



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
COMMAND ELEMENT
II MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
PSC BOX 20080
CAMP LEJEUNE, NC 28542-0080

A message from the II Marine Expeditionary Force Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Robert F. Hedelund:

On Thursday I will relinquish command of II MEF to Lt. Gen. Brian Beaudreault and will be moving on to be the Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command in Norfolk. As Alicia and I depart the Carolina MAGTF, we want to express our personal and heart-felt gratitude to the Marines, Sailors, Civilians and Families of II MEF for the hard work and sacrifice over the last two years. Additionally, we want to extend a sincere thanks to the communities which support us so well in North and South Carolina. This region which we call home has been a welcoming and enabling partner in our success. Without the help of the community we wouldn't be able to accomplish all that is required to keep our force most ready when the nation is least ready. Our time here has flown by and the inspiration that all of you have given us is priceless. Last year we quite literally weathered the storm together through Hurricane Florence, assisting the community and each other in our time of need. Despite the impacts of the storm, we remained ready and deployed to Exercise Trident Juncture in Norway, showing friend and foe alike the resilience of II MEF. This is just one example of the countless accomplishments the Carolina MAGTF will continue to perform into the future. We couldn't be more proud of all you've achieved. You all have made our time here something to cherish for the rest of our lives. Stay true to each other, honor our standards, be ready always, and maintain the dignity and respect you all have earned and show every day - You Matter! You matter to us, you matter to your family, you matter to our Corps, and you matter to our nation. It has been a true honor, genuine joy and rare privilege for both of us to serve with you. Again, thank you. God bless you all. Semper Fidelis.


R. F. HEDELUND