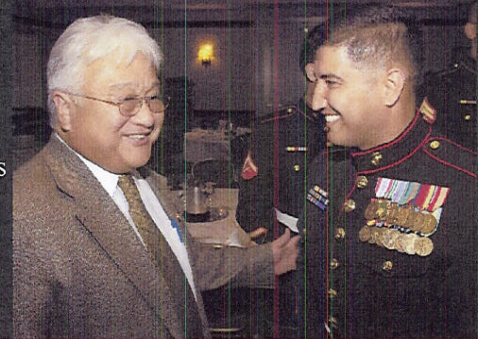
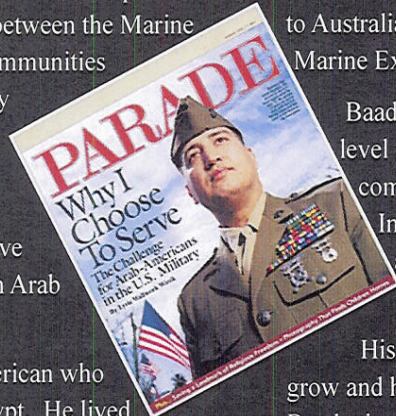
Baadani is a Yemeni Arab American who was born and raised in Cairo, Egypt. He lived through the October 6th war between Egypt and Israel and immigrated to the United States at the age of 10, and joined the United States Marine Corps when he was 17.

His experience in the Marine Corps is vast and his service has spanned the globe, concentrating in the Middle East. He participated in 1984 with the Multi-National Peacekeeping Force Ashore in Beirut, Lebanon, and in 1988 he participated in humanitarian operations in Tunisia and Algeria—providing medical care and humanitarian aid to impoverished communities.

More recently, serving two one-year tours with Operation Enduring Freedom. Once in the Horn of Africa and the second tour in Yemen. In 2001, he was selected as the co-detachment commander for a Military Goodwill Ambassador Contingent to Australia. In 2002, he served in South America with the II Marine Expeditionary Force.

Baadani has been recognized from the local to the national level for his heart-felt dedication to the Arab American community. In 2002, Baadani received the “Immigrant of Inspiration” award by the National Immigration Forum and in 2005 he was highlighted in Parade Magazine for his role as an Arab American leader.

His role in the Arab American community continues to grow and he is helping to ensure his community is strengthened. Baadani was recently honored with the opportunity to have dinner with President George W. Bush and other international leaders to discuss some of the issues facing Arab Americans today.



Marines are warriors. We are comprised of smart, tough, highly adaptable men and women who serve as the nation's force-in-readiness. Ours is a smaller, more dynamic force than any other in the American arsenal, and the only forward-deployed force designed for expeditionary operations by air, land or sea. It is our size and expertise that allow us to move faster and adapt to rapidly changing situations. Working to overcome disadvantage and turn conflict into victory, we accomplish great things, and we do it as a team.

While innovations and new technology are critical for improving readiness and combat and support capabilities, the Marine Corps never underestimates the importance and value of the individual Marine. We recognize that the individual Marine, with a diverse

range of experiences and traditions, is the strength of our Corps.

Everyone who joins the Marine Corps has chosen an extremely challenging route. Marines – officer and enlisted – rise to challenges, becoming more innovative and creative when faced with problems. Each Marine is encouraged to maximize leadership potential through practice and evaluation, leading to better decisions in real-world situations.

The common denominator is leadership. Marines are required to be leaders and advance based on their potential leadership qualities. Our training is tough. It has to be as Marines take on duties that support the Constitution and our way of life.

TO THINK OF OURSELVES FIRST IS HUMAN NATURE, BUT TO PUT OTHERS FIRST IS THE NATURE OF A MARINE.

Today's Marines

Arab Americans continue to find opportunities in the service of our Nation. From the lance corporal on the ground in Iraq to the most senior levels of leadership, Arab Americans are proudly serving in today's Marine Corps.



Captain Majdi M. El-Ahwal was born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon to a Palestinian father and Jordanian mother. Because of growing instability and dangerous conditions in Lebanon, El-Ahwal immigrated to the United States with his father, pregnant mother and younger sister.

During his senior year of high school in January 1994, with his green card in hand, El-Ahwal enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

El-Ahwal reported to Parris Island, South Carolina in August 1994 for recruit training and was subsequently stationed in Okinawa, Japan. He has served admirably in many locations throughout his career. He deployed with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit to the Mediterranean and Adriatic Seas, participated in Operation Joint Endeavor in Yugoslavia and participated in two non-combatant evacuation operations in Albania and former Zaire.

El-Ahwal, his father and younger sister were naturalized and sworn in as American Citizens in September 1996. He believes much of his parents teachings mirrored the Marine Corps' core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment.

In June 1998, he was selected for the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program and in May 2001, graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology from Old Dominion University, in Norfolk, VA and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant.

He has deployed to Combined Joint Task Force, Horn of Africa and to Special Operations Command-Yemen in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as an Arabic linguist. He has also done a tour in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In January 2006, El-Ahwal was promoted to the rank of captain and is currently assigned to the Joint Intelligence Center, U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Florida.

As we move into the 21st century, we face a rapidly changing world with complex situations. Our focus must be on training people to make sound decisions under rapidly changing conditions. The Marine Corps must be prepared for what may be called a "three-block war." On one block we may deliver humanitarian assistance to help people survive. Moments later, on the next block, we may be called upon to take a harder line as a peace enforcement force. Finally, if hostilities do erupt, we must be able to win mid-intensity battles on a third block. To effectively make the right decision for the situations we face on each block requires a sharp and agile mind, and the ability to take charge.

If you are interested in developing your decision-making abilities and cultivating your leadership skills, consider joining the Marine Corps team. For more information about opportunities to serve in the United States Marine Corps, log on to Marines.com, MarineOfficer.com or call 1-800-MARINES. Keep an open mind. The Marine Corps is unlike anything you have ever experienced. We offer no excuses, and we take none. We make Marines and win battles. No compromises.

The Strength of Our Corps

"Our Marines have always been our greatest strength. Indeed, the Corps' enduring contribution to America is the development of Marines who embrace our service values and warrior culture, selflessly serve their country, and then return to society as outstanding private citizens."

— General Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps

THEY CAME FROM SMALL TOWNS AND BIG CITIES TO PROVE THEY BELONG IN THIS PROUD FAMILY, WHOSE HERITAGE TRAVELS BACK MORE THAN TWO CENTURIES.

In the spotlight...



Lance Corporal Ismile Althaibani is a Yemeni Arab American living in Brooklyn, New York and is one of nine cousins who have served in the U.S. military. Althaibani has supported Operation Iraqi Freedom and served in Fallujah, Iraq where he was awarded a combat action ribbon and received a purple heart in November 2004 for injuries sustained from an explosion of a roadside bomb.

Althaibani was recognized in September 2006 by Congressman Charles Boustany, Jr. of Louisiana (pictured left) and Senator John Sununu of New Hampshire for his sacrifice and service in Iraq. The ceremony was held on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. during the Arab American Institute National Leadership Conference.

Althaibani is currently a reserve Marine assigned to the Sixth Communication Battalion and is attending the New York City Police Academy.



Staff Sergeant Hala Monsour, a Lebanese Arab American, migrated to the United States in 1991 from her hometown in Freetown, Sierra Leone in West Africa. She obtained her permanent residence visa and graduated high school in 1995. Joining the Marine Corps in 1997, she served as an administrative clerk until she took the Department of Defense language test for Arabic and

passed. In 2004, she deployed to Iraq with First Marine Expeditionary Force working with the Naval Surgical Trauma Platoon, using her language skills to save lives by translating in a fast-paced medical environment. She also assisted in foot patrols by providing guidance and assistance as a translator, which helped overcome barriers.

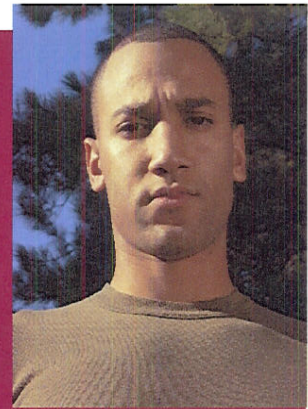
Staff Sergeant Monsour received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management in 2006, and is currently working on her Masters in Education with a specialty in Adult Education.

Born in Meknes, Morocco, Corporal Souhaib Elkoun immigrated to the United States in August 1999. He was living between New York and Connecticut until February 2003, when he decided to join the Marine Corps.

Elkoun has served honorably in many different capacities while in the Marine Corps.

In late 2004, he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and was awarded a Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" distinguishing device and the Combat Action Ribbon for his actions in Fallujah.

He is currently stationed aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia as the Assistant Operations Chief, Marine Security Guard Battalion.



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I STAND HERE.

"I am American. I am Arab. I am a Marine.

I wear this uniform with pride.

I know where I stand.

Can you stand with me?"



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