

Command Philosophy

As the Marines and Sailors of the Combat Assault Battalion, we hold a special place at the vanguard of the Marine Corps, providing a unique capability found nowhere else in the Department of Defense. This Command Philosophy is simple and straight-forward: **“Mission First... Marines and Sailors Always!”** These six words form the core principle of this command and will lead to both continued mission success and a balanced approach that places our most valued asset at the very forefront of our training and preparedness... our Marines, Sailors, and their families.

This core principle is supported by six very important pillars: Tactical Mindset, Professionalism, Tenacity, Respect, Integrity, and Trust.

Tactical Mindset: The Marine Corps is designed to fight our country’s battles under the most arduous conditions against adversaries that wish to do us harm. Marines have honed their skill to fight over the last 239 years from the shores of Tripoli, to Iwo Jima, Pusan, Vietnam, Beirut, to Fallujah and Marjeh. This means that in order to continue the legacy of those before us, we must maintain our **Tactical Mindsets** and take advantage of every training opportunity given to us.

Professionalism: Professionalism recognizes that we have two concurrent duties... to be the very best within our MOS and to develop ourselves as upstanding Marines and Citizens. Furthermore, it recognizes that our individual successes combine to achieve our common goals. The true mark of a professional is an individual or unit that consistently goes over and above to accomplish the mission... where **the minimum standard is a starting point and not a goal!** Inherent to professionalism are concepts such as: pride in unit and self, attention to detail, thorough preparation, adaptability, and anticipation of potential problems... keeping one eye focused on the current task and the other preparing for follow-on missions.

Tenacity: This “never quit” attitude is our Marine Corps legacy, borne of persevering through almost impossible odds to accomplish any mission. Make no mistake, we are today’s **Tuefel Hunden** and will carry 239 years of the hard-earned Marine fighting spirit into the future. We will never quit in the pursuit of our mission and, more importantly, we are dedicated to never failing each other. This means not only having a “can do attitude”, but a “want to attitude” with a must do spirit!

Respect: Respect governs how we treat each other throughout every level of our chain of command and includes our attitude toward other units, the sister services, and our families. Regardless of position, rank, title, nationality, ethnicity, or religion, respect is a two-way street that recognizes each and every one of us has a significant contribution to make in the success of this unit and our Corps.

Integrity: Integrity is simply defined as **“doing the right thing... even when no-one is watching.”** It is the one commodity that we carry with us in both our personal and professional lives that once lost is nearly impossible to regain. I recognize the challenges and extreme pressures we face every day at work, in the field, at home, and on liberty. When facing these challenges, I urge you to hold tight to your moral compass, commitment to our Marine Corps, commitment to each other, and commitment to your family to seek the right decisions and not “sell your integrity” for a short-term gain... especially when no-one is looking.

Trust: Earned and never given, this is the strongest bond that ties us all together and permeates every aspect of our lives both on and off duty. Similar to respect, trust is also a two-way street that requires constant effort and upkeep. The missions we are given often require us to operate independently, whether it is aboard ship, attached to other units, or in the field far from our higher command, so we must build and constantly maintain a firm trust between us at all levels.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention family. Our loved ones in many instances keep the fires lit when we are gone, share in our triumphs as well as our disappointments throughout our careers, and complete who we are as Marines and Sailors. Additionally, remember that all of us are here because at one point in our lives we made a selfless and conscious decision to serve our Nation and become part of something larger than ourselves. We are not only in the military, we’re **Marines and Sailors!!** Our **commitment is unbreakable to each other, our country, our God, and our Corps...**

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