



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
UNIT 35601
FPO AP 96382-5601

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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CG
5 Jan 23

MEMORANDUM

From: Commanding General

To: Current and Former Members of 3d Battalion, 3d Marines

Subj: DEACTIVATION OF 3D BATTALION, 3D MARINES

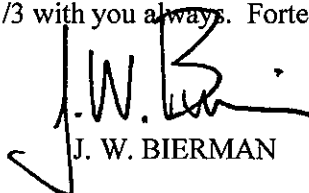
1. In short order the colors will be cased on 3d Battalion, 3d Marines. 3/3 is as storied a Marine battalion as any that have marched through the proud annals of our Corps. The legacy of 3/3 dates to the early days of the Pacific Campaign. Since then, 3/3 has seen action in every clime and place; the battalion has persevered and triumphed through many of the toughest and bloodiest battles in our history. The hard fighting Marines and Sailors of "America's Battalion" have served bravely in Bougainville, Guam, the Republic of Vietnam, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Notably, 3/3 spent more time in Vietnam and participated in more combat operations there than any other Marine battalion.

2. This deactivation is hard and cannot help but come with a sense of loss in all who have served in the battalion. For a number of veterans, and many currently serving, the entirety of service was in 3/3, and so the tight-knit battalion completely defined the experience of being a Marine. Even as each of you wipe away a tear and steel your heart, take great comfort in the fact that the proud memories and the strong relationships will endure.

3. My duties do not permit my attendance at the deactivation ceremony at Dewey Square, but I will be thinking of each of you and 3/3 on 13 January. As a battalion commander I was proud to serve alongside 3/3 in combat in Iraq, then later to count the battalion in the ranks as a Regimental, Division, and MEF commander. I feel a strong bond with the men and women of the battalion.

4. Throughout the history of our Corps, famous battalions and squadrons have furled and sheathed their colors, only to return to duty later. This has been the case with 3/3. The battalion was first deactivated in 1945, then reactivated in 1951. The second deactivation occurred in 1974; after only a year, the battalion returned to duty for over four decades of honorable and faithful service. We all look forward to the day when the proud colors and streamers of 3/3 are again uncased.

5. Sergeant Major Eric Cook and Command Master Chief Curtis Blunt join me in saluting all past and present members of "America's Battalion" one last time. Best of luck to you and your families in all your future endeavors; carry the spirit and pride of 3/3 with you always. Fortes Fortuna Juvat.


J. W. BIERMAN