



**II MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
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PRESS RELEASE

April 18, 2008

PRESS RELEASE 08-10

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – First Sgt. Luke J. Mercardante, 35, of Athens, Ga., and Cpl. Kyle W. Wilks, 24, Rogers, Ark., died April 15 while conducting combat operations in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. Both were assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 24, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, II Marine Expeditionary Force, home-based here and currently deployed in support of International Security Assistance Force - Afghanistan.

Mercardante joined the Marine Corps April 22, 1992, and was trained as a military policeman, joining Combat Logistics Battalion 24 on April 15, 2007. He was promoted to the rank of first sergeant on Oct. 1, 2006. His decorations include five Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, five Good Conduct Medals, Iraq Campaign Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, two National Defense Service Medals, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, two Drill Instructor Ribbons, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

Wilks joined the Marine Corps Sept. 7, 2004, and was trained as a Military Policeman, joining Combat Logistics Battalion 24 on April 10, 2005. He was promoted to the rank of corporal May 1, 2007. His decorations include the Good Conduct Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

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