

# Scuttlebutt Newsletter



## Semper Fidelis



# Scuttlebutt Newsletter

## Table of Contents

**Commandants Message.....3**

**Officers Report's.....4**

**Committee's Report's.....5**

**Good of the League..... 6-7**

**Announcements.....8**

**How 1/9 Marines became  
the "Walking Dead" .....9-10**



**Monthly Business Meeting**  
**Last Wednesday of each month**  
**Muster: 1900 hours**  
**VFW Post 8587**  
**1000 N College St,**  
**Georgetown, TX.**



**Officer's Call Meeting**  
**3rd Wednesday of each**  
**month**  
**Muster: 1800 hours**  
**Simmer Down Cafe**  
**4701-1 Williamson Dr.**  
**Georgetown, TX.**



Scuttlebutt Writer, Editor and Publisher  
 T C Moyer Senior Vice Commandant  
 720-333-5465  
 usmc.topcat@gmail.com

# Scuttlebutt Newsletter

To all members

As Detachment 1022 started our new year, the lack of participation in the nominations and electing our Officers was disappointing. This election of Officers is the key to making our Detachment a successful one. These Officer's lead our detachment in the direction its members agree to take. With out your commitment as members to nominate and accept nomination for office we (detachment 1022) are failing our commitment as Marines when we say Semper Fidelis.

Our 2021 Elected Officers:

Commandant - Al McClymonds

Senior Vice Commandant - TC Moyer

Junior Vice Commandant – James Rodriguez

Judge Advocate – Charles Haight

Adjutant/Paymaster – Gus Kawell

Chaplain – Keith Longacre

Sgt-at-Arms – Jessie Galvan

Past Commandant – Bill Hoch

These Officer's make up our Board of Trustees  
Congratulations to all.

Report of Installation (ROI) by Past Chief Devil Dog Clifton Williams will take place on 31 March 2021 during our regular scheduled business meeting.

Also, our SVC TC Moyer will be sorn in as District 4 Vice Commandant by Department of Texas Junior Vice Commandant Tony Poletti.

**Dress code: Casual Uniform - RED BLAZER**

Guest are welcome  
and mask are required

Semper Fi  
*Al McClymonds*  
Commandant



# Scuttlebutt Newsletter

## Officer's Reports

### **Senior Vice Commandant - TC Moyer.**

- The two most important tasks of the detachment are the recruiting and retention of members and raising funds to run the operation and support Detachment programs and objectives.
- The more members and the more participation by members, the greater the opportunity for generating funds from outside sources, and more funds available, the more exposure the Detachment has to potential members.

### **Junior Vice Commandant - James Rodriquez**

- No Report currently

### **Judge Advocate - Charles Haight**

- No report currently

### **Adjutant/Pay Master - Gus Kawell**

- Provided Budget report and took on the Adjutant duties

### **Chaplain - Charles Levy**

- Talk about Clifton Williams medical testing, Doc Weed's medical conditions. Thoughts and prayers for individual's sick or in distress.

### **Junior Past Commandant - Bill Hoch**

- No report currently

### **Sergeant at Arms - Bill Hoch**

- No report currently

### **Web Sergeant – Jimmy Hill**

- Volunteered to take over the duties from Robert Vasquez



# Scuttlebutt Newsletter

## Committee's Reports

### **Always Faithful Exhibit - Chairperson Bobby Vasquez**

- Florence Library currently has the Display. In May it will go to Jarrell Library. I'm still in the process of locking in other locations.

### **Raffle - Chairperson Jesse Galvan**

- With the cost of firearms, the committee will investigate alternative raffle options and bring forward for motion and vote.

### **5K Run - Chairperson James Rodriguez**

- On hold

### **Recruiting Opportunities - Chairperson James Rodriguez**

- Working on setting our recruiting goals
- Determining the best locations and events to recruit new members

### **Marine Corps Birthday Ball - Chairperson John "Doc" Weed**

- Our biggest concern is what's going to happen with COVID 19 requirements.
- Looking into 3 options for Hall availability
- Looking into 3 catering options
- We need to take a survey ( FB, Emails, Web site word of mouth to get a count of how many people would buy tickets. This way we would see if it's feasible or not to have a MCBB.

### **Awards and Certificates - Chairperson ( TBD)**

- Committee develop a spreadsheet of all awards and certificates for each member starting with 2021
- Awards and Certificate members : Clifton Williams, Joe Pondrom, Chuck Katalenas, Harold Erixon and TC Moyer



# Scuttlebutt Newsletter

## Good for the League

### JROTC Awards Ceremony Dates

- Round Rock H.S. No Date Scheduled yet Scholarship
- East View H.S. No Date Scheduled yet
- Hendrickson H.S. April 18, 2021 at 1830 Scholarship
- Vista Ridge H.S. April 27, 2021 at 1800
- Hutto H.S. No Date Scheduled yet
- Stony Point H.S. No Date Scheduled yet
- McNeil H.S. 3<sup>rd</sup> week in May
- Westwood H.S. No Date Scheduled yet

The Awards committee will have awards ready to present to the individuals. We need a good showing at these ceremonies from our Detachment. Dress code is CASUAL UNIFORM - RED BLAZER



# Scuttlebutt Newsletter

## Good for the League

Here are the next major conventions/conference events.

### Dept of Tx MCL

Date: June 24-26, 2021

Location: Waco, Tx

Place: 1801 N Development Blvd., Waco, Texas 76705

Holiday Inn & Suites Waco Northwest

Reference Link: <https://txmcl.org>

We will have a half page advertisement of our Detachment in the Department Convention program book.

Joe Pondrom will check to see if he has old ads, and provide them to the Adjutant/Paymaster and Commandant for review.

### Fall Conference

Now accepting Detachment bids for 2021-2022

### 2021 MCL National Convention

Date: August 8-13, 2021

Location: Springfield, IL.

Place: 700 E. Adams Street, Springfield, IL.

Wyndham Springfield City Centre

### Devil Dogs

The next Pound 311 Growl is scheduled for 20 March 2021

At the VFW Post 8587

1000 N College St,

Georgetown, TX

Start at 10:30 am that's 1030 hrs. for you Pups.

[Wearing a mask is required](#)



*Coffee and food will be available or bring food only for yourself.*

[Remember to send your dues check to Bill Hoch or pay him at the Growl](#)

### For the Children

Many people think that we MODD are all just about fun and games and our own Marine machismo, however, we are not. It is the purpose of what we do that gives meaning to all of it. Every year we gather in a different part of the country and present our donation to different hospitals, we donate to Children's Hospitals and Veteran's Hospitals.

## Announcements

### Department of Texas MCL

Department Commandant James Harvey appointed Thomas "TC" Moyer to the position of District 4 Vice Commandant.

TC is currently the Williamson County #1022 Detachment Senior Vice Commandant, a Life Member and a Devil Dog.

TC was the Detachment Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant, and Web Sergeant for Windsor Marines Detachment 904 in Denver before moving to Texas.

### Changes and improvements to the Marine Corps Rifle Qualification

<https://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/your-marine-corps/2021/02/23/the-new-marine-corps-rifle-qualification-is-here/>





## How 1/9 Marines Became "The Walking Dead"

In the annals of Marine Corps history there are many [famous units](#) and numerous [famous men](#). There are tales of valor and loss. But one unit truly exemplifies these traditions through its actions and its enduring nickname: the Walking Dead. Through nearly four years of combat in Vietnam, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Marines earned its place in Marine Corps history.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion first arrived in Vietnam in June 1965 as part of the troop increase and escalation that year as U.S. forces took over most combat operations from the South Vietnamese. By August they were involved in offensive combat operations as part of Operation Blastout — a search and clear mission.

More missions continued throughout 1965 and into 1966. In their first year in Vietnam the Marines of 1/9 would [conduct hundreds of company-sized or larger missions](#). The Marines of the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, as part of a greater effort by the 9<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, also developed the [SPARROW HAWK](#) concept. This was essentially a heliborne quick reaction force that could be called in to help win a fight in which Marines on patrol had found themselves. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Marines then rotated out of Vietnam for a few brief months beginning in October 1966.

When the unit returned in December 1966 the operations tempo greatly increased. The 1<sup>st</sup> battalion Marines started 1967 with the anti-climactic Operation Deckhouse V. From there operations picked up in the 9<sup>th</sup> Marines tactical area of responsibility. This area just south of the Demilitarized Zone became known as "[Leatherneck Square](#)" for the high number of Marine casualties. The Marines there swore the wind, rather than blowing, made a sucking sound. It was in this area that the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 9<sup>th</sup> Marines became the legendary Walking Dead.

The battalion participated in three phases of Operation Prairie within Leatherneck Square. Casualties were heavy as the Marines conducted search-and-destroy missions. In less than a month through mid-1967, Marine casualties during Prairie IV were 167 killed, and over 1,200 wounded.

In July, 1/9 participated in Operation Buffalo, a clearing mission up Highway 561. On the first day of the operation, July 2, the Marines of A and B companies encountered strong NVA resistance. The fighting was bitter. The NVA used flamethrowers to burn the vegetation and force the Marines into the open. An NVA artillery round wiped out the entire company headquarters for B company.

Soon the commander of 1/9 sent in C and D companies to relieve the battered Marines. With significant support they were finally able to force the NVA to break contact. The [battalion suffered](#) 84 Marines killed and 190 wounded. The next day only 27 Marines from B company and 90 from A company were fit for duty. A combination of the remnants of Companies A and C several days later was able to get some payback on the NVA, inflicting 154 enemy killed. By the middle of July Operation Buffalo came to an end. Almost immediately the men of the 9<sup>th</sup> Marines were back in action as part of Operation Kingfisher in the Western portion of Leatherneck Square. This operation drug on until the end of October 1967. The [sporadic but intense combat](#) saw another 340 Marines killed and over 1,400 wounded in Leatherneck Square.

## How 1/9 Marines Became "The Walking Dead"

January 1968 found the battalion reinforcing the infamous Khe Sanh Combat Base just south of the Demilitarized Zone and west of Leatherneck Square. The Marines at Khe Sanh not only held the base but also fought in the hills surrounding it. Just over a week before the Tet Offensive began on January 30, 1968, the North Vietnamese began laying siege to Khe Sanh. Some 6,000 Marines, including 1/9, would endure daily shelling and close-combat for 77 days before being relieved.

In all, 205 Americans were killed and over 1,600 wounded [defending Khe Sanh](#). A further 200 Marines died in the bloody fighting in the hills surrounding Khe Sanh. The lifting of the siege was hardly the end for the Walking Dead though. Immediately upon relief of duty from the defense of Khe Sanh they began Operation Scotland II to clear the area nearby. Following the conclusion of Scotland II, the Marines of 1/9 returned to the Con Thien area and took part in Operation Kentucky. This action would last until near the end of 1968.

In early 1969, the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, as part of the larger 9<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, launched Operation Dewey Canyon, the last major Marine Corps operation in Vietnam. During this time the Marines swept through the NVA controlled A Shau valley and other areas near the DMZ. In a heroic action on February 22, 1968, then-Lt. Wesley Fox earned the [Medal of Honor](#). The Marines suffered over 1,000 casualties during the operation. The entire regiment was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for their extraordinary heroism during Operation Dewey Canyon.

The Walking Dead — along with the rest of the 9<sup>th</sup> Marines — redeployed from Vietnam in the summer of 1969 to Okinawa.

The name "[the Walking Dead](#)" was originally used by Ho Chi Minh talking about the Marines in the A Shau valley. Later, after the 1<sup>st</sup>Battalion suffered extraordinarily high casualty rates, they used the term to describe themselves.

Of a standard battalion strength of 800 Marines, the battalion had 747 killed in action with many times that number wounded. They also were in sustained combat operations for just short of four years. Both of these are Marine Corps records.



# ***1/9 Marines Oorah!***