

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's featured veteran is Matthew Bethard.

Matt graduated from Assumption High School and joined the U.S. Marine Corps in May of 1989. After completing boot camp at San Diego, CA, he became an F/A 18 Mechanic. His duties included being a crew chief, engine mechanic, and fuel system and secondary power systems. He was stationed in Beaufort, SC; Lemoore, CA; Miramar, CA; and FT Worth, TX.

Under the Unit Deployment Program, Matt was in Iwakuni, Japan, three times. He did two tours on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Theodore Roosevelt supporting Operation Southern Watch in the Middle East and supporting NATO Peacekeepers in the Bosnia War.

Matt was deployed to Kyrgyzstan for missions in Afghanistan. He went to Kuwait twice, once for Operation Southern Watch and then for the invasion of Iraq. He later served in Iraq as part of the continued operations and peace keeping missions. Matt states, "While in Iraq, I e-mailed my Dad to tell him, 'Well, it has finally happened, Hell has frozen over'. It has snowed in Iraq for the first time in 67 years."

Matt retired from the Marines in June, 2009, as a Gunnery Sergeant. He currently lives in Fort Worth, TX, where he works for Lockheed Martin building the JSF (F-35) next generation fighter. He is married to Karla, and they have two girls, Alysa and Nicole.

Thank you, Gunnery Sergeant Matthew Bethard, for what you gave for us.