



Dedication Ceremony

for the

Corporal Dustin Jerome Lee Kennel

19 March 2010

Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, Georgia



CORPORAL DUSTIN JEROME LEE KENNEL

CORPORAL DUSTIN JEROME LEE AND MILITARY WORKING DOG LEX STATIONED AT MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE, ALBANY, GEORGIA, DEPLOYED TO IRAQ IN OCTOBER 2006 IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. CORPORAL LEE AND LEX WERE ASSIGNED TO COMPANY A, 3D RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION, REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 6, II MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE TO COMBAT THE GROWING INSURGENCY IN AL ANBAR PROVINCE, IRAQ. ON 9 MARCH 2007, CORPORAL LEE'S UNIT WAS ENGAGED IN A COMPLEX ATTACK BY APPROXIMATELY 10 INSURGENTS. CORPORAL LEE IMMEDIATELY RETURNED SUPPRESSIVE FIRE ON THE ATTACKING ENEMY. HIS INITIATIVE AND FOCUS ASSISTED THE TEAM IN TRANSITIONING TO AN OFFENSIVE POSTURE AND DEFEATING THE INSURGENTS. CORPORAL LEE'S RAPID AND DECISIVE ACTIONS WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN FACILITATING A SUCCESSFUL COUNTER-ATTACK.

CORPORAL LEE AND LEX SUPPORTED THE MARINES OF COMPANY A, 3D RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION FOR NEARLY FIVE MONTHS OF CONTINUOUS COMBAT OPERATIONS BY IDENTIFYING IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES AND COURAGEOUSLY EXPOSING THEMSELVES TO HIDDEN THREATS THROUGHOUT THE AL ANBAR PROVINCE IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEIR FELLOW MARINES. CORPORAL LEE WAS KILLED IN ACTION ON 21 MARCH 2007 WHEN COMPANY A'S FORWARD OPERATING BASE CAME UNDER ATTACK BY INSURGENTS WITH INDIRECT FIRE. CORPORAL LEE WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED AND LEX WAS INJURED WHEN A 73MM ROCKET EXPLODED INSIDE HIS FORWARD OPERATING BASE.

CORPORAL LEE WAS POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH COMBAT DISTINGUISHING DEVICE FOR VALOR AND COMBAT ACTION RIBBON.

AFTER CORPORAL LEE'S DEATH, LEX RECOVERED FROM HIS WOUNDS AND RETURNED TO SERVICE AT MCLB ALBANY. IN DECEMBER 2007, LEX WAS ADOPTED BY CORPORAL LEE'S PARENTS, JEROME AND RACHEL LEE, AND BECAME THE FIRST ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY WORKING DOG IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO BE ADOPTED BY A FALLEN HANDLER'S FAMILY.



THIS KENNEL FACILITY IS HEREBY DEDICATED ON 19 MARCH 2010
IN MEMORY OF CORPORAL LEE'S SERVICE AND SACRIFICE.

"GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS, THAT HE LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS."

— JOHN 15:13

"FOREVER ON WATCH"

Sequence of Events

WELCOME/OPENING REMARKS

CONCERT

INVOCATION

PRESENT COLORS

NATIONAL ANTHEM

MILITARY WORKING DOG DEMONSTRATION

INTRODUCTION OF COMMANDING OFFICER

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST OF HONOR

HONORS

GUEST OF HONOR REMARKS

CORPORAL LEE'S BIOGRAPHY

UNVEIL THE TABLET

FAMILY REMARKS

RETIRE THE COLORS

MARINES' HYMN

CLOSING



Lieutenant General
Richard F. Natonski

Commander
U.S. Marine Corps
Forces Command

Lieutenant General Natonski graduated from the University of Louisville in 1973 with a B.A. degree in History, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Upon completion of The Basic School in 1974, Lieutenant Natonski served as a platoon commander and executive officer with Company H, 2d Battalion, 4th Marines. There he participated in Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations in Cambodia (EAGLE PULL) and in South Vietnam (FREQUENT WIND).

Transferring to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego in July 1975, Lieutenant Natonski was assigned as a series commander in Company A, 1st Recruit Training Battalion and subsequently as the battalion operations officer. In April 1978, Captain Natonski was transferred to Marine Barracks, 8th and I, where he served as executive and commanding officer of Company B.

Upon completion of this tour in Washington, D.C. in 1981, he spent the summer as a platoon commander at Officer Candidate's School prior to attending the Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, VA.

In July 1982, he was assigned as the operations officer for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines at Camp Pendleton, CA. Subsequent to his tour in 1st Marine Division, Major Natonski was transferred to Headquarters Marine Corps in July 1984, where he served in the Ground Combat Requirements Branch of the Plans, Policy, and Operations Department. From 1987 to 1988, he attended the Marine Corps Command and Staff College.

Following his instruction at Quantico, he was assigned as an Observer to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Middle East. Upon completion of this tour in June 1989, he was transferred to the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing at Cherry Point, N.C., where he was assigned as the G-3 plans officer.

In July 1991, Lieutenant Colonel Natonski was transferred to 2d Marine Division, where he served as the executive officer of the 2d Marine Regiment until assuming command of 1st Battalion, 2d Marines in May 1992. As commanding officer, he participated in Operation GTMO, a humanitarian relief mission for Haitian migrants in Cuba and Operations RESTORE HOPE and CONTINUE HOPE. He completed his tour in the Division as the deputy G-3.

From 1994 to 1995 he attended the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy. Colonel Natonski served in the II MEF Operations Section until assuming command of 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) in October 1995. Colonel Natonski made two deployments as MEU commander supporting operations in Bosnia and Kuwait. In May 1998 he gave up command of the MEU and reported to the Joint Staff in the Pentagon where he was assigned duties as the chief of the CENTCOM Division, Joint Staff (J-3) Operations Directorate and subsequently the Deputy Director for Operations in the National Military Command Center. Following his tour on the Joint Staff, Brigadier General Natonski served first as the Director of the Strategy and Plans Division and then as the Director of the Operations Division in the Plans, Policies, and Operations Department of Headquarters Marine Corps.

Brigadier General Natonski assumed command of 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) in June 2002. From January to June 2003 the MEB deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During this operation 2d MEB was redesignated as Task Force Tarawa and employed as a ground maneuver element under I MEF.

Major General Natonski assumed command of the 1st Marine Division in August 2004 in Iraq. While in command of the Division he participated in counter insurgency operations, the Battle of Fallujah (Operation AL FAJR), and the Iraqi National Elections in January 2005. Afterwards, he relinquished command of the Division in August 2006.

Following his time in the operating forces, Lieutenant General Natonski transferred to Washington, D.C. where he took over as the Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies and Operations at the Pentagon in November 2006 until his subsequent transfer to U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command in August 2008.



Corporal Dustin Jerome Lee, USMC

Corporal Lee was born on April 7th, 1986 in Meridian, Mississippi. Corporal Lee is survived by his mother and father, Rachel and Jerome; his brother and sister, Camryn and Madyson.

Corporal Lee attended Quitman High School in Quitman, Mississippi. After graduating from high school, Corporal Lee enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He attended Boot Camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina from September 2004 to December 2004. In January 2005, Corporal Lee was assigned to Marine Combat Training (MCT) at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. After completing MCT, Corporal Lee was sent to his Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri from February through April 2005.

He was assigned an additional MOS as a Military Working Dog (MWD) Handler and went to the MWD Handler School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Corporal Lee was subsequently assigned to the Provost Marshal's Office, Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, Georgia. He deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom in October 2006.

Corporal Lee's dog handling ability went far beyond that expected of a handler with his level of professional experience. In his spare time, he regularly taught basic obedience to civilian dogs which further enhanced his MWD handling skills. Corporal Lee loved law enforcement and the K9 Corps. He cared deeply for the animals he worked with and trained; a trait instilled in him by his father and mother who is a search and rescue dog handler.

Corporal Lee's Marine Corps ambition was to complete the Kennel Master Course, Military Police Investigations and be assigned to the Dog Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Corporal Lee often expressed his intent to pursue civilian law enforcement after his career in the Marine Corps. He wanted to follow in his father's footsteps and become a Mississippi State Trooper. Corporal Lee's father is an investigator with the Mississippi Highway Patrol.

During his career, Corporal Lee was awarded the Purple Heart, Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Meritorious Mast and two Letters of Appreciation.



The Marines Hymn

*From the Halls of Montezuma
to the shores of Tripoli
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land, and sea
First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean
We are proud to claim the title
Of United States Marine*

*Our flag's unfurled to every breeze
from dawn to setting sun;
We have fought in every clime and place
Where we could take a gun;
In the snow of far off Northern Lands
And in sunny tropic scenes
You will find us always on the job
The United States Marines.*

*Here's health to you and to our Corps
Which we are proud to serve;
In many a strife we've fought for life
And never lost our nerve;
If the Army and the navy
Ever look on Heaven's scenes;
They will find the streets are guarded
By United States Marines.*