

# 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.

### MWSS-371



**HONEYWELL, INC.**

2009	MWSS-273	1999	MWSS-371
2008	MWSS-171	1998	MWSS-271
2007	MWSS-273	1997	MWSS-172
2006	MWSS-372	1996	MWSS-274
2005	MWSS-273	1995	MWSS-172
2004	MWSS-374	1994	MWSS-174
2003	MWSS-373	1993	MWSS-373
2002	MWSS-172	1992	MWSS-271
2001	MWSS-371	1991	MWSS-174
2000	MWSS-273		



### Award Citation

Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 made outstanding contributions to Marine Corps aviation from 1 January, to 31 December 2009. MWSS-371 distinguished themselves in combat operations by effectively integrating air and ground combat power during Operation Enduring Freedom. The Sandsharks deployed as 2D Marine Expeditionary Brigade and constructed the two largest aluminum matting airfield projects in combat history, totaling 2.5 million square feet. They supported 2D MEB during Operations Khanjari, Eastern Resolve I and II, Khe Hamasia, and Good Neighbor, providing expeditionary aviation support and ground explosive ordnance, military police mentor teams, female engagement teams, and medical support throughout Helmand Province. The squadron improved safety of flight operations across Afghanistan by conducting 32 site surveys leading to the horizontal construction of 17 fixed and rotary wing aircraft landing sites, and safely distributing 2.5 million gallons of fuel at three FARPs. The squadron executed 40,160 accident-free combat convoy miles providing logistics support throughout the area of operations. By their truly distinctive achievements and unfailing devotion to duty, the Sandsharks reflected great credit upon themselves and their standards were in keeping with the highest traditions of Marine Corps aviation.



22 May 2010