



1st Battalion, 1st Marines

RIGHT OF LINE FIRST AFOOT

NEWSLETTER

November 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Greetings Families and Friends of BLT I/I,

Sadly, this will be my final newsletter as my time with the "First of the First" has come to a close. On November 4th, LtCol Mike Targos will assume command of the unit. I have known Mike for many years, and he is truly an outstanding leader of Marines. He will continue to ensure that the morale and welfare of our families remains a top priority.

I would first like to thank the generous and thoughtful people of Newport Beach, and in particular the Newport Beach I/I Foundation, for all the outstanding support they provided to our Marines and families during my time with the unit. The Battalion is truly blessed to be associated with the Newport Beach Community, and they never cease to amaze me with how much they care about our Marines.

I would also like to recognize all of our families and the Battalion's Family Readiness Team. Marines and sailors simply cannot accomplish the missions they are assigned without the support of their loved ones. One of the main reasons our Battalion excelled in every area over the past two years was because of the tremendous dedication and unwavering support we received from our families. They are truly a wonderful group and I cannot thank them enough.

Our Battalion trained longer and harder than any unit I have seen over the past 20 years. Morale, discipline, preparedness, retention, and proficiency were always at peak levels and the Marines established a reputation of excellence everywhere they went. All of this is because I/I has the finest group of Marines, sailors, and small unit leaders in the Corps. Few people who watched the Battalion train and operate over the last two years would argue otherwise. I could not have asked for a finer group of Marines to lead, and I salute all of them for their determination, fortitude, and professionalism.

In closing, it has been a tremendous honor to serve as your Commanding Officer. Thank you again for the support you have given me and the Battalion over the past two years, and I wish you the best in all your future endeavors.

Semper Fidelis,

LtCol C. R. Wonson



LtCol Craig R. Wonson

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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/I1208242257039>



BLT SGTMAJOR



Family and Friends of I/1.

For a little over a month we have assimilated back into our homes and barracks and many have taken a well deserved break and spent much needed time with family and friends. I have spoken to many Marines and the trips they have taken and the events they have attended have made our short time back fun and exciting. We continue to push forward taking care of Marines and their families, a high priority for the Battalion Commander.

The holiday season is upon us. I/1 has the Marine Corps Ball celebration followed by the Thanksgiving holiday period during November then an extended holiday leave period for Christmas in December. With that said it is important that Marines make sound decisions in planning their trips and celebrating the holiday season in a safe and professional manner. A number of Marines not returning home for the holidays have an opportunity, and were invited, to take their battle buddy to a local family's home and enjoy a holiday meal and visit in a home style setting. For some of these single Marines they will be in a family setting while celebrating by watching football and enjoying a great meal. Last year the Marines had a great time and were extremely grateful for the opportunity to promote I/1 in this special way.

On the 4th of November the Change of Command was executed in a professional manner as Marines of the Battalion said farewell to LtCol Wonson and saw LtCol Targos take the BN Colors and assume command of this fine Battalion. Next year will be an important year and we are saying farewell to many Marines as some transition to another unit and we welcome new leaders from around the Corps who received orders to come aboard I/1. Thank you for all your support. Happy Birthday Marines, have a safe Thanksgiving.

Semper Fidelis,

SgtMaj, J. Henry



ALPHA COMPANY NEWS



Dear family and friends of Company A, “Red Death,”

Since I wrote our last newsletter, Company A made a successful return home. Over the last month, the majority of our time was spent on post-deployment leave. Hopefully you and your Marine / Sailor got a chance to decompress and enjoy some down time. If not, we have some good news for the month of November—we have three “96s.” For Veterans Day weekend, the weekend of our Marine Corps Birthday Ball, and Thanksgiving weekend, we will enjoy back-to-back-to-back four-day weekends. Additionally, with the holiday season of December quickly approaching, you should have plenty of family time in the coming months.

Since we returned home, the company has begun our transition period. By this, I mean we have already seen a number of changes within Red Death. First, our Company Executive Officer, Captain Guiney, received orders to Bridgeport, CA. Second, Lieutenant Fairfield and McCormack moved to Weapons Company, while Lieutenant Abbate moved to the Operations Section. Finally, in our most major change, the Tank Platoon and AAV Platoon went back to their parent commands. It was a pleasure working with both platoons during the deployment and we wish them the best moving forward.

Our transition in the area of personnel will also affect our training. As we begin training in the field, we are moving new Marines into squad leader and team leader billets to fill the gaps being left as some of our senior Marines depart the company. We look forward to watching these Marines develop and help the company continue the Red Death tradition.

Most Marines should have already bought tickets, but just to ensure the word has been disseminated... the I/I Marine Corps Birthday Ball will be celebrated on 17 November at Pechanga Resort & Casino.

Congratulations to the following Marines and their families on their recent promotions:

SSgt Dilling	Sgt Courtney	Sgt Fredericks	Sgt Pottratz
Cpl Mack	LCpl Houy		

Congratulations to the following Marines on being awarded with a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal:

Sgt Stertzner	Cpl Mincks	Cpl Shields	Cpl Stevens
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Congratulations to the following Marines on being awarded with a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal:

GySgt Hernandez	SSgt Bettancourt
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Congratulations to the following Marine on being awarded a Certificate of Commendation for being selected as the winner of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit Meritorious Sergeant board:

Sgt Fredericks

Semper Fidelis,

Captain Lucas A. Balke



BRAVO COMPANY NEWS



Dear Families and Friends of Bravo Company,

First and foremost, I want to take this opportunity to express my most heartfelt thanks for the support that every family has shown Bravo Company over the past 24 months. I know it was difficult at times, but the Raiders have a very dangerous job which requires spending a lot of time in the field preparing for combat, and then taking our finely tuned skills overseas as a forward deployed force in the Nation's defense. Thank

you.

During the month of October, Bravo Company completed all the mandatory briefs, gear turnover, vehicle maintenance, etc, that make up our post-deployment requirements. It was a busy first two weeks back in Camp Horno, but we managed to meet all of our deadlines on time. In the middle of the month, the company executed some well deserved leave. I hope the leave period allowed for some quality time with you and your Marine / Sailor.

Next month, the company has three major events including the Battalion Change of Command, the 236th Marine Corps Birthday Ball, and the Company Change of Command. On 9 Nov 2011, I will be relinquishing command of Company B to Captain John E. Pettinelli. A commander's change of command is always a bittersweet event, but I could not be more proud of the Marines and Sailors of Company B. It has been an outstanding and humbling experience to be the commander of such a great group of men. These fine gentlemen of Company B acquitted themselves honorably and professionally throughout the training cycle, during numerous major theater security cooperation exercises in Central Command Area of Responsibility, and during every liberty port. To witness this company in action has been phenomenal, and I cannot describe in words what these gentlemen mean to me. Every individual in this company has made me a better officer and Marine, and Cindy and I feel blessed to have shared this experience with all of you. Thank you so much for everything. As always, I would like to recognize the following Marines for their noteworthy accomplishments:

The following Marines were promoted during the month of October:

Gunnery Sergeant Curt E. Woodard
Lance Corporal George D. Kornis

The following Marines welcomed a new child into their families during the month of October:

Lance Corporal Scott A. Schurter and his wife, Kate, had a baby boy, Elijah Anthony, on 29 October 2011.
Lance Corporal Jordan M. Ledune and his wife, Bethany, had a baby girl, Addlynn Josephine on 27 October 2011.

The following Marines were married during the month of October:

Lance Corporal Keaton L. Lyon married the former Tonya Baker on 14 October 2011.
Lance Corporal Lucas S. Merino married the former Lindsey Maxwell on 22 October 2011.
Lance Corporal David J. McCarthy married the former Lisa Kamunen 24 October 2011.
Lance Corporal Andre D. Gascoigne married the former Molly Stermon-Duffy on 12 October 2011.

As always, your continued support of your Marine or Sailor is integral to both his performance and the performance of the company and battalion. To visit our Battalion Facebook page, go to: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/1st-Battalion-1st-Marines-FIRST-OF-THE-FIRST/111208242257039>. I want to personally thank everyone for your love and support of Bravo Company. We feel the same...and could not do what we do without you!

Semper Fidelis,

Captain David Godwin



CHARLIE COMPANY NEWS



Dear Family and Friends,

The month of October was a time for rekindling our relationships with family and friends. Your Marines and Sailors enjoyed three weeks of post-deployment leave, which was a well deserved break after a long deployment and even longer work-up.

Though no training was conducted and most of our time was at home, I would like to congratulate a few Marines and families for events that occurred during the month.

The following Marines got married following the deployment:

Congratulations to LCpl Peacock and his wife Elizabeth, LCpl Sillanpaa and his wife Chessa, LCpl Hershberger and his wife Evanmarie, and HN Sanchez and his wife Victoria.

Also, congratulations to Sgt Cativera and his wife on the birth of their baby girl. Ella Grace was born 18 October and weighed 7.7 lbs.

Congratulations to SSgt Benson, who reenlisted during the month. Thank you for your continued service and sacrifice, SSgt.

Chosen Company would like to say farewell to Sgt Landry, who volunteered to serve as a combat replacement for I Marine Expeditionary Force. Fair winds and following seas.

Additionally, Lieutenants Morris, McCormack, and Dingess all departed Chosen Company to begin their new jobs with I/I Weapons Company. Good luck in your new assignments, gentlemen.

As always, if you need to contact the command for any reason, please contact Rick Andersen, the Battalion Family Readiness Officer.

Semper Fidelis,

Captain Neal Simpson



H&S COMPANY NEWS



Dear Families and Friends of Headquarters and Service Company,

October began with the excitement and relief of returning safely home to family and friends. After the initial pain of getting all Marines, Sailors, and their equipment off the ships, we were able to release the Company for a much-deserved three-day weekend. I hope that all families and friends were able to enjoy their reunions and free time with their Marine or Sailor to the fullest!

Following the initial long weekend, the Battalion returned for two very busy, administratively-intense weeks of work. Every day brought new challenges in turning in gear, settling back into Camp Horno, and completing all the Battalion and administrative requirements for the upcoming leave block and overall return from deployment. We greatly appreciate the flexibility and support of all family and friends during the initial weeks of return, and the Battalion staff was pleased to be able to secure many Marines and Sailors for leave a week earlier than planned.

Following the initial two-weeks of work, H&S Company was secured almost entirely for a 2-week leave block for the last half of October. Again, I hope that everyone was able to spend some well-deserved quality time with their Marine or Sailor. However, during the entire month, including the 2-week leave block, there was a significant cadre of H&S Company personnel who remained on the job. Many sections had a significant work load upon returning to Camp Pendleton, and several sections had to immediately begin preparing for a major upcoming inspection. Those Marines and Sailors did an outstanding job maintain focus and drive, and have set up the Battalion and Company for future success.

November will see the Battalion Change of Command, where LtCol Michael Targos will assume command from LtCol Craig Wonson on 4 November. Following the Change of Command, H&S Company will be focused on upcoming inspections, the Marine Corps Birthday Ball, and will be able to enjoy several long weekends heading into the holiday period.

Congratulations to the following Marines that were promoted in October (new rank is listed):

SgtMaj Smith	Sgt Shaver	Cpl Ball	Cpl Wilson
Cpl Jefferson	Cpl Hurd	LCpl Deran	PFC Milam

Congratulations to the following Marines and Sailors on their well-deserved awards:

SgtMaj Smith – Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal: HM2 Marin, RP Bausone, 1stLt Carlson, 1stLt Buffum, HM2 Leyva, Cpl Thurston, Sgt Naimon, Cpl Kearns, Sgt Lawhon, HM2 Black, HM3 Smith, Sgt Getman, Sgt Wisseman, Sgt Domenighini, SSgt Morin, Cpl Sexton, Sgt Robinson, Cpl Stanek, 1stLt Melton, Sgt Lynn, Capt Savino-Sullins, Sgt Beasley, Sgt Schear, Sgt Shaver.

Certificate of Commendation: Cpl Mena, Cpl Landen, LCpl Puhl, LCpl Cade

Semper Fidelis,

Captain James Richardson



WEAPONS COMPANY NEWS

Dear Friends and Families of Weapons Company,

I would first like to say how excited that I and my wife Shannon are to be a part of Weapons Company. This is a great group of men with an outstanding reputation throughout the regiment, and you should be proud of all they have accomplished. Many more challenges lie ahead, so your Marines and sailors will need your continued support over the coming months to once again prepare to answer the nation's call.



During the month of October, Weapons Company completed its post-deployment requirements and took some well-deserved leave. I hope the leave period allowed you to spend some quality time with your Marine or sailor. There will also be several more opportunities over the upcoming holiday periods to reconnect with friends and family.

Next month, the company has several major events including the Battalion Change of Command, the 236th Marine Corps Birthday Ball, and holidays for Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. We will be focused on reorganizing our personnel and equipment as we prepare to receive new Marines and begin training for a new mission. Many of your Marines are moving up to positions of greater responsibility, so please be patient and supportive as they learn new roles and handle new challenges.

I would like to recognize the following Marines for their noteworthy accomplishments and significant events:

The following Marines were promoted during the month of October:

Lance Corporal Jeremy J. Horton
Lance Corporal Andrew L. Trimble

The following Marines received awards during the month of October:

HM3 Eric T. Harris received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his actions while treating a heat casualty aboard the USS Boxer.
Sergeant Peter J. Monfeli received his second Good Conduct Medal, as well as a Letter of Appreciation for his actions training the Jordanian military.
Corporal Henry M. Thurston received a Letter of Appreciation for his performance in Exercises Infinite Moonlight and Eager Mace.
Corporal Andrew P. Orgovan received a Letter of Appreciation for his performance in Exercises Infinite Moonlight and Eager Mace.
Lance Corporal Taylor M. Richards received two Letters of Appreciation for his performance in Exercises Infinite Moonlight and Eager Mace.
Corporal Levi J. Rodriguez received a Letter of Appreciation for community service.
Lance Corporal Sloan L. Seiler received a Letter of Appreciation for community service.

The following Marines were married during the month of October:

Lance Corporal Chester B. Jensen married Allyn Jensen on 15 October 2011.
Lance Corporal Jason F. Steel married Taryn Steel on 22 October 2011.
Lance Corporal Caleb J. McCartney married Krista McCartney on 24 October 2011.

As always, your continued support of your Marine or sailor is integral to both his performance and the performance of the company and battalion. To visit our Battalion Facebook page, go to: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/1st-Battalion-1st-Marines-FIRST-OF-THE-FIRST/111208242257039>. Thank you for all that you do, and I look forward to meeting each of you.

Semper Fidelis,

Captain Glen W. Taylor



Chaplain's Corner



Family and Friends of I/I,

Your Religious Ministry Team (RMT) has gone through personnel changes right along with the rest of the Battalion. Since I/I's return from deployment and leave, we have had said good-bye to many friends, both Marines and family. We have also welcomed many new faces to the I/I Team.

Your RMT has said good-bye to Chaplain Owens. He will soon be working with the base Chaplains. He will be missed by those he served with at I/I but the Marines on the base will be richly blessed.

Chaplain Peters has joined the I/I RMT. He is coming from Third Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. He is excited to join Religious Program Specialist Seaman (RPSN) Bausone to make up the I/I RMT.

In the upcoming months your RMT wants you, the friends and family of I/I, to know, to experience and to share our C.A.R.E. for you.

What does that mean you ask?

Well it is an acronym we use to explain the following:

- C- Counseling. Your RMT provides 100% Confidentiality to the Marines and family of I/I no matter what the issues. We are your ONLY source of 100% confidentiality. Talk to us about anything! No one will know, but you and us.
- A- Advice. We provide a fresh and different perspective on many of the issues you have to deal with. Your RMT has over 23 years of military experience combined. We might be able to help you see things a different way.
- R-Religion We provide religious ministry and services to the I/I Marine and family and if we cannot provide the service we will find someone who can.
- E-Everybody The RMT is about YOU! We are here to help and assist you in any way. Use us and spread the word.

Your I/I RMT,

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269.208.0397

RPSN D.G. Bausone
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619.884.7058



Family Readiness Officer (FRO)



Dear Families and Friends of I/I,

LtCol Wonson relinquished command to LtCol Targos this past Friday on 04 November. We wish the best to LtCol Wonson and his family in their future assignment and welcome aboard LtCol Targos and his family.

This is a very exciting time of the year for all of us. The Ball is now just a little over a week away and then Thanksgiving the following week. We are all very fortunate to have our families with us for this holiday season. So when things get hectic and busy as they always do take a moment to be thankful for what you currently have. With that sentiment I would like to thank our friends from Newport Beach.

I have received many emails and calls from citizens from Newport Beach who have offered to share their home with Marines and their families this thanksgiving. I can't begin to say how thankful and appreciative I am for there kind gesture. Often when we think of family we reflect upon holidays past and the good times we shared with others. During this holiday I am sure their will be new memories that will be cherished in years to come by all.

After Thanksgiving we will start focusing our attention on the Christmas leave block and plans that we have for this time. However before that begins don't forget about the Battalions Holiday Party at the South Mesa Club aboard base. The holiday party is currently scheduled for the 15th of December. There will be more information to follow in the coming weeks. We are also very appreciative of the support the Balboa Yacht club is providing once again this year. They have already started a toy drive to make this Christmas special for children of the Battalion.

Semper Fidelis,

Rick Andersen

Definition of L.I.N.K.S.

Lifestyle: A way of living and understanding the military community and the unique lifestyle it offers

Insights: Experienced active duty personnel and family members who relate their experiences with the Marine Corps lifestyle

Networking: People getting to know each other within L.I.N.K.S., and others who will be met during the journey in the Marine Corps

Knowledge: What is gained that will help in the understanding and navigation of the Marine Corps culture

Skills: What will be learned to help active duty personnel and family members to get the most from their experiences in the Marine Corps community

The program offers an orientation to the Marine Corps lifestyle, and helps spouses, Marines, children, teens, and parents/extended family members understand and adapt to the unique challenges of military life.

L.I.N.K.S.

Lifestyles, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills

Bldg. 1795 | (760) 725-2335



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

