

## **Gunnery Sergeant Joseph Bates**

Biography - Gunnery Sergeant Joseph M. Bates – Marine Corps Information Operations Center Regional Support Team Three

Operations in the Information Environment Enlisted Marine of the Year Award

Gunnery Sergeant Bates graduated from Grace Christian Academy, Jeffersonville, KY (2004).

He attended the following military service schools: Psychological Operations Officer Course (2012), Electronic Warfare Integration Course (2012), Military Deception Planners Course (2012), Basic Computer Network Operations Planners Course (2012), Information Operations Practitioner Course (2013), Combat Instructors Course (2014), Infantry Unit Leaders Course (2017), and STO Planners Course (2020).

GySgt Sergeant Bates' awards to date are:

1. Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (Second Award)
2. Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal
3. Combat Action Ribbon
4. Navy Unit Commendation
5. Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation (Fifth Award)
6. Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (Fifth Award)
7. National Defense Service Medal
8. Iraq Campaign Medal
9. Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (Second Award)
10. Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
11. Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal
12. Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (Forth Award)
13. Marine Corps Combat Instructor Ribbon

Gunnery Sergeant Bates engaged in prolonged combat operations against a determined terrorist enemy force, he demonstrated tenacity, proficiency, and creativity as he actively controlled numerous technical and influence-based information capabilities, including Psychological Operations, Electronic Warfare, deception, and Social Media Engagement. GySgt Bates developed 19 OIE-influence plans to counter terrorist tactics and communications and ultimately prevented several terrorist attacks while also influencing local nationals to report the whereabouts, identities and activities of terrorist forces. GySgt Bates' leadership, OIE expertise, and determined efforts have protected Marines engaged in counter terrorism combat, positively influenced foreign audiences, increased IE Battlespace Awareness, and ultimately helped solidify Information as a valued warfighting capability.