



1st Lt. Tabitha B. White
United States Marine Corps



1st Lt. Tabitha White is a four-year veteran of the United States Marine Corps and is currently serving as part of the *Why We Serve* speakers program. She recently returned from assignment in Iraq and is speaking to groups around the country about her personal experiences serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

White returned from an eight-month deployment to Al Asad, Iraq in August 2007. She was assigned to the Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron-2, and served as an airspace cell coordinator and the squadron command historian.

Since returning from Iraq, White has returned to Cherry Point, NC to support the forward-deployed Marines of the Marine Air Control Squadron and prepare for her next deployment.

She was born in Sandusky, Ohio and raised in Meridian, MS. A natural athlete, she was awarded a full scholarship in track and field. She attended both the University of Alabama and the University of Southern Mississippi, and completed her Bachelor's of Science degree in Elementary Education, with an emphasis in reading and math. In August 2003, White completed Officer Candidate School, and was commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation.

"It is truly an honor and blessing to be an American," she said. There is no other country like America and I am compelled to stand up and represent her and do what I can to make a positive difference. I want to influence those fellow military members I work with every day. I want to be an example to the children and citizens of our country. I want to stand tall and say that I am one of the few and proud that serve under the RED, WHITE and BLUE. I want to make my family proud and be a part of something that is near and dear to my family's legacy. This is why I, First Lieutenant Tabitha Bernice White, choose to serve."

Her decorations include the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and the National Defense Service Medal.