



Sgt. William Long, United States Marine Corps and Army National Guard

Sgt. William Long is a 1984 graduate of Wallenpaupack Area High School. His Marine Corps career began in November of 1983 when he was inspired to join the Delayed Enlistment Program following the October 23rd terrorist bombing of the Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. This was a devastating attack that claimed the lives of 241 Marines, sailors, and soldiers. Then in September of 1984, Sgt. Long entered Marine Corps boot camp at Paris Island, SC. Upon graduation, he was promoted to Private First Class meritoriously due to his successful recruitment of two other high school seniors during delayed enlistment.

Sgt. Long was sent to Camp Pendleton, CA to attend Infantry Training School to be a machine gunner. William became a platoon guide during training and was subsequently promoted to Lance Corporal meritoriously. He was assigned to barracks duty in Bay, Laguna, Philippines to protect the naval magazine at the port. During this duty, Sgt. Long held various leadership positions such as Corporal of the Guard, Sergeant of the Guard, and the coveted position of patrol leader. While serving as Lance Corporal, during patrols Sgt. Long would lead his team on various routes and strategic locations in the naval magazine to thwart trespassers who would use the jungle to infiltrate the important facility.

As Lance Corporal, Sgt. Long was recommended for meritorious promotion. After a successful bid in front of the promotion board, he was promoted to Corporal, making him a Noncommissioned Officer in the United States Marine Corps. As Corporal, Sgt. Long returned to the Fleet Marine Force and was assigned to 3rd Battalion 6th Marines in Camp Lejeune, NC. Sgt. Long was assigned as Machine Gun Leader in Weapons Platoon of Kilo Company. In this position he would deploy to the Mediterranean Sea.

The Marines made up the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit/Special Operations Capable, which is the same unit designation of the Marines in Lebanon 1983! During this deployment the unit trained with various foreign militaries such as the French Foreign Legion and in unique locations such as Corsica and Sardinia. The battle group even returned to the coast of Lebanon for the possible mission of evacuating the American Embassy during unrest in the region. It was during and after this deployment that Sgt. Long was recognized for his leadership and fieldcraft and was transferred to the Surveillance Target Acquisition Platoon (STA). He was selected to attend the coveted Marine Corps Scout Sniper School at Camp Lejeune, NC and was subsequently promoted to Sergeant where he became Chief Scout of the platoon. Sgt. Long joined his unit on deployment to Okinawa, Japan and Mount Fuji, Japan. During this deployment, Sgt. Long was selected to be part of a six-Marine contingent to represent his regiment in Korea during an interdivision rifle match. Upon return from Okinawa, Sgt. Long left the Marine Corps in 1989.

In 2000, Sgt. Long joined the Army National Guard. After the terroristic attacks in 2001, he was deployed along with Alpha Company 1/109th to Bosnia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Although this unit was mechanized, Sgt. Long found himself in the position of patrol leader responsible for presence patrols escorting the company commander to meet various dignitaries and local authorities. Sgt. Long completed his four-year enlistment with the Army National Guard in 2004.

The awards Sgt. Long has received include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, National Defense Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, Global War on Terror Service Medal, the French Fourragere, Overseas Service Ribbon, and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. Badges include Marine Corps Rifle Expert 5th Award, Marine Corps Pistol Expert 4th Award, Army Rifle Expert Badge.

Sgt. Long currently works for the National Park Service at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. He lives with his wife Michele and faithful dog Willy in Tafton PA.