

Russell L. Sanderson, 32

Kingston

Farmer: 15 years

Branch of Military: Marine Corps

Rank: Corporal E-4

Wars: Iraq, Afghanistan, September 2006 – September 2010

Location of Service: Al Taqaddum & Ar Ramadi, Iraq; Helmand Province, Afghanistan; stationed in Okinawa, Japan

Drafted/Enlisted: Enlisted

Military Experiences: “I enlisted and began Basic Training in September 2006 with the Marines.

I served in the Infantry at Camp Pendleton, California from January to March 2007 as a Private. Then as a Private First Class I was deployed to Okinawa, Japan with the 3rd Intelligence Battalion. I was a sensor operator and monitored land movement over radio frequencies. Getting stationed in Japan was quite the shock at first, but experiencing their culture was really cool.

Our team was deployed to Iraq to monitor sensors and alert forces to land and air movements. Our IT unit returned to Okinawa and there I was promoted to Lance Corporal. I was in charge of leading new teams and preparing them for Afghanistan. We were deployed to Afghanistan in May 2009. There we did daily foot patrols as riflemen and did sensor missions, too. In Afghanistan we had to build sand walls and guard towers for protection and I was in charge of leading patrols.

Upon returning back to our base in Okinawa, I was promoted to Corporal. I was responsible for leading a squad and teaching the new Marines. I chose to not re-enlist and was honorably discharged in September 2010.

The friends I made in the service are lifelong friends. I still talk to most of them to this day. Having been around the world, I have a pretty good idea of places I wouldn’t recommend visiting.”

What Serving Your Country Means: “It’s a sense of duty and service to others. Growing up on the farm, I learned how important it is to do what you can to help others. It’s all about helping one another so we all can succeed together. I felt like it was in my best interest to make myself a better person by joining the Marine Corps. I gave four years of service, but am a Marine for life.”

Notables: Russell was a sensor operator and rifleman during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. His nickname was “Sandy,” short for Sanderson. Now he helps his father, Chuck, farm and works for a construction company. ■



“I gave four years of service, but am a Marine for life.”



Lance Corporal Russell Sanderson served in the Afghanistan War as a Marine patrol rifleman in 2009. (Inset) Russell now farms with his father in northern DeKalb County and also works for a construction company.

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