



Tour of DUTY

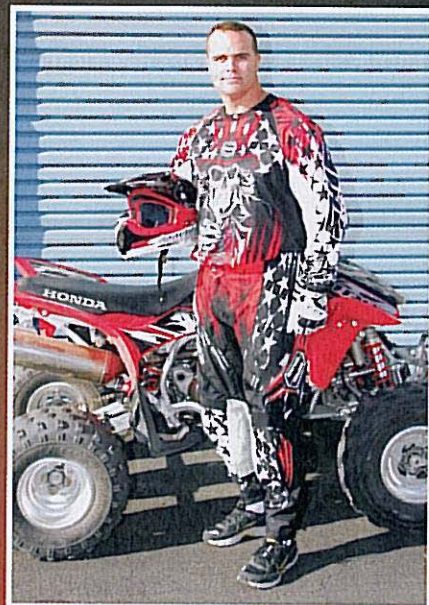
Members of the off-road industry give a Marine Captain a second chance to race

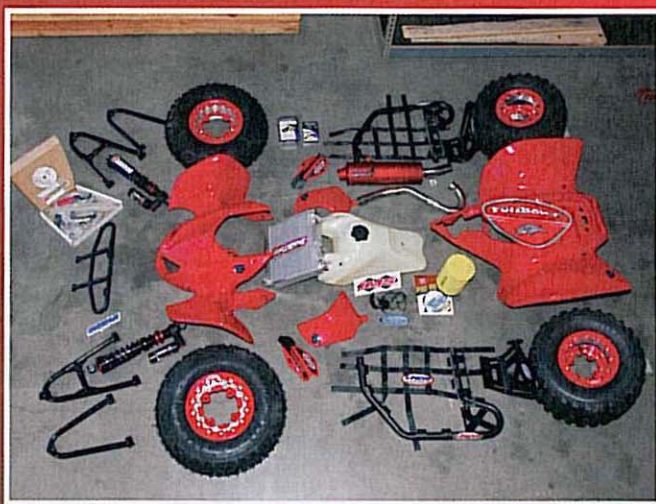
BY MARK A. ROLLAND

We've all heard of the Marine's "Toys For Tots" program. It's where U.S. Marines collect toys from people who care to donate, and give them back to children who may have otherwise had a sad Christmas. Back in October, I got a call from a friend in the sand sport industry, Tim Orchard of OMF Performance Products, who was asking for our support. He proceeds to tell me about a client of his (who was sponsored by OMF) who encountered some really bad luck. Tim was hoping to change his luck by doing a good deed, but needed our help.

In September of 2009, 40 year-old Marine Captain David Ogden Jr. was a victim of a crime. His enclosed trailer, a 2009 Honda TRX 700XX, and all his gear was

stolen from a storage facility that was on-base at Camp Pendleton. His quad was race-prepped for desert competition. David had only competed in two local races (AMA D37 & D38) at the time of the theft, but he won both times in his class and took 2nd and 3rd overall. David's track record was good enough to secure a few sponsors such as FasstCo, ASV Inventions, ODI Grips, SMX Optics, and HRP Sports. Prior to living in southern California, David raced two seasons on a Honda TRX 450R on MX tracks while stationed in North Carolina. During his younger years, he was an ABA Grand National Champion on a BMX bike, a two-time state champ in Arkansas, and a champion rider in Oklahoma. So it's easy to see that racing is in David's blood and a sport he truly enjoys.

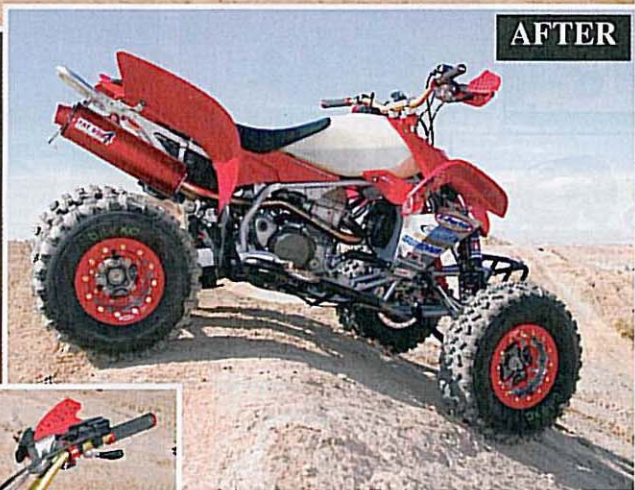




Before & after images tell the story (above & bottom). Check out all the donated parts, above, neatly laid out to resemble a quad. The crew at OMF are thankful to all those who donated products for this project. The look on Capt. Dave's face was priceless when he saw what everybody did for him. He was surprised and humbled that so many strangers would go out of their way to help him.



LEFT, Capt. David Ogden stands proud in his SHIFT gear holding his Scorpion helmet in front of the OMF facility in Riverside, CA. His luck changed and he was deployed overseas just after New Year's day. But, his race quad will be waiting for his return.



It's never good to hear of bad things happening to good people, but we're very proud of our industry and the people who came to the aid of this career Marine. He has served all of us and asked very little in return. This is yet another example of the American pride among off-roaders.

Tim Orchard was impressed with David's history of racing, but it was also his devotion to the Marines that caught his attention. David wasn't always an officer. He enlisted 22 years ago and entered as a Private, working his way up to an E6 (Staff Sergeant) in 14 years. At that time, he became a Warrant officer and five years, and later promoted to Captain. Anyone who has served in the armed forces will understand this type of career isn't easy to do, and is respected when it does happen.

Tim was also moved by the fact that David has already served two tours in Iraq, along with three other overseas duty assignments. All in all, David has spent most of his military career on foreign soil. Three tours in South Korea, two in Thailand, and five years in Okinawa. So, giving him a second chance to race in a country he has spent a career defending only seemed like the right thing to do. Tim also knew how I felt about our armed forces and supporting them.

Having spent five years in the Army, I know how some troops give more than others and seeing a petty theft stop this Marine from getting a chance to race just didn't seem fair. I wasn't alone either. Many of the companies in our industry were happy to be a part of this project and give Capt. David Ogden a few parts to get him back in the racing circuit. David was able to find a used Honda 450R, similar to the one he raced in North Carolina. Tim didn't tell David exactly what was going on, but asked David to let him know as soon as he found a replacement quad.

When I finally got the opportunity to meet David, he said he had no idea how much time and trouble that Tim and Bones (at OMF) had gone through to get all these parts for his new 450R. For those who don't know, Bones is Tim's second in command at OMF. He is the guy you talk with when ordering a set of bead locks, or if you have a technical question about any of their products. David was humbled from their efforts.

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to say the least. As luck would have it, David got orders to report for a third tour to the middle east, this time in Afghanistan. He left his wife Kimberly of 11 years, and their son, along with his 450R and all its new parts, just a few days after this past New Year's Day.

Tim didn't want this project to end there. So, he told David that he'd pick up the quad and make sure that any remaining donated parts were installed on the 450R. We plan to mail David a few copies of the magazine so he can see the results. We also thought it would be nice to have a big welcome back party at the dunes when he returns. If any of you want to come and help us celebrate, check our Sand Sports Facebook page for updates on Capt. David Ogden's return.

SAND SPORTS

SOURCES

Duncan Racing
(Exhaust System, Jet Kit, Front Bumper)
<www.duncanracing.com>

Excel Tire and wheel
<www.exceltireandwheel.com>

Fullbore Innovations
(Front & Rear Plastics)
<www.fullboreinnovations.com>

IMS Products
(Fuel Tank, Hand Guards, Fluidyne Radiator)
<www.imsproducts.com>

iShock Suspension
(Complete Front End Suspension Kit)
<www.hydrodynamicusa.com>

OMF Performance
(Billet Center Beadlock Wheels, Skid Plates, Scoop Kit)
<www.omfperformance.com>

Out-N-Back Powder Coating
(Powder Coating)
(714) 981-9313

Pro Design
(Pro-Flow Air Filter Kit, Kill Switch)
<www.prodesignracing.com>

Scorpion Helmets
(Helmet)
<www.scorpionusa.com>

Shift Racing
(Riding Gear)
<www.shiftracing.com>

X-factor
(Nerf Bars & Heel Guards)
<www.x-factormotorsports.com>

Tim Orchard

Lenny Duncan

David Ogden





David L. Ogden Jr.
Captain, United States Marine Corps

1 June, 2010

Duncan Racing
10734 Kenney St, Suite A
Santee, CA 92071

On 18 September 2009, I returned from a morning of military training to my lodging facility for lunch. As I arrived, I immediately noticed that my 12' x 6' enclosed trailer, containing my race quad, riding gear, tool sets, spare parts and race support equipment had vanished. Contacting the police at once, I was able to provide pertinent information, but that day turned into a week and then another with no resolution. Overwhelmed with the feeling of devastating loss, I resigned myself to accepting the fact that I would never race again – everything I had had already been put into the stolen items and I hadn't the means to start over.

Three months later, I learned of your selfless contribution. Admittedly, my first thought was, "Why would you do this for me; someone you've never even met?" Though I'm still unsure of that answer, I must say that you have helped me in many ways. You have given me new hope that I can recover from my loss and race again. You have inspired me to give back to others and to practice your graciousness. Above all, you have exemplified American patriotism and justified my time deployed in Iraq and most recently, Afghanistan.

Having recently returned from Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, serving in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan, I am now preparing for my first race of 2010. Without you, that would not be possible and simply saying, "Thank you," does not convey my sincere gratitude for the valuable time and assistance that you have provided me. However, please enjoy the enclosed unit coin as a token of my enduring appreciation and allow it to be a reminder of the great impact that you have had on me.

Eternally grateful,


D. L. OGDEN JR