



SMITHVILLE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marine Corps calls LVN Reservist at Smithville Regional Hospital to Active Duty

Emery Lee, 43, of Austin, said goodbye last week to his friends at Smithville Regional Hospital as he prepares to head overseas for destinations unknown. The Department of the Navy placed a distress call to all of those reservists who have passed the Navy course to volunteer for active duty this past week.

"I'm excited, I'm ready to go," said Lee, an LVN at Smithville Regional Hospital who has been a Marine for the past 21 years. "But the one thing I will regret is that when I come back, I can't start where I left off and will miss my friends that work the nightshift. They were the best group of people and we had fun – it wasn't work."

Although Lee is anxious of the unknown, he says he is ready to get back to a strict regimen. His first stop will be Camp Pendleton in California where he will prepare for his overseas assignment. Naval Marines in the unit haven't been told yet where their duty station will be but Lee has been informed he will be gone for one year.

Lee's position with the Naval Marines is one of high responsibility; he serves as medical doctor for a traveling platoon of 12 to 15 Marines. "Any medical attention they need goes through me," said Lee. "It is an important job."

This call-up is his first since Operation Desert Storm, where he was deployed with the 82nd Airborne Division as a Paratrooper. For the past several years, Lee has been headquartered at Camp Mabry in Austin and stays in top physical condition by rowing on Lake Austin in his free time.

When asked about any apprehension he may have in regards to leaving and serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Lee didn't hesitate. "I volunteer to be out here," said Lee. "This is what I love."

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
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