

P

PROVIDED AS AMPLIFICATION TO SECTION C OF SEMI-ANNUAL 1830601 - 831130 USMC FITNESS REPORT ON CAPTAIN THOMAS M. RUTHERFORD, USMC, /0210.

striving to do the best at whatever challenge is put before him. He is willing to pay the price of dedication with long hours of study, thorough work, and personal determination. Captain Rutherford has personally developed the planning and conducted the coordination throughout OPNAV and Headquarters, Marine Corps to get the Rapid Development Capability (RDC) initiative for FIST (Fleet Imagery Support Terminal) approved, thereby establishing a program to implement a near-real-time imagery transmission and exploitation capability aboard ships and in support of tactical Marine Corps operations. This coordination required numerous briefings presented to senior Navy and Marine Corps personnel; tasks he performed flawlessly. He also coordinated the installation in the fleet of prototype FIST terminals in support of operational commanders to maintain an interim capability at locations where commanders were involved in crises or hostilities, specifically in support of the eastern Mediterranean area of operations and most recently, in Grenada.



In his communication of 6 Sep 83 to the Director of Naval Intelligence, RADM Tuttle, Commander Carrier Division Two, stated, "Your being responsible for getting FIST in USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER and USS IWO JIMA is the single most important contribution to supporting the tactical commander ever. Its application is a major factor in our every day planning in this real world situation". Captain Rutherford was responsible for coordinating the transfer of these prototype systems from one ship to another to insure this vital capability was retained aboard ships actually providing support to Marines in Lebanon.

During the Grenada rescue operations, Captain Rutherford was individually responsible for putting together a FIST system and getting it air shipped to USS GUAM via Barbados and Granada. Specifically noteworthy was Captain Rutherford's performance during his stopover on Grenada while arranging air transportation of the FIST equipment to the USS GUAM. The actual loading operations of the FIST in the helo, using Soviet manufactured fork lifts, had to be performed under darkened conditions with little or no assistance and during a period of hostile fire. Once aboard the USS GUAM, Captain Rutherford assisted in setting up the equipment, instructing ship personnel on FIST's operations and planning amphibious/helo assaults on Carriacou. FIST was used for prestrike operations, terrain orientation and familiarization, landing zone studies, and suspected/known enemy positions. Annotated hard-copy photography was provided to SEAL and USMC small unit commanders to aide them in setting



*Edward D. Smith*  
EDWARD D. SMITH, USMC  
COMMANDING OFFICER, NIESSA