

20 December, 2007

Deadwalkers,

Merry Christmas! I just got back from a three week trip to Iraq to survey our area of operation in preparation for our upcoming deployment. The Company Commanders and I spent a week in Camp Taji going through Counter-Insurgency briefings including a question and answer period with General Petraeus himself! After that we spent over a week in Ramadi looking at the facilities, environment, and the city. The difficult piece with this trip was that it occurred right on the tail of our Exercise Mojave Viper. So between the 5 weeks at 29 Palms, and the 3 weeks in Iraq, we have been moving at a break-neck pace. I just returned to Camp Lejeune yesterday, and this morning I had a pre-leave formation and addressed the men. You should have seen how quickly they changed out of uniform and got in the vehicles to drive home for leave!

I have been visited on a regular basis by Mr Robert Grubb, who has been a strong link between the Battalion and the Network. We have had two other dealings with the network over the last few months. First, we brought the Battalion colors to Arlington to participate in the burial of LtCol Jones, a former 1/9 CO. Second, we had a few Marines participate in the Bravo Company reunion in upstate New York. The Marines and Sailors of 1/9 remain very proud of the legacy you have made, and we love being connected to the network.

A few things we have continued to improve: Our website has been fully revamped, and has a lot more information than it has in the past. If you haven't had a chance, I recommend that you give it a look. It can be found using the [www.usmc.mil](http://www.usmc.mil) base site, click on "Units" on the top banner, then "Location", and you can find it under North Carolina.

**Newsletter:** Our battalion newsletter has been going out monthly. If you are interested in being on the distribution list, please email Sgt Mike Turner. He runs the lists and can be reached at: [micheal.turner@usmc.mil](mailto:micheal.turner@usmc.mil) We have had a number of problems with our distribution list, so if you think you are on the list, but you haven't received anything in more than a month, please contact Sgt Turner again. You can also find our newsletters on our website.

**Historical Items:** The network has been very gracious in providing a number of historical items to the battalion. We have had a number of books donated, many signed by the authors. Additionally, we have received many photos which we have had professionally framed and mounted on the walls of the command post. Thanks to all who have helped us regain our legacy a bit. When I took command of 1/9, the CP looked like a operating room... now we have many items that give the Marines a sense of the shoes they walk in.

**Mess Night/Ball:** We have nailed down a time for a formal event before we deploy. With our schedule in Nov/Dec, we simply couldn't make it happen in 2007, but we have the convention center in Greensboro, NC locked on for 22Feb, which is a Friday. The event will start sometime around 1800. The idea is that this will be the last time the battalion will have an opportunity to take all our families, wives, girlfriends and dress up and break bread together. We have started doing some of the detailed planning and have locked the location and date. We still need to work on fundraising, the guest of honor, and the exact scheme of maneuver. **1/9 ALUMNI ARE INVITED!** Please let GySgt Hetrick know if you are interested so we can arrange for seating, and reserve your tickets. His contact info is: [matthew.hetrick@usmc.mil](mailto:matthew.hetrick@usmc.mil) or phone 910-546-7329. As I mentioned in my last letter, the Marines will be in their nicest uniforms, and they would love to share stories with you, and see you in your suits and tuxes with all your medals. (Or your dress blues if you can get them to fit!) The ceremony will be brief, but will include adding the Global War On Terror Service Streamer to the Battalion Colors.

Thanks again to the Network for all your participation with the Battalion, and please keep in touch.

Office Phone Number: (910) 450 6371, E-mail address: [brett.bourne@usmc.mil](mailto:brett.bourne@usmc.mil)

Warmest Regards,

*Brett A. Bourne*

BRETT A. BOURNE



Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps