

Captain James Crabtree

Captain James Crabtree was born on May 19, 1976 in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. He grew up in Texas and graduated from McCallum High School in Austin, Texas in 1994. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Delayed Entry Program in November 1996 and entered basic training at M.C.R.D. San Diego on May 22, 1997. Recruit Crabtree was assigned to Platoon 3099, Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion and was made a scribe. Upon graduation on August 22, 1997 he was meritoriously promoted to Private First Class.

In September 1997 Private First Class Crabtree reported to Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines as an 0341 - Mortarman. He received a certificate of commendation as part of the twelve-man crew that won the 1998 23rd Marines Regimental Crew-Served Weapons Competition at Camp Pendleton. In July 1998 Lance Corporal Crabtree attended Officers Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia. After tearing both triceps in his arms during a combat course accident, he was medically unfit and sent back to Texas. The following summer he returned to OCS and completed the 10 week course. Upon graduation from the University of Texas at Austin in May 2000 he was commissioned a second lieutenant.

In September 2000 Second Lieutenant Crabtree reported for active duty as an assistant to the Austin, Texas Officer Selection Officer. After two months of PTAD he was assigned to Alpha Company at The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia. Upon graduation in June 2001 Second Lieutenant Crabtree was assigned the MOS of 0180- Adjutant and reported to Camp Johnson, North Carolina for his MOS school. On September 1, 2011 he was assigned as the adjutant for 5th Battalion, 10th Marines at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

First Lieutenant Crabtree left active duty on March 1, 2004 and returned to his prior reserve unit in Texas. In May 2004 the battalion was activated in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. From August 2004 to March 2005 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines was assigned to Al-Anbar, Iraq. With the need for an adjutant First Lieutenant Crabtree was moved from Weapons Company and assigned to that billet with the battalion. During his time in Iraq First Lieutenant Crabtree was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his collateral role as the battalion's public affairs officer. In August 2005 Captain Crabtree transferred to the IRR. He joined 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines in September 2010 and is presently assigned the billet of battalion adjutant. In 2011 he was accepted into the Expeditionary Warfare School funded seminar program.

Captain Crabtree is employed as an historian and coordinator of the Texas Voices of Veterans Oral History Program – a part of the Texas General Land Office. His duties consist of running the state's veterans oral history program in order that historians and future generations may hear first hand the stories of our nation's warriors. The program's primary focus is on WWII veterans. Captain Crabtree has a B.S. degree in government from the University of Texas at Austin with a minor in history.

Captain Crabtree is married to the former Meredith Schuler of Stuart, Florida, whom he met as a pen-pal while in Iraq. They have three daughters, Hannah, Caroline, and Grace. Captain Crabtree is the founder and past commander of the American Legion Hunter-Morris Memorial Post 911 in Cedar Park, Texas, as well as a senior counselor the last five years at Texas American Legion Boys State.