



COMMANDING OFFICER 1ST BATTALION, 10TH MARINES MESSAGE TO ALL HANDS



Vision for the Battalion – every Marine and Sailor maximizes their potential, strives for excellence in their roles and responsibilities and keeps faith with themselves, their families and their fellow Marines and Sailors... Professional, Adaptable, & Lethal..

First Battalion, Tenth Marines,

Since 1940, First Battalion Marines and Sailors have deployed, fought, and won around the globe in places like Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian, and Okinawa. They have participated in the Cuban Missile Crisis, Desert Shield and Desert Storm, events in Haiti, and in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Their professionalism, tactical excellence and dedication to each other distinguished the battalion's performance in every engagement. Through challenging work and sometimes extreme sacrifice, 1/10 Marines and Sailors of the past built a tradition of excellence that characterizes our battalion today. It is our time now as we transition the battalion's weapons systems to add to that legacy of this storied battalion once more. On our shoulders rest the responsibility to honor the legacy of those who have gone before us and to continue First Battalion's, "First in the World," tradition of excellence.

Together, we will be masters of our profession; experts in our designated fields who embrace the reality that technical and tactical competence often determines the outcome of the battle. We will be men and women of character. We will welcome tough assignments and thrive at the critical point that distinguishes success from failure. We will be a team that keeps faith with each other; recognizing that the battlefield and life will present every one of us unique challenges. We also recognize that these challenges are better overcome with the support of a team than by the individual alone.

We know future battles will be complex engagements fought across multiple domains in volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous conditions. Future adversaries range from peer state competitors to violent extremist networks looking to project terror and fear. We must embrace the uncertainty and weaponize it. Believe in the capabilities of the unit, the character of your fellow Marine and Sailor, and the fighting spirit of our Corps. If everyone does this, then together, we will accomplish our mission.

We must also realize that home station dynamics present challenges to the health and spirit of our battalion. Drug and alcohol abuse, motor vehicle accidents, and individual relationship stressors all erode our ability to maximize our individual and unit potential. I challenge each Marine and Sailor to get better every day; to minimize the opportunities for mistakes and maximize the opportunities for personal growth and maturation when we fall short. I challenge you to be your best at everything you do. Perfection is the goal, excellence will suffice.

You are part of a great battalion with an accomplished legacy. Your actions not only reflect your own character, but the character of this unit. Always represent yourself and this battalion with honor, integrity and enthusiasm. This is achieved by being professional, adaptable, and lethal. We owe it to the Marines and Sailors who carried our battalion colors in past battles to continue their standard of excellence.

Semper Fidelis.

W. R. Soucie
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marines
Commanding