



1st Battalion, 1st Marines

RIGHT OF LINE FIRST AFOOT

NEWSLETTER

September 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Greetings Family and Friends of BLT 1/1,

While October doesn't bring a change to the color of the leaves on the trees here in California, it does signify that we are one step closer to deployment. September saw the BLT mostly focused on executing amphibious raids, the heart and soul of the BLT mission while afloat. The raid courses were led by the Special Operations Training Group, and to no surprise the feedback from the SOTG instructors was that all of the BLT units performed superbly. Every element of BLT 1/1 also spent time in the field performing company-level sustainment training to ensure Marines and sailors remain technically and tactically proficient. This included demolitions training, platoon-level live-fire attacks, marksmanship refinement, hand-to-hand combat skills, and 12-mile conditioning hikes.

October will be the first time that all of the Marines from BLT 1/1 will train aboard the same ships they will deploy on. Companies will get a chance to conduct amphibious raids on simulated targets ashore while operating from ships far off the coast of Camp Pendleton. Operating aboard ship also gives Marines an opportunity to work with the Navy personnel they will serve alongside while on deployment. A lot of training is needed to master the planning and execution of these challenging missions, so the BLT can expect to participate in more of these exercises in the coming months.

As we get closer to deployment, I highly encourage spouses and families to take advantage of the many programs our Family Readiness Officer and the Battalion Chaplain have made available. Rick Andersen and Chaplain Owens have information available on a wide range of programs that can help prepare family members for the upcoming deployment. These programs help reduce the stress of family separation and can also lead to establishing great friendships that will last a lifetime. The unit will be holding some social events for spouses and families to attend in the coming months which will also help increase the bond between families while Marines are away training.

Don't forget that BLT 1/1 will be celebrating the 235th Marine Corps Birthday at the end of this month. I look forward to seeing many of you at our annual Birthday Ball in what promises to be a very enjoyable event. For those unable to attend, we will be sure to post photos on our Facebook Page. I look forward to updating you again in November.

Semper Fidelis,

LtCol C.R. Wonson



LtCol Craig R. Wonson



SgtMaj Jonathan Henry

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First Battalion, First Marines Facebook Page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Oceanside-CA/1st-Battalion-1st-Marines-FIRST-OF-THE-FIRST/11208242257039>

First Battalion, First Marines Website:

<http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/1stmardiv/1stmarregt/1-1/>



ALPHA COMPANY NEWS

Dear Families and Friends of Alpha Company “Team Mech”,



September solidified our Mechanized Team, with the exception of our tank platoon, through a highly successful series of ranges and exercises. While the tank platoon was conducting extremely successful gunnery drills and preparing to move down to Camp Pendleton, the remainder of Team Mech conducted mechanized familiarization training, the SOTG Mechanized Raid Course, and a live-fire platoon-sized Mechanized Assault range.

The mechanized training came fast and furious, but the company performed extraordinarily well and is fully prepared for our at sea periods and the upcoming deployment. Following last month’s introductory mechanized training, Red Death Marines completed a fun but informative period of training in AAV water survival skills. After receiving classes from the Amtrackers, our Marines loaded into the AAVs, swam into the boat basin at Del Mar, and conducted disabled vehicle drills. It was valuable training, and a fun opportunity to get cold and wet.

Immediately following that week, the fourth week of September was the full-blown SOTG Mechanized Raid course. Beginning on Sunday evening, the action did not stop until the final night raid was completed early Friday morning. Despite a continuous op-cycle, little sleep, and 3 consecutive full-profile raids, the Marines of Team Mech performed magnificently. The lessons learned from the Mech Raid Course were invaluable for the development of the company, and the ability of the Marines to immediately implement lessons learned to improve the following operation drew great praise from the SOTG staff.

Following the Mech Raid Course, the company moved immediately into preparations and execution of Battalion FEX IV. Battalion FEX IV began with a 12-mile tactical movement from Camp Horno to R408, followed by platoon live-fire mechanized attacks. The range challenged the platoons at all levels, incorporating multiple levels of supporting arms, integration with AAVs, and squad fire and movement over difficult terrain. Again, due to the outstanding leadership of the NCOs within the company, Red Death demolished the range.

For the majority of September, 2nd Platoon has been conducting an advanced training package with Force Recon at Port Hueneme to prepare them for MEU operations.

In October, Alpha Company “Team Mech” will conduct a Red Death Challenge, and then move into our first at-sea period. During the at-sea period, Team Mech will be the main effort, and will execute a full-spectrum amphibious mechanized raid on San Clemente Island.

Congratulations to the following Marines for their honorary graduation:

Sgt Hruba – Graduated with Honors & Instructors Choice Award, Infantry Assault Leaders Course

LCpl Reiersgord – Honor Graduate, Infantry Mortar Leaders Course

I would like to welcome the following Marines to the Company:

Cpl Fredericks

Cpl Lemons

PFC Mathis

Congratulations to the following Marines and their families on their meritorious promotion:

Cpl Carruba

Congratulations to the following Marines and their families on their promotion:

LCpl Baldwin

LCpl Langley

LCpl Zabel

PFC Eichmann

Congratulations to the following Marines for their recent awards:

Certificate of Commendation: Sgt Lara

Good Conduct Medal: Cpl Hackmack, LCpl Connoyer, LCpl Barrwilson, LCpl Dodd, LCpl Bradley, LCpl Valentine

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for what you do to help, encourage, and motivate your Marine or Sailor in his professional duties. I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you, and ask that you continue to provide your invaluable support to your Marine.

Semper Fidelis,

Capt. J. Richardson



BRAVO COMPANY NEWS



Dear Families and Friends of Bravo Company,

September was a very busy month for the company. We started the month by attending the Helicopter-borne Raid Course hosted by Special Operations Training Group (SOTG). The training was intense and comprised three raids with two being executed during the day and one at night. Every raid was encountered by stiff resistance, but the Marines performed very well as usual. Upon completion of the raid course, Bravo Company spent the next week conducting a Leadership Close Combat Exercise (LCCX) in the Camp Horno gym. This evolution focuses on physical toughness, teamwork, and maneuver warfare. Every squad going through the hour-long session learned a tremendous amount about themselves, their fellow Marines, and the importance of our warfighting concepts.

During the same week, the battalion hosted a Command Post Dedication for the former and present Marines of our great battalion. The day was marked with an outstanding ceremony that paid tribute to the service and sacrifice of Marines both past and present.

During the third week of September, the Raiders rotated through two days at Kilo Two (K2) Combat Town and one day at Range 800. At K2, the platoons focused on urban patrolling and urban attacks. We utilized Special Effects Small Arms Marking System (SESAMS) ammunition to bring realism to the training. These rounds are very similar to paintball rounds, but they travel a lot faster! At Range 800, each platoon conducted live fire supported day and night attacks. This training was critical in preparing the Bravo Company Marines for Battalion Field Exercise IV (BN FEX IV), which we just completed at the end of the month. During BN FEX IV, the platoons conducted live fire supported attacks with multiple supporting agencies to include heavy machine guns, 81mm and 60mm mortars, and aviation fires. Overall, I am very proud of the Marines' efforts this month.

The following Marines were promoted during the month of September:

- Gunnery Sergeant Tobey J. Owens
- Corporal Guillermo M. Martinez
- Lance Corporal Michael S. Costa
- Lance Corporal Johnnie J. Mosshiller
- Lance Corporal Arias A. Oliver
- Private First Class Hygor F. Lopes

The following Marine was meritoriously promoted during the month of September:

- Corporal Clinton C. Dube

The following Marines reenlisted during the month of September:

- Corporal Clinton C. Dube
- Lance Corporal Jose E. Arenas

In October, Bravo Company will embark on its first at sea period. This training is vital to our ability to conduct amphibious operations from ship to shore. Until next month, fair winds and following seas.

Semper Fidelis,

Capt. C. D. Godwin



CHARLIE COMPANY NEWS



Dear Families and Friends of Chosen Company,

September flew by as the Marines and Sailors of Chosen Company continued preparations for our upcoming deployment. September was filled with training for operations in urban environments as well as completing many of the pre-deployment related administrative tasks.

One of the highlights of the year for Chosen Marines and Sailors was a reunion with Charlie I/I Marine veterans from the Korean War era. On 9 September, more than 60 Charlie Company veterans and their families descended upon Camp Horno for a day with your Marines and Sailors. Chosen Company was honored to have an opportunity to take these veterans and families to lunch in the Camp Horno chow hall and socialize with them at Puller's Post (a Camp Horno watering hole named for Chesty Puller, a Korean War veteran himself and a Marine Corps legend.) Your Marines also put on a fantastic display of our modern weapons, radios, protective gear, and vehicles which allowed these veterans the opportunity to see how the Marine Corps has developed in the years since they last saw combat. A special thanks goes out to the Marines from Weapons Company, H&S Company, and Fox Battery who selflessly gave their time to us for that special day, helping make this reunion an unforgettable experience for both veterans and present-day warriors alike.

Chosen company also participated in the dedication ceremony for the new Battalion Command Post, providing another superb static weapons display and Medal of Honor citation readers for that ceremony.

As we enter into October, it is time to focus on our historic ties to our brothers in blue...the United States Navy. Chosen Company embarks in the middle of this month for the first of four at-sea periods, where we will learn the intricacies of working and living aboard the USS Boxer and begin exercising our long-range helicopterborne raid capability from ship to shore. We have one at-sea period per month scheduled between now and our deployment early next year, and we are excited to get underway.

As the at-sea periods signal, we're edging closer to our overseas deployment and with that comes an added burden on you and your Marines and Sailors. It is more important now than ever that you and your Marine or Sailor begin talking about the deployment and how it will impact your family. I need your help to ensure that we have updated contact information for you and that your Marine or Sailor has his personal affairs in order. This includes things like powers of attorney, automated bill payments, updated car insurance and registration, and of course last wills and testaments. This can seem overwhelming and these conversations uncomfortable, but it is tremendously important that you and your Marine or Sailor have these discussions and make the appropriate preparations.

Before I make our monthly announcements, I want to introduce our new Company First Sergeant, 1stSgt Bilenski. He joins us from Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment right here in Camp Horno. He and his wife Cinnamon, a GySgt in the Marine Corps, have five children. The Company First Sergeant serves as my senior enlisted advisor and assistant and his primary role is to advocate for your Marine or Sailor. Like me, 1stSgt Bilenski believes that a leader of Marines must serve those he leads, and I am especially proud to serve your Marine or Sailor by his side.

Chosen Company is proud to make the following announcements for the month of September:

Promotions to LCpl

- Kevin R. Ritchey	Alex J. Spencer	Logan T. Watters	Gabriel P. Waddle
- Austin D. Smith	Jarret M. Stephens	Richard R. Alexander	Patrick L. Wagner

Promotions to Cpl

- Jarrod M. Ruhland	David C. Johnson	Spencer N. Holmes
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Chosen Company welcomes the following Marines to the unit:

- SSgt Michael A. Couture
- Cpl Flynn W. Dillard

The newest member of Chosen Company belongs to PFC Zachary D. Lee and his wife Sarah, who now have a new baby girl named Sophia, born on 18 Sep 2010. Congratulations!

Please let me know if there is anything Meredith or I can do for you.

Semper Fidelis,

Capt. N. Simpson



H&S COMPANY NEWS

Dear Families and Friends of Headquarters and Service Company,

September was another busy month for our warriors. The battalion took part in a field exercise during the last week of the month and H&S Marines provided lift, communication and ammunition for the weeklong event.



In addition, the Marines and Sailors who were not directly involved in supporting the battalion exercise took part in a company event, learning all aspects of base security. When the MEU goes ashore, H&S Company will be responsible for providing a guard force and we are a step closer in preparing our security measures if we are so tasked.

The training culminated in a late-night 12 mile hike through Camp Pendleton.

The remainder of the month kept everyone busy packing and loading for our first at-sea period. The ships will be loaded soon and we will put to sea in October for about ten days. You can think of it as field time, except we'll be on a ship, working on building our relationships with the other components of the MEU.

In short, September was yet another month where our Marines and Sailors earned every penny of their paycheck and in October the BLT makes another huge step toward deploying.

Since last month's newsletter we have had some new additions to our family here in H&S Company.

Some of our Marines in Communications section welcomed babies into their homes; LCpl Wendell E. Tavarez had a daughter- Katelynn, born Sept. 2, weighing in at 8 pounds 9 ounces and 21 inches long.

SSgt Hieu N Nguyen also welcomed a daughter- Emmalyn Mai-Thy, born Sept. 1st, weighing in at 8 pounds 3 ounces and 18 3/4 inches long.

Cpl Efren Rada had a son named Fabian Isaac, born Sept. 26th, weighing 8 pounds 5 ounces and 19 3/4 inches long.

From the air shop, Capt Jesse E. Blue welcomed Ellis John Blue born Sept. 27, weighing 10Lbs 15ozs and 19 1/2 in. long.

Cpl Cameron L Lockhart, from Logistics, welcomed his son, Benjamin Lee, weighing 5lbs 15oz and 20" long.

In Headquarters, Cpl Cody J Niedfeldt welcomed Caiden James, born Sept. 18, weighing in at 8lbs 2oz and 19 1/2 in. long.

We wish all the best to our new moms and dads and their newborns. Congratulations!

We also promoted several Marines this month: Mario B Botello was promoted to Corporal; Gordon L Bayard was promoted to Sergeant; Aaron R Frame was promoted to Corporal; Henry E Douillard was promoted to Lance Corporal; Christopher J Hannon was promoted to Lance Corporal; Timothy L Caudill was promoted to Corporal; Anthony J King was promoted to Corporal. Congratulations, Marines.

We have also awarded the following Marines a Good Conduct Medal, which is earned for every three years of Honorable Service. These Marines have demonstrated the professional conduct which the Marine Corps prides itself on. Congratulations to Sgt Nicholas T. Samuelson; Cpl Rodolfo Mena; LCpl Anthony A. Stevens; LCpl Travis L. Stephenson; LCpl Tyler R. Ball; Cpl Marlon S. Pena; Cpl Anthony J. Castner; Sgt Gregory B. Lynn, Jr; Sgt Julius Warthen; Sgt Kennedy O Robinson; Cpl Irving Montgomery; Sgt Hector L Rodriguez; and SSgt Stephen M Mankus.

Finally, I'd like to welcome aboard Captain Jimmy Richardson, who will be replacing me this month. He comes from Alpha Company 1/1, so he already knows the BLT and has worked with Headquarters Marines. I am reluctant to give up command of such a fine group of Marines, but I know Capt Richardson will steer them well during these final months before the MEU sets sail.

I wish him and all the men in H&S the very best. It has been a great honor and a true privilege to serve with them all.

Thank you for allowing us to serve your young men.

Semper Fidelis,

Capt. T. Canarelli



WEAPONS COMPANY NEWS



Dear Families and Friends of Weapons Company,

September went by as quickly as any month with a flurry of activity, some leave and preparation for upcoming events. October will be totally focused on one thing – getting out onto the ships and practicing our profession.

All five of the platoons in Weapons Company, the headquarters and the Liaison Section all got out of garrison and trained in September. Battalion Field Exercise IV was an opportunity for Weapons Company to operate as intended – platoons out supporting the rifle companies with the headquarters performing fire support coordination. The CAAT platoons went out along with LAR and supported live fire platoon attacks. 81s spent three days in the field knocking the rust off their skills (from my perspective, there was not too much rust, they performed flawlessly) and shooting for the companies. The Sniper Platoon, flush from graduating five snipers from Sniper Basic Course, spent a week preparing five more Marines to attend school. The Liaison section graduated a number of Marines from a number of schools and finalized the design and setup of the fire support coordination center. The headquarters was as busy as anyone – flying the Raven, evaluating the platoons and preparing to go to sea.

From October 15th to the 25th, the company will go to sea on our ships to prepare for deployment. The exercise is called Phibron-MEU Integration Training. This training is intended to teach the Navy and the Marines to work together planning and conducting amphibious raids and missions. We are going to load the ships on the 14th and should be safe and back on dry land by the 25th. All month we will be preparing for the exercise. Inspections, packing, loading and ensuring everything is correct before we leave will take up the first half of October. Once the at sea period is over, we will all take a brief pause to remember what makes being a Marine special and have some fun and camaraderie with our wives, girlfriends and dates at the Marine Corps Ball (it's the 29th at Pechanga Casino).

Several Marines were promoted and recognized this month. Current rank is shown on the promotions:

Cpl Juan CruzGarcia – LAR Cpl Justin L. Haish LCpl Caleb J. McCartney LCpl Mitchell A. Wilt PFC Gabriel A Tauscher

The following Marines graduated from a formal school in September:

Infantry Advanced Machinegun Leader Course:

Cpl Justin Haish LCpl Robert M. Steinke LCpl Jose M. Chavez

Infantry Mortar Leaders Course: Sgt Anthony A. Pogue

HRST Master's Course: Sgt Joshua S. Williams

Scout Sniper Basic Course :

Cpl Andrew M Meriwether Cpl Diego Hernandez LCpl Vyacheslav S Vorobyov LCpl Eric M. Mabry LCpl Russell E. Patten

Command Post of the Future Operators Course :

Sgt Joel R. Scott Cpl Daniel M. Gordon Cpl Travis N Tickel Cpl Ricky Guessford

The following Marines were received a Certificate of Commendation during September:

LCpl Scott W. Kviz LCpl Andrew M. Byers Cpl Matthew J. Lombardi LCpl Kyle PI Rogers Cpl Jesse G Brumback
LCpl Carlos R. Gutierrez Cpl Jose R GomezGarcia Cpl Dean C. Eaton

Semper Fidelis,

Capt. C. Niedziocha



FOX BATTERY NEWS



Dear Families and Friends of Fox Battery,

As you know, September was a good month for training. We were able to capitalize on the ammunition allocation given to us by the BLT and conduct some qualification training with our machine guns and give the Marines a chance for a refresher on using hand grenades. Thanks to some hard work from the BLT Gunner, Gunner Lasater, we were able to get back to our core artillery skills as well as continue our preparations for the future.

I would also like to congratulate the following Marines on their re-enlistment: 1stSgt Michael Ryan, Sgt Brandon Valentine, Sgt Elias Lucio, Cpl Levi Moser, Cpl Jose Quintero, Cpl Naipaul Henry, Cpl Mark Armstrong, and Cpl Luis Gutierrez. Their desire to remain in our ranks is a testament to their loyalty and the Marine Corps' selection of them is a testament to their quality as individual Marines!

I would also like to congratulate Sgt Joshua Long, Cpl Trey-Alexander Washington, and LCpl Alfredo Gonzales on their promotions, SSgt Phillip Chacon on his receipt of a Certificate of Commendation, and on Cpl Naipaul Henry on his Good Conduct Medal. Sgt Jarad Kloos was also selected to be the 13th MEU NCO of the quarter.

Finally, as we get within sight of our first at sea period, I would like to remind our local family members about the ladders to success put on by the family readiness officer of BLT 1/1. It will be an informative time, childcare is provided, and there is a raffle for anyone who attends each one. This is a great opportunity to strengthen our family team. Thank you for all the support you have given to your Marines during this work up, and thank you in advance for the support I know you will continue to lend. Take care and God bless!

Sincerely,
Capt. C. Loomis



RECON PLATOON NEWS



Dear Families and Friends of the BLT 1/1 Reconnaissance Platoon,

September was a busy and worthwhile month for the Marines and Sailors of the Reconnaissance Platoon. The majority of the Marines conducted reconnaissance and surveillance operations in support of the Companies attending the Special Operations Training Group (SOTG) Raid Course, while the others attended various schools. This was followed by a two week package that taught our platoon to maintain and operate a new small boat engine we will be using throughout the upcoming at sea periods and deployment.

Over the past four weeks the platoon has been piecemealed to finish attending numerous schools (Airborne, Summer Mountain Leaders, and Combatant Dive School) and training packages designed to facilitate specialized insertion/extraction methods and hone our reconnaissance and surveillance skills. Concurrently the remainder of the platoon was conducting reconnaissance patrols for two weeks straight in support of Company sized raids across Camp Pendleton. The teams would be inserted days prior to the raid force coming in order to identify the location and activities of the enemy building the Raid Force Commander's situation awareness to properly devise a solution. The last two weeks of the month were spent learning how to operate and maintain a new small boat engine fielded by the Marine Corps. This engine is made by Evinrude and is called the Multi Fuel Engines (MFE) because of its ability to burn kerosene, jet fuel and just about everything but paint thinner. Multi Fuel Engine (MFE) technology allows us to transport outboards via aircraft or ships without having to deal with volatile gasoline fumes. That's important because gasoline is limited aboard U.S. Navy ships (the US Department of Defense Common Fuels Initiative) and it allows the user to procure fuel in austere environments such as the Horn of Africa.

The Platoon has gained some much needed capabilities with the completion of numerous schools. Gunnery Sergeant Latham and Sergeant Williams completed the Dive Supervisor Course, which designates them the subject matter experts for all platoon dive operations. Corporal Johnston and Corporal Simile are graduates of the Basic Airborne School in Fort Benning, Georgia. Sergeant Cunningham, Holden, Sanda and Corporal Greer have completed the Summer Mountain Leaders Course in Bridgeport, CA that is designed for Staff Sergeants through Captain. They are qualified to conduct hazard evaluation and safe route finding over all types of mountainous terrain. These four Marines are best qualified to advise commanders on all aspects of mountain operations, particularly the preparation and leadership required to move units over technically difficult, hazardous, or exposed terrain. In most cases the Mountain Leader is the highest level of qualification and is the principle trainer for conducting mountain operations. Also, a congratulation is due to Doc Bunting and his family on the birth of their son.

October will be full of challenges as the Battalion embarks for the first at sea period. During this time the platoon will operate off the USS Green Bay (LPD-20) to conduct amphibious and ground reconnaissance operations on San Clemente Island and training areas across Camp Pendleton.

Semper Fidelis,

Capt. P. Zuber



ENGINEER PLATOON NEWS

Dear Families and Friends of Battalion Landing Team (BLT) I/I Engineer Platoon,

September has come and gone in a flash and once again validated our call sign – NOMAD. We chose this call sign because it really describes who we are as a platoon. We are constantly on the move and rarely settle in one place for too long.

The focus of effort during September has been more demolition training and more raids. The month started with 3rd Squad supporting Bravo Company during their Helo Raid. As always, great reviews of your Marines came back at the conclusion of that training evolution. Following Labor Day, 1st Squad along with Alpha Company jumped into the AAV's for some interoperability training in preparation for the Mech Raid that took place from the 20th-24th of the month. Mid-month your Marines participated in two days of demolitions training followed by more combat marksmanship. The month finished up with a weeklong demolition range where your engineers worked together with the infantry assaultmen on breaching and conventional demolitions.

Increasing the individual skills in our platoon, GySgt Paul and Cpl Clarke both successfully graduated the Helicopter Rope Suspension Techniques Course and Cpl Romenesko graduated from the Sapper Leader Course out in Missouri. Welcome back to those three fine Marines.

Congratulations to Cpl Erik Ortiz for being awarded the Good Conduct Medal and for his Re-Enlistment for an additional four years.

Congratulations to the following Marines that were promoted during October (current rank is listed):

Cpl Ryan Martin Promoted October 1st 2010

LCpl Matthew Jaskolski Promoted October 1st 2010

Semper Fidelis,

1st LT. K. Julian



CHAPLAIN 'S CORNER



Blessings to the Family and Friends of Battalion Landing Team 1/1!

I was recently speaking to a group of our Marines and Sailors about the three phases of life; survival, success, and significance. The topic for the day was 'personal character'. More specifically, what are the character traits that we need to develop as we seek to live a life of significance? Within the high intensity context of the Marine Corps, we also discussed how we can thrive during challenging times and not merely just get by.

As the primary support for our warriors, I know that your job is not easy and we would not be successful without you. Walt Schafer developed a 10 step checklist to "thriving under pressure" that serves as a very practical guide. I offer it as a tool for your use.

- Conditioning: Includes regular exercise, good nutrition and regular sleep.
- Caring: Participating in supportive relationship, personally and professionally.
- Challenge: The ability to interpret difficulty and change in a positive light.
- Confidence: The belief that you can master whatever challenges come your way.
- Commitment: Developing a strong belief in your goals and ideals.
- Control: Belief in your ability to influence events and your reaction to them.
- Coping: Is the ability to respond constructively to temporary distress.
- Calmness: Is maintaining moderate levels of physical & emotional arousal during stress.
- Creativity: The ability to generate innovative, situational-specific solutions.
- Competence: Is your ability to handle the demands of a job or task effectively.

A life of sacrifice is not an easy life, but it is a fulfilling one. As you face the challenges that accompany your family's service, please know that I am here to serve you, so let me know if I can be a friend. You can reach me at 760-763-1414.

May God continue to bless you and your family,

Chaplain Charlie Owens





Family Readiness Officer (FRO) UPDATE



Dear Families and Friends of I/1,

The first session for Ladders to Deployment Success will be going on Saturday 16 October from 9am-2pm. If you have not signed up yet I encourage you to do so. This is a good way to get a very good idea of just what you should be getting accomplished to be ready for the upcoming deployment. Ensure that you complete the registration packet that you should have already received via email. You will receive a confirmation email that you have been registered for that session. Additionally you will also receive information regarding location of child care, drop off time, and directions to marine Corps Family Team Building. Child Care will be providing your children with a snack and a lunch. Child care has been sponsored at no cost to our families, however once you have registered for child care it will require a 48 hour cancellation with Mr. Vaughn or your unit will have to reimburse Marine Corps Family Team Building the cost associated with your reservation for child care. Our class capacity is 190 so please don't hesitate in getting registered.

We will cover everything from Family Care Plans to Self Defense to pay and entitlements while deployed and nutrition and fitness. This is just to name a few. At the conclusion of the 6th gathering we will have a barbecue and entertainment for the children, jump houses etc. Also for those spouses that were able to attend all 6 gathering s we will be having a raffle. One of the prizes will be a 32" Flat Screen television. I Look forward to seeing you there, be on the Lookout for more information to be coming your way within the next couple weeks.

Upcoming Events:

Ladders to Deployment Success	Sat 16 Oct 9am-2pm	Building 1795 MCFTB
	Fri 22 Oct 6:30pm-8:30pm	Building 1795 MCFTB
	Sat 06 Nov 9am-2pm	Building 1795 MCFTB
	Wed 10 Nov 6:30pm-8:30pm	Building 1795 MCFTB
	Tue 07 Dec 6:30pm-8:30pm	Building 1795 MCFTB
	Sat 11 Dec 9am-4pm	Building 1795 MCFTB
BLT I/1 Birthday Ball	Fri 29 October 6PM Cocktail Hour	Pechanga Casino, Temecula Ca
BLT Family Day	Fri 03 Dec	Lake O Neal
BLT Christmas Party	Mon 20 Dec	South Mesa Club

If you have any immediate concerns during our training cycle, you can call the Battalion Officer of the Day at 760-763-1439 or you can call me at 760-760-429-3514 (cell). You can also reach me via email at: rick.andersen@usmc.mil.

Semper Fidelis,

Rick Andersen

Important Contact Numbers

BN OOD	760-763-1439
BN Chaplain	760-763-1414
BN FRO	760-429-3514
MCFTB	760-725-9052
Marine and Family Services	760-725-3400
Military One Source	1-800-342-9647
Base Information	760-725-4111
PMO	760-725-3888/763-2077/2075
Naval Hospital	760-725-1288
JRC, Vehicle Registration	760-725-2106
Sato Travel	760-725-4396
Relocation Office	760-725-3802

