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## TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR MARINES AND SAILORS;

Along with Sergeant Major Alsleben, allow me to welcome you to one of the most well respected infantry battalions in our Marine Corps: 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, also known as “1/8” or “V18”.

Congratulations on your Marines’ achievements thus far; becoming a Marine is a life-changing event. For our sailors, serving with the “Green Side” is also a life-changing event. We expect our corpsmen to live alongside, train with, and care for our Marines. America expects her Marine Corps to be most ready when the nation is least ready; I am committed to upholding these expectations. The infantry battalion is the unit of measure in the Marine Corps. We train, deploy, and operate as a battalion. As the Nation’s crisis response force, we must be prepared to deploy anywhere in the world to protect our Nation’s interests. Transitioning into the operating force and maintaining a high level of readiness is tough work; it requires a tremendous amount of dedication from each member of the V18 family.

My expectation of all Marines and sailors in this battalion is that they are well led, well-disciplined and well respected. This simple, but universal, standard represents an ethos of how we live, how we train, and how we fight. It requires significant dedication and total commitment, as well as a climate of trust and respect up and down the chain of command. Sergeant Major Alsleben and I are charged with developing the leadership of the battalion. By our example, we will establish an environment, which develops the future leaders of our Marine Corps. Discipline comes in many forms and I expect our Marines and sailors to exercise discipline in every aspect of their lives, professionally and personally. Finally, we will earn respect from our friends, and our foes will respect us for the lethality and proficiency we bring to the fight.

During pre-deployment training, the battalion will be busy and family life will be challenging. I appreciate the sacrifice that each family makes during training and deployment. I view family as critical to our success; a happy family ensures a happy, focused Marine or sailor. All of us at V18 recognize that a Marine or sailor’s deployment readiness and mission effectiveness is directly tied to stability on the home front. Taking care of our families is a mission critical task for the battalion, and it’s the right thing to do for those who serve and sacrifice so much at home. My goal is to ensure timely, accurate, and frequent communication with our families so that they are always informed and prepared when the Nation calls.

Welcome to 1st Battalion, 8th Marines. We look forward to serving with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Justin J. Ansel".

Lieutenant Colonel Justin J. Ansel  
Commanding Officer / 'Beirut 6'  
1st Battalion, 8th Marines