

Zachary J. Iscol

Zach Iscol is a captain in the United States Marine Corps. He is currently assigned as a team leader in Company A, Foreign Military Training Unit, Marine Forces Special Operations Command. Over the past year, he has traveled extensively throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia.

Captain Iscol is a 2001 graduate of Cornell University, where he received a BA in Government and was a varsity letterman and all-league guard on the sprint football team. He was commissioned into the Marine Corps on August 11, 2001.

Between September 2002 and March 2004, Captain Iscol served as a platoon commander in 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment and deployed with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. After returning from a deployment to Iraq, Djibouti, and Kenya, Captain Iscol immediately volunteered to deploy with 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines to Iraq. There he served as the Weapons Company Executive Officer and commander of Combined Action Platoon or "CAP" India from June of 2004 to January of 2005. A combined platoon of 30 US Marines and over 200 Iraqi Soldiers, CAP India became a model for successful development of Iraqi security forces after fighting on the frontlines of the November 2004 assault to clear Fallujah. CAP India's Iraqi soldiers were some of the first to participate in high intensity combat operations. Later, they conducted independent security operations throughout Iraq's Al Anbar province during the elections of 2005.

As a leader of a combined action platoon, Captain Iscol gained extensive experience working alongside and employing translators. Interpreters provide an invaluable service and enabled Captain Iscol to communicate and understand the complex social structures and cultural innuendo necessary to successfully lead a combined Shiite and Sunni unit. He served with good and bad interpreters. One became a close friend and advisor. Another was wounded by enemy fire while following Marines into an enemy position. A third had to be detained for supporting and assisting insurgents. Since returning home, Captain Iscol has been working to obtain a visa for one of his interpreters, who has become a refugee.

Throughout the summer of 2005, Captain Iscol was temporarily assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps in order to provide a junior officer's perspectives as well as insights from recent combat experience for input into the Quadrennial Defense Review.

In September of 2005, Captain Iscol reported to his current duty station in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Captain Iscol is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal with Combat Distinguishing "V" device and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Zachary J. Iscol

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Professional Experience

United States Marine Corps
Infantry Officer

August 2001 - Present

Marine Special Operations Command/Foreign Military Training Unit **September 2005 - Present**
Team Leader/Assistant Team Leader *Overseas/Camp Lejeune, NC*

- ♦ Led ten man Marine Special Operations tactical instructor team on deployment to Chad.
- ♦ Managed extensive language, culture, tactics, and logistics training program
- ♦ Managed \$1.2 million budget for bilateral Sub-Saharan Africa training exercise.
- ♦ Trained and developed close relationships with foreign military officers and soldiers while engaged in nation building and anti-terrorism operations throughout Africa and Middle East.

Assistant Future Operations Officer

- ♦ Developed long term objectives, mission requirements, task organization, deployment cycle, and future growth of FMTU for inception and integration phases of first US Marine Special Operations Unit.
- ♦ Conducted regional analysis for Foreign Military Training Unit during intelligence gathering and situation assessment during extensive travel of the Middle East, Sub-Sahara, and Horn of Africa regions.
- ♦ Created and incorporated cultural and language programs into team training pipeline.
- ♦ Planned and facilitated FY 06 and 07 FMTU missions to Central Command Area of Operation.

Quadrennial Defense Review, Headquarters Marine Corps **May 2005 - September 2005**
Defense Analyst *Washington, DC*

- ♦ Hand-selected to provide specific insight and assessment from company grade officer perspective.
- ♦ Assessed future/current threats, equipment acquisition, career paths, and posture for future conflicts.
- ♦ Authored a tactical handbook on training and employment of indigenous forces.

Third Battalion, First Marine Regiment
Combined Action Platoon Commander

March 2004 - April 2005
Overseas/Camp Pendleton, Ca

- ♦ Trained and led a combined unit of 30 US Marines and 250 Iraqi National Guard Soldiers that was later deemed a model for successful development of Iraqi Security Forces. Combined unit conducted extensive Stability and Security Operations and was only Iraqi unit to fight on front lines during high intensity urban combat during the November 2004 offensive into Fallujah.
- ♦ Built relationships with Iraqi tribal, religious and military leadership. Cultivated relationships and understanding among US Forces, Shi'a Muslims, and Sunni Muslims.
- ♦ In charge of a forward operating base, managed security, logistics, operating budget, and construction projects.

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Weapons Company Executive Officer

- ♦ Prepared and supported 200 Weapons Company Marines for 8 month OIF deployment.
- ♦ Embarked Company and \$1.2 million worth of gear and equipment to and from Iraq.
- ♦ Approved and coordinated over 50 Close Air Support and Indirect Fire Missions in combat as Bravo Command Fire Support Coordinator.

First Battalion, First Marine Regiment *Platoon Commander*

September 2002 - March 2004
Overseas/Camp Pendleton, Ca

- ♦ Led platoon of 40 Marines during small boat interdiction operations in Iraq and humanitarian and bilateral training missions in Kenya, Bahrain, Singapore, and Djibouti, with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable).
- ♦ Officer-in-Charge of anti-terrorism and Force Protection for USS Ogden.

Education

Cornell University *Bachelor of Arts in Government*

September 1997 - May 2001
Ithaca, NY

Phillips Exeter Academy *High School Diploma*

September 1994 - June 1997
Exeter, NH

Semester Internship at Department of Defense

Spring 2000

- ♦ Personal assistant to Director of African Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.
- ♦ Accompanied Secretary of Defense to South Africa and Morocco as personal note taker for diplomatic meetings.
- ♦ Speechwriter, situation analyst and meetings planner for senior defense strategists.

Cornell Sprint Football Team

Fall 1997 - Winter 2000

- ♦ Varsity Letterman and Second Team All-League 2000 Season
- ♦ 2000 season's Most Improved Player Award in recognition of growth on and off the field

Accredited Professor, Texas Christian University

August 2003 - March 2004

- ♦ Taught college-level government classes aboard ship to Marines and Sailors for college credit.

Published Works and Lectures

Articles

"CAP India; Patience and leadership result in successful CAP operations"

Marine Corps Gazette, January 2006

"From a Marine in Iraq, We care about the future."

Martha's Vineyard Gazette, 17 August 2004.

"From a Marine in Iraq, Hail the pied pipers."

Martha's Vineyard Gazette, 10 August 2004.

Lectures and Presentations

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United State's Senate Judiciary Committee **Tentatively, 16 January 2007**
 "Subcommittee on immigration and refugees: Testimony on the plight of Iraqi translators"

Headquarters, Royal Marines' Commando Brigade **18 November 2005**
 "Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures from Fallujah." *Plymouth, UK*

Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst **16 November 2005**
 "Junior Officer Leadership across the spectrum of war" *Sandhurst, UK*

Chilmark Community Center **18 August 2005**
 "Report from Iraq, A tactical perspective of policy." *Chilmark, Massachusetts*

United Jewish Congregation **May 2005**
 "Bridging the divide: A Muslim, a Christian, and a Jew in Iraq." *New York, New York*

Awards/Recognitions

Bronze Star with Combat Distinguishing Device for Valor; Combat Action Ribbon

Interests/Hobbies

Avid outdoorsman, prolific reader, and not-often enough writer.