



## Command Philosophy

Our Battalion's storied history and well respected reputation are born from the sacrifices, bravery and camaraderie of those that came before us. Our future success in these strategically uncertain and dangerous times relies on our collective talents, energy, courage, sacrifices and love for each other.

Ultimately, success in battle is our most important goal. To be successful in our mission, the leadership throughout this battalion's chain of command will be primarily focused on the **morale of the unit**. The morale and welfare of the individual Marine/Sailor, their teams/squads/platoon/sections/companies and improvement of their quality of life, professional development and ability to ethically apply coordinated violence against the enemy are far and away this command's highest priority.

This command's focus on unit morale will permeate every aspect of leadership decisions, staff actions and tactical application. Traits of units with high levels of morale include:

- \*An insatiable desire of leaders to improve the quality of life of their subordinates.
- \*Support living a warrior lifestyle: focus on high levels of well programmed and supported physical fitness, learn your tactical job relentlessly, study our lineage and history, honor the dead and those who went before, insatiably professionally read, party with your friends, build lifelong experiences and tell your story.
- \*Leaders that attempt to train their subordinates to be better than they themselves are.
- \*A code of honor that does not tolerate bullying, abuse or mistreatment of others.
- \*A command climate that empowers its members and gives them purpose.
- \*Leadership that sets high expectations, and creates realistic steps to achieve them.
- \*Leaders that consistently publish information, schedules and plans, then sticks to their word. This allows people to make personal plans. Tell the unit everything you know and often.
- \*Leadership that understands that personal rest time does not decrease unit readiness, in fact it increases it. Take leave, sleep in the field, eat dinner with your family, prep for combat.
- \*Leadership that embraces the benefits of mental health, substance abuse and counseling resources and encourages their use.
- \*Tough and dangerous men and women who are fit, educated, compassionate and ready to run through a wall to protect each other, our nation and our way of life.

Focusing on the unit's morale does not mean "making things easier". In fact, in many ways, focusing on high morale will result in difficult and challenging lives. This is because we will work hard, challenge ourselves fully, be patient with one another, accept failure as a natural part of eventual success and refuse to be relegated to the large population of cowardly, malcontented, lazy and purposeless spectators outside of "the arena".

### Three Ground Rules:

**1: Treat every Marine and Sailor like family.** Assume everyone is doing their best to do the right thing until they prove otherwise. Be patient, be firm, be a role model not a bully. Treat everyone with the decency and respect that you would expect from someone willing to fight beside you in combat.

**2: Be a Marine/Sailor of character.** Do not lie, cheat, steal, victimize others or tolerate those who do. Take action at all times: ethically, physically and tactically. Gain more value out of your teammates' successes than your own. Harden up, push yourself and do something that you're likely to fail at on your first attempt. Make your family and friends proud. Make the younger version of you proud of who you became.

**3: No drama.** Remove as much unnecessary stress from your subordinates' lives as you can. Keep your emotions under control. Never gossip. Never complain in front of subordinates but constructively critique often to seniors. Victory parties are way better than pity parties. Be patient and supportive to others.

Throughout this command, we must embrace the awesome responsibilities and expectations of leading the most important Americans that this nation produces. The Marines and Sailors of the Battalion will make great personal sacrifices and do anything that is asked of them; we owe them the very best leadership that we can provide. Everyone in this command should remind themselves daily how hard we worked to be where we are today, how impactful our actions are on our Marines and Sailors and how unique our service is to our greater society. So many are counting on us, those we know and love as well as those hundreds of millions of anonymous individuals. They all expect us to be victorious no matter the cost. We will never let them nor each other down.



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