The Chromite Chronicle

1st Battalion, 1st Marines | 2 November 2026

FROM THE BATTALION COMMANDER

To our incredible BLT 1/1 families, friends, and loved ones:

As we conclude our second month of deployment in the Indo-Pacific, I continue to be impressed by the discipline, professionalism, and dedication of our Marines and Sailors. They have embraced life in Okinawa and a demanding training schedule with an exceptional work ethic. Every day, they demonstrate the character and commitment that make this battalion special. Although we all miss our families and loved ones back home, your unwavering support remains the foundation of our success.

October was an incredibly productive month for the battalion. Our training took us from the dense jungles of Okinawa to the waters surrounding the USS *San Diego* (LPD 22), where our Marines and Sailors conducted launch and recovery operations with Amphibious Combat Vehicles (ACVs) and small boats. These operations sharpened our ability to operate from ship to shore and strengthened our integration with the Navy. Meanwhile, Whiskey Company deployed to the Combined Arms Training Center (CATC) Camp Fuji, where they conducted demanding live-fire combined-arms training and rehearsals for Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel (TRAP). Their hard work significantly enhanced our combat readiness and our ability to respond to crises throughout the region.

Beyond training, our Marines and Sailors honored our heritage and strengthened ties with the Okinawan community. They visited historic Battle of Okinawa sites to reflect on the sacrifices of those who came before us and volunteered at local schools, building friendships with Okinawan students. These experiences reinforce the importance of service, character, and representing our nation with pride.

As we look toward the coming months, our focus remains on building readiness, taking care of one another, and preparing for whatever challenges lie ahead. SgtMaj Rice and I are honored to lead this exceptional team and are proud of all they have accomplished. To our families and loved ones back home, thank you for your unwavering support. Your encouragement, thoughts, and prayers fuel our mission every day. You are an essential part of the Chromite family, and together, we move forward as One Heartbeat!

Semper Fidelis,
LtCol Clark Smith
Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines

H&S COMPANY
"HADES"





Hades is fully in its groove, consistently delivering strong support to both the BLT and MEU. On top of meeting every operational demand head-on this month, we also carved out valuable time to study historical lessons.

Sgt Coston is seen reading the Congressional Medal of Honor Citation for Desmond Doss at Hacksaw Ridge, a the site of a famous battle during the Marines' seizure of Okinawa during World War II. This battle-site tour reinforced warfighting heritage, tactical decision-making, and leadership within the company.

Lance Corporal Brunson conducts a pre-flight inspection during a small unmanned aircraft system (sUAS) fly day. The Intelligence Section oversaw the first of many sUAS fly days in Okinawa. They ensured all qualified members of the BLT conducted valuable flight hours to improve and sustain their proficiency as sUAS operators.

Hades is constantly supporting the BLT even with the uncertainty of the weather. We continue to adjust and attack as required. From the Marines and Sailors of Hades company, we want to thank you for your unwavering support

ALPHA COMPANY
“RED DEATH”

Alpha Company Families and Loved Ones, as we reflect on a fast-paced October forward-deployed in Okinawa, Japan, our very first thought is one of deep gratitude for you. While your Marines and Sailors are thousands of miles away training across rugged terrain, your love, letters, care packages, and encouragement back home are what truly keep our morale high and our spirits steady. Over the past month, our company has stayed safe, worked tirelessly as a team, and achieved major milestones both in the field and in personal growth. We want to share a look into what Red Death members have been doing, how they are growing as leaders, and how much pride they bring to our unit every day.

Our tactical training this month challenged everyone to build confidence, trust, and teamwork. One of the biggest highlights was conquering the rappel tower, a multi-story training wall where our troops learned advanced rope techniques and rapid descents from great heights, building the confidence they will need for upcoming helicopter operations. Out in the field, our troops completed an intensive three-day land navigation course, navigating through dense tropical canopy by day and night with heavy packs and maps to reach their objectives. They also dedicated long hours to weapon safety and precision marksmanship during company live-fire training and pistol ranges. To top it all off with some healthy company rivalry, we hosted our inaugural "Red Death Physical Assessment Test" (RDPAT), a high-energy fitness challenge designed to test endurance and see who could claim the title of the company's fittest in numerous physical events!

October was also a celebrated month of personal achievement, education, and career advancement across the ranks. We are extraordinarily proud of our newly promoted Marines, who pinned on their next ranks after demonstrating proven dedication and maturity. In addition to promotions, several of our service members graduated from demanding professional schools: the Jungle Leaders Course, where students learned specialized survival, tracking, and navigation skills tailored to the jungle, and Corporals Course, where our NCO’s learned how to lead, mentor, and care for their small teams. We also wrapped up the month by gathering our Lance Corporals for a Leadership and Ethics Seminar, giving them an open forum to discuss character, integrity, sound decision-making, and looking out for their peers.

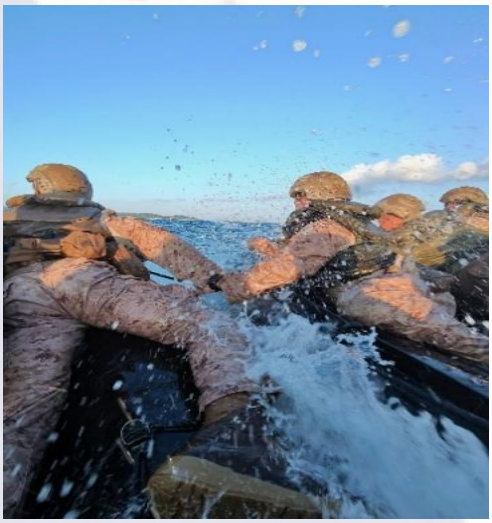
Finally, we spent meaningful time focusing on the ties that ground us: our relationships back home and the history of the island where we are stationed. Knowing that deployment puts distance and time-zone differences between couples, we hosted a dedicated marriage and relationship workshop focused on communication habits, managing stress, and keeping strong emotional bonds across the miles. We also took a pause from field training to embark on an educational battlefield tour across Okinawa and conduct a local beach clean-up. Some of your Marines and sailors walked the grounds of Hacksaw Ridge, toured the subterranean tunnels of the former Japanese Naval Underground Headquarters, and paid quiet respect at the Okinawa Peace Memorial Park. Walking these historic sites gave everyone a profound appreciation for our heritage, the cost of peace, and the importance of our mission. Thank you for your continued love and unwavering support, everything your Marine or Sailor accomplishes out here is shared with you.

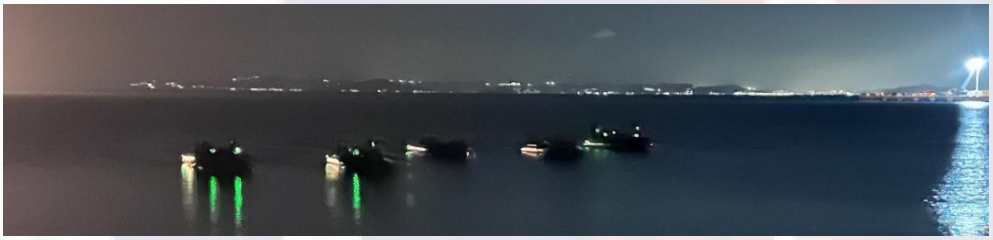




BRAVO COMPANY
"RAIDERS"

Raider began the month of October in its natural environment, conducting small boat refresher training. This allowed the Marines to refine their craft of utilizing small boats for operations and get hands on with the equipment they will be using for the duration of deployment. The Marines conducted the training evolution with the aid of the USS San Diego. It not only was an exceptional training opportunity for the Marines but allowed them to experience the warm water of Okinawa and concluded with a BBQ to keep their spirits high.







Upon completion of small boat refresher training, Raider began to conduct live fire ranges to build on the skills that were refined in the months leading up to the deployment. The Marines are proud of what they have accomplished leading up to this point and look forward to refining their craft. Everything they have achieved and will achieve is due in large part to the families that support them. Even though Raider is an ocean away, they still hold their families near and dear to their hearts.





Raider's Fire Support Team (FST) conducted training aboard CATC Fuji at the base of Mt Fuji. The FST conducted a 4-mile ruck run in the shadow of Mt Fuji. While aboard CATC Fuji the FST was able to work with different indirect fire assets and aircraft to improve its mission readiness. This opportunity also allowed the FST to conduct cultural immersion on mainland Japan. Many of the Marines took this opportunity to travel to Tokyo, visiting many of the cultural sites and impressive gardens throughout Tokyo.



CHARLIE COMPANY
"CHOSIN"

Over the past month, Chosin Company has continued to build on our deployment readiness while enjoying the wide array of experiences that Okinawa has to offer. Earlier this month, our Marines and Sailors re-certified with Land and Water Integration Training Packages. These packages tested our Marines and Sailors knowledge on the Amphibious Combat Vehicle (ACV) as well as re-confirm our ability to embark and disembark these vehicles safely and efficiently. Additionally, our ACV Platoon conducted naval integration training with the USS SAN DIEGO in preparation for our upcoming deployment. After our time in the water, Chosin Company spent some time at the range: completing a weapon zero on many of our weapon systems: our M320 40mm Grenade Launchers, M240B 7.26mm machine guns, as well as our M4/M27 5.56mm rifles. These 'zeroes' ensure our equipment functions correctly and is accurately sighted for day and night operations.

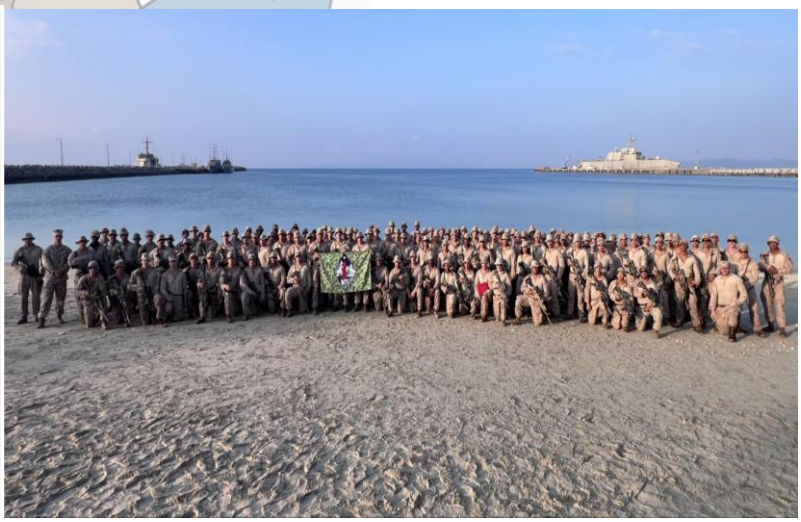




In the middle of the month, Chosin Company took to the jungles: conducting a three-day Jungle Patrol Exercise (PEX). During Jungle PEX, Marines and Sailors practiced their field crafts such as shelter building, water procurement, moving through the hills, swamps and jungles of Okinawa. Meanwhile our Fire Support Team traveled to mainland Japan to participate in the Battalion's Fire Support Training Exercise in the shadow of Mount Fuji.

Despite our busy schedule these past few weeks our Marines and Sailors have found great opportunities to explore the island's local communities, culture, and beautiful nature. One highlight was a battlefield site tour for a group of our Marines and Sailors, who were able to see the historic landmarks from the Battle of Okinawa (1945) to gain a deeper appreciation for the island's history and the sacrifices made here. These experiences continue to strengthen our Marines professionally while building the friendships and memories that make this deployment special.

Looking ahead, we will conduct non-lethal training focused on crowd-control techniques, including shield-wall formations and OC spray exposure. We are also preparing for our Company Fight Tournament, featuring weight-class bracket-style matches that will challenge our Marines and crown the company's first ground-fighting champion. As training continues, we will continue to make time to explore Okinawa and enjoy the opportunities this deployment provides. We know being away from family is not easy, and we are grateful for your continued love and support. Please know your Marines are doing well, staying focused, and taking care of one another. We are proud to look after them while they are away from home and look forward to sharing more updates in the months ahead



WEAPONS COMPANY
"WHISKEY"

Weapons Company Trains at Camp Fuji

Throughout October, Weapons Company conducted live fire and field training at Camp Fuji on mainland Japan, approximately two hours from Tokyo. The company deployed from Okinawa aboard C-130 aircraft to sharpen proficiency across key weapons systems and prepare for future battalion-assigned missions.





Marines conducted live-fire training with medium and heavy machine guns, 81mm mortar systems, sniper rifles, and attack drones. Despite periods of rain, the evolution was successful and provided valuable opportunities to refine individual and collective skills in a demanding field environment. Marines remain in high spirits, focused, and ready to respond to future mission requirements.

The training also reinforced Weapons Company's readiness and commitment to supporting regional security and defending U.S. interests alongside allies and partners. During the exercise, Marines conducted a live attack-drone strike training event and engaged with Japanese counterparts, further strengthening interoperability and shared resolve in support of the defense of the first island chain.

