

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's featured veteran is Adam Bethard.

Adam graduated from Assumption High School in May of 1991. Four days later, he departed for Marine Recruit Training. He completed Boot Camp at San Diego, Ca, and advanced training at Camp Pendleton CA. Adam has achieved several titles: Computer Programmer, Small Computer Specialist, and Data Chief and 0699 Communications Chief. His duties included: programming military pay and manpower systems; repairing computers; installing data networks; and managing communication architectures including telephones, data networks, and radio systems.

Adam has been stationed in Okinawa, Japan; Kansas City, MO; Naples, Italy; Quantico, VA; Twenty-Nine Palms, CA; Iwakuni, Japan; and Fort Gordon, GA. He has conducted training exercises in Thailand, South Korea; Germany; France; and Malta. He was deployed to Albania in support of Operation Silver Wake and has also completed two combat tours, one in Iraq and the other in Afghanistan.

Adam completed his 8 months in Afghanistan on a British Base. He says, "They weren't prepared for Americans because within two days the whole base was out of ketchup, and they only offered malt vinegar as a condiment. Additionally, the only eggs for breakfast were hardboiled or sunny side up, either way hard yolks. In Afghanistan, we encountered several sand storms. The biggest grounded all air assets and came at us like a brown wall. As it got closer, the movement of the sand looked like a big rolling torrent of water. The sun was blocked out and everything turned into a dark brown mass. Our visibility was only 60 feet in front of us. The storm lasted for four hours."

Adam is currently on active duty as a Master Gunnery Sergeant, one of the highest enlisted ranks within the Marine Corps. He is living in Evans, GA, with his wife Rebecca and their three boys; Aaron, Alix, and Ceejay. He is Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Marine Detachment, U.S. Army Signal Schools.

Thank you, Master Gunnery Sergeant Adam Bethard, for what you gave for us.