



28 August 2004

A Message From The Commander

Greetings again to the families and friends of our deployed servicemembers here in the Horn of Africa! It was another amazing month both at Camp Lemonier and at all sites throughout our region, a region roughly two-thirds the size of the United States. I can assure you that we are making a big difference everyday. In the short few months that I have had the honor of commanding this operation I have seen firsthand the positive impact your loved ones have made upon this land. When you consider we have just 1,300 men and women assigned to accomplish the numerous missions, it makes the magnitude of their achievements that much greater. You have much to be proud of.

This month we received a number of prestigious visitors to our camp. Twice during August we had visits from a Congressional Delegation, representing the states of New Jersey, Florida, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and the territory of Guam. The Representatives came here to see our operation and to talk to their constituents. They left highly impressed. Other visitors included General Abizaid and Lieutenant General Smith, the Commander and Deputy Commander, respectively, of U.S. Central Command. They too left highly impressed. Both commented about the high quality of work being accomplished in Camp Lemonier. Additionally, we hosted two major conferences - a Maritime Security Conference, and a G2/G3 Conference. These conferences dealt with security, intelligence, and operational issues. Our guests included the military leaders and dignitaries of the countries throughout our region. Both conferences were a success, and will help solidify relationships with our coalition partners.

Next, I would like to Hail and Farewell two important elements to our command. During August, a rotation of Security Forces took place here at Camp Lemonier. India Company, 3d Battalion, 2d Marine Regiment was replaced by the 1st Provisional Security Company - Marine Tankers from New York and Florida. They form the Security Force that allows us to sleep safely at night. They are the protectors of this camp, and as such are especially important to me. I thank the Marines of Company I for a job well done, and look forward to working with the men of 1st PSC.

I could not be more happy of the contributions the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and civilians are making in the Horn of Africa. I thank you sincerely for the support you give to them. These are not easy times, but please know that through their efforts we are securing a safer America. I wish everyone the best, thank you and Godspeed!

Take Care,

SAMUEL T. HELLAND

Major General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commander, Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa

