

MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON OF THE YEAR



THE JAMES E. HATCH AWARD

Presented by THE MARINE CORPS AVIATION ASSOCIATION to

Established in Honor of Colonel James E. Hatch, Designer of the Marine Wing Support Group and its Subordinate Squadrons.

In Recognition of The Most Outstanding Wing Support Squadron that Provides Ground Support to Aviation and Enhances the Combat Capability of Marine Aviation by Furnishing Transportation, Engineering, and Communication Essentials.



HONEYWELL, INC.

MWSS-273



2008	MWSS-171	1999	MWSS-371
2007	MWSS-273	1998	MWSS-271
2006	MWSS-372	1997	MWSS-172
2005	MWSS-273	1996	MWSS-274
2004	MWSS-374	1995	MWSS-172
2003	MWSS-373	1994	MWSS-174
2002	MWSS-172	1993	MWSS-373
2001	MWSS-371	1992	MWSS-271
2000	MWSS-273	1991	MWSS-174



Award Citation

Marine Wing Support Squadron-273 made outstanding contributions to Marine Corps aviation from 1 May 2008 to 30 April 2009. The Sweathogs of MWSS-273 distinguished themselves in combat operations by effectively integrating air and ground combat power during Operation Iraqi Freedom. During two pre-deployment exercises, the Sweathogs completed valuable training that enabled them to accomplish their mission in Iraq. Once in Iraq, the Sweathogs became the largest support squadron to serve there and provided expeditionary aviation support across a 70,000 square mile Multi-National Force West area of operations. They supported the Al Anbar Border Initiative and then led MNF-W for Operation Defeat Al Qaida in the North II. The squadron improved the safety of flight operations across Iraq by constructing 500,000 square feet of helicopter landing zones and safely distributing 13 million gallons of fuel to 14,000 aircraft. The squadron also traveled more than 300,000 accident-free miles on combat convoys and accumulated 16,000 engineer equipment hours without incident. The Sweathogs' noteworthy accomplishments and total dedication to duty reflected great credit upon them and were in keeping with the highest traditions of Marine Corps aviation.



10 October 2009