

15 August 09

DeadWalkers,

As I type this letter, many of the Marines who now carry the colors for 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 9<sup>th</sup> Marines are redeploying from our latest Designated Field Training (DFT) offsite. This training venue challenged the entire Battalion Landing Team, requiring it to conduct training simultaneously at four locations: Fort AP Hill, Fort Picket, and Quantico in Virginia & Camp Dawson in West Virginia. The men were challenged and fatigued by the terrain, weather and consistent competition among companies and attachments. This resulted in a steep learning curve for many of our newly joined brothers.

We would like to personally thank Major Ric Neumann for sharing his personal combat experiences and lessons learned. Ric drove to Fort AP Hill and spoke to each company's leadership (Team & Squad leaders, Platoon Sergeants and Platoon Commanders) prior each Company's respective live fire movement to contact. The men were captivated by Ric's talk and jaw dropped awed at the hardships our Vietnam Veterans endured. In fact, I was truly humbled by the sacrifices many of you endured in defense of our Nation. Thank you all! No words can truly do justice for the respect and admiration I feel towards each of you.



Above (L-R) 1stSgt Morgan (H&S company), Major Ric Nuemann 1/9 1968-1970, SgtMaj Corbin

Battalion Landing Team 1/9 is scheduled to deploy in early 2010. As a prelude to our deployment we will deploy to Camp Atterbury Indiana to conduct urban training. We will incorporate many of the lessons learned from our exercises and previous deployments, as well as those passed down from the "Deadwalkers" to perfect our tactics, techniques, and procedures for operating in an urban environment. This will ensure we are prepared to "fight in every climb and place." We will culminate our training by demonstrating our ability to conduct a myriad of operational tasks aboard amphibious shipping. The Battalion Landing Team will be embarked on the USS Nassau, USS Mesa Verde, and the USS Ashland.

Our 1/9 Website publishes a wide variety of unclassified information. I encourage all to reference the website to solicit and track Battalion related events. Details regarding our upcoming Birthday Ball celebration will be posted. Our Family Readiness Officer, Mrs. JeanMarie Hoopii is also available to provide reinforcing fires on all Battalion events.

Semper Fidelis,  
Bubba