

# EVERY BATTLE IS WON BEFORE IT IS EVER FOUGHT...

- Sun Tzu, "The Art of War"

## Excerpts from an interview with Gunnery Sergeant Ryan P. Shane

by Ted Westmoreland

This series of photos (right) depicts a rescue in the streets of Fallujah, Iraq and was featured in a Newsweek article. In the first photo Gy. Sgt. Ryan P. Shane runs from a covered position to a wounded Marine shot through the femoral artery. As Gy. Sgt. Shane begins dragging him to cover, the enemy continues to fire at the two Marines and they are then joined by Navy Corpsman, HM Joel Lambott (second photo). As the Marines of the 1<sup>st</sup> BN 8<sup>th</sup> Marines provide covering fire, Gy. Sgt. Shane is shot several times in his body armor by machine gun fire. While bending over, one round impacts his back below his body armor and spins him to the ground (third photo). The Marines respond with a high rate of suppressive fire and a group is able to recover the wounded and eventually defeat the enemy. Although severely wounded and previously reported as deceased, Gy. Sgt. Shane survives his injury due to the efforts of HM Lambott and his fellow Marines.

When we recently asked him about the problem presented by casualty movement on the modern battlefield he said, **"The number one thing that will slow down your plan in a firefight is not the enemy – it is casualties."** The plan that the US Marines executed in this battle was well practiced and included a highly developed casualty collection plan. They even rehearsed casualty loading onto the same vehicles that were going on the operation. In a twist of fate the Marines practiced with one of their largest members – Gunnery Sgt. Ryan P. Shane. Of this he said, **"You have to plan how you are going to deal with casualties because momentum wins battles...casualties crush momentum".**

This rescue and other heroic actions by the United States Marines charged with taking back the city of Fallujah are featured in a book entitled "On Call in Hell" by their physician, Dr. Richard Jadick. Every rescue from this book and from our modern battlefield has the same problem: **How can you quickly and efficiently move a casualty in urban combat?** At North American Rescue we believe that the modern warrior should be equipped with the rescue tools necessary to recapture initiative on the battlefield. With the infusion of aggressive high threat extraction techniques, the Warfighter will be better able to maintain a tactical advantage.



PHOTOS: SGT. JOEL A. CHAVERRI - USMC- AP (3)

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- Decrease Manpower Needs in Zeroed in Location
- Utilize Improved Body Mechanics to Rapidly Extract Larger Weight
- Maintain Engagement With Threat



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