



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Dear Mom:

I hope that everything is going better for you. ~~_____~~

How are you doing anyways and how are your jobs going. Well as you know that last time we talked on the phone, I was leaving for something I have never experienced before. Right now we are heading south east on a ship. Seas are a little rough right now so we are just lying around in our rack (beds) and secured ~~from~~ (not allowed) from going top side (outside on the upper decks). I do not want to bore you with military terminology but who knows; it might be fun for you. Here are some more: port (left); starboard (right); forward or bow (front); and aft (rear). Had enough! No? Okay how about skuttle butt (drinking fountain) bulkhead (wall); port hole (8 inch diameter glass in hatch to look through); hatch (door); chow hall (cafeteria or also called mess deck) and there is much more but that is good for now. Anyways as you know if you have been watching the news they found ~~lots~~ in Iraq.





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I know that they did not have chemicals inside them but the missiles were new and you know that they have the means of filling them with chemical agents. This is the largest battle group the U.S. has set up since the Korean War. The only difference is that we have the means of doing much more damage today than we did back then. Honestly, between ~~me~~ God, you, and I, I would rather go back home with my wife and kids. ~~me~~ Janine and all the other wives were able to come out to the beach and stay for three hours the night before we splashed our Assault Amphibious Vehicles out to the ship. Our curfew to be back on the Vehicles was 2200 (10p.m.) so as you can probably imagine, the last five minutes was the hardest of my life. We both were full of tears. It was easy for Joshua cause he was asleep at that time. But I am sure that he woke up the next morning wondering where Daddy was. That alone makes me want to cry. When it comes time to send and receive bullets, I am going to get through it as quickly as I know how with regards to my training I have received over the past eight years. Anyways I am sure that God will watch over me and I will return home safe. Well mom, that is enough about me. I love you very much and now your young warrior is to be going now. I wrote Steven a letter but I don't know if and when it will be the next time that mail goes out. You are always in my prayers. I love you and I miss you. Give everyone my regards and give Christian my love for me.

Love your son,
Michael