



**John A Barnes III (MOH)  
New England Chapter 9  
173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Association  
Newsletter**



September 2009

Welcome back for what we hope was a healthy and enjoyable summer. Our "active" time of year is again upon us: general membership meetings, officer meetings, and mailed newsletters. We continue to be a strong, vibrant Chapter, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest to only the active BDE. Our membership is in excess of 400 members and growing.

Chapter General Elections are December 19<sup>th</sup>. If you are considering running for any position, now is the time to let us know. Our current President and Vice President are not running for re-election, so all positions are available. There are also non-elected positions available. Email Dennis Hill and let him know your intentions: [dhill173@verizon.net](mailto:dhill173@verizon.net), or call 781-769-6062. These are 2 year terms. This must be done prior to Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, see the enclosed flyer for positions and requirements.



President:

Greetings to all

The last few weeks have been busy for a few members of chapter 9, because only a few get involved. From Daytona to Rhode Island to Cape Cod I have run across members of chapter nine who constantly say the same thing". I need to get more involved with the chapter", or "I really miss being associated with the chapter" and even "I don't have the time to get involved with the chapter". Again the simple solution is to go on -line, look at the troopers than live near you and initiate a simple phone call to them. You do have something in common with the person that you call and if not now, when? Are you going to wait until your too old to dial the phone, then find out you missed out on some simple enjoyment by not calling someone that lives near you and just saying hello to a fellow trooper that you shared some of the same turf with. Don't wait, make it a point to call a fellow 173rd trooper and see where the call takes you.

We have elections coming soon. Again you don't have to live in the Boston area to toss your name into the ring, distances can be worked out. If you have the interest and can help the chapter we need you. Now is the time to step up to the plate.

Have you ever thought about the deactivation of the 173rd Airborne Brigade in 1972 and then the reactivation of the unit just before the Gulf war?

C.S.M. Rollings spoke about this in Daytona Beach. After the 173rd was deactivated a lot of people were asking how can a unit with such a history be deactivated? Nobody had the answer. Because of the legacy left behind in Viet Nam, because of all the losses, sacrifices, awards, and because of all the history created by the 173rd Airborne Brigade paratroopers the army had to go to the infantry museum to retrieve the colors and reactivated the 173rd again.

If you wore the patch you are part of the legacy. When you go to your final resting place, you will be leaving a great and important legacy behind you. Become involved with the chapter, don't isolate from the troopers that made history.

If not now, when?

Sincerely  
Frederick Lewis  
Chapter9 (President)

Secretary: 

Here we are at the end of September and we have just passed the eighth anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup>. We must never forget the day that the United States was attacked on our own soil. We must **Never Forget!**

The chapter is now a "not for profit 501-C-19" Veteran's organization. If you need a tax write off at the end of the year you can now donate to the Chapter and write it off.

The chapter will now start accepting dues for the year 2010. Please take a moment and pay your dues. The chapter relies on dues to help defray all of the costs associated with running this chapter.

The chapter has an excellent website and we encourage all members to take a look, and to please sign the guest book. This is your chapter website and it can be of great benefit to you if you use it correctly. Take a look at the following: [www.newenglandskysoldier.com](http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com). In the fall of this year the troopers of the 173<sup>rd</sup> will once again be going down range to Afghanistan. The chapter will again support Chosen Company 2/503. Once they arrive in country and get situated, the chapter will start sending packages to the troopers. All money received for this purpose by way of donations will be utilized on the troops. All donations are greatly accepted.

The chapter is readying for our first membership meeting since the summer break. We hope that many of you will step forward and attend the meetings and help to make our Chapter even stronger. There is strength in numbers.

Speaking about numbers in the last year and a half this Chapter has recruited over ninety-five new members. Our roster now holds the names of over 400 troopers past and present. Do all that you can to recruit new members. Wear your colors proudly, you might bump into a trooper who does not know about the chapter.

Do you need a New England Chapter 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade hat? The Chapter has them in stock. Price is only \$20.00 plus shipping costs. Contact me and I will mail you one. While you're at it, look on the chapter web page under PX and see all of the items up for sale by the chapter. <http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/PX.html>

I want to speak about membership and National. National and our Chapter are at odds over our membership. There appears to be a problem with names of our members missing on National's roster. This problem is not unique to our Chapter, other chapters are also affected. This problem will be pursued by the Chapter with National in the months to come, and at Mid Winter Conference. It is very important that you have your membership card issued from National or cancelled check. It may come down to this should you will need to prove your membership status. Take a few moments and ensure that you have your membership card. If you are an annual member (2009), get your dues into the Chapter Secretary (me) as soon as you are able. If you are a life member and don't have a card, contact me, a replacement card is offered through National at a cost of \$10.00.

I want to mention something that is very important. If you have wishes to have the Chapter attend your funeral service some day, It is important to advise your family of your wishes. Let your family know how to contact the Chapter. The chapter can assist your family in regards to obtaining benefits etc. This has happened far too many times in the past year. I wish for no one to leave us, but make your family aware of your wishes. Do you want a military funeral, this is offered to all veterans and their spouse through the VA at no charge. <http://www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil>.

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**Meet Our Members:** General John Deane Jr.

Because there is so much to say about General Deane, his Bio is on our website, as well as these comments on "the Jump" in Vietnam. General Deane was the commanding General of the 173<sup>rd</sup> from Dec 66 – 67. [http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/Meet\\_Great.html](http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/Meet_Great.html)

*"It may interest you to know the reason for the parachute assault we made in Vietnam on February 22, 1967.*

*In late 1966, I was with the First Infantry Division. I knew, although it was not public knowledge, that I would join the 173d Airborne Brigade that December.*

*In my years on the General Staff in the Pentagon, I had observed first hand how the supporters of armor and mechanized units tried to eliminate the Army's airborne capability in the competition for the dollars allocated to the Army. I believed very firmly the Army needed the airborne capability*

*and felt an airborne operation in Vietnam would strengthen the view that airborne operations were practical and useful. I feared General Westmoreland would not support the idea of conducting an airborne assault. It had certain risks and was not essential.*

*One night the Chief of Staff of the Vietnamese Army came to dinner at the First Division. I suggested to him a joint Vietnamese-U.S. airborne operation. He jumped at the idea. I suggested he get Westmoreland to lay it on. He did, so we made the jump as a result of my sneaky subterfuge. In Operation JUNCTION CITY, the air lift of one battalion saved over 100 helicopter sorties and thus the whole force of the operation was in place in far less time.*

*Later, I commanded the 82nd Airborne. At one point it appeared it might be necessary to make an emergency evacuation of American citizens from Amman, Jordan. We were given the mission of seizing the commercial airport at Amman so the Air Force airlift could land and evacuate our people. The only way it could be done was by parachute. Jordan has only one seacoast, a small strip of land on the Red Sea hundreds of miles from Amman where the Americans were located. We never had to execute the mission, but we had the capability. I did not hear any talk about how the armor could take care of it at that time, a time of the potential of a real life emergency, but I did feel the situation demonstrated clearly the need for Airborne. “*

John R. Deane, Jr.  
General, US Army (Ret.)

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### **Last Word:**

Chapter General Elections will be during the Dec Membership Meeting. We, as a democracy have the honor of choosing our leaders. This is probably the most important meeting of the year. Dec 19<sup>th</sup>, come, have your voice heard as to who will lead the Chapter in the coming 2 years. We hope, to see you there.

“Only the dead have seen the end of war”

Plato

As always, we wish you a good door position and safe landing