




13 Jul 18

Subj: COMMAND PHILOSOPHY

This battalion belongs to the Marines and Sailors. They do the lion's share of the dirty work. They ultimately do the sweating and the fighting. They determine victory or defeat. The battalion commander is only a steward, responsible for steering collective efforts towards mission success. I believe that when practiced and enforced, the principles below generate the necessary conditions and cohesion to ensure that success.

1. Be a good Teammate. Do your best in all things. When you get knocked down, get back up. Don't be a critic, take responsibility for your unit and make it better. Defend the weak. Relentlessly pursue victory and self-mastery. Have a positive winner's attitude. Lead like you want to be led. Your attitude will dictate your success as an individual and for your team. Attitude is the difference in a battle of wills where one side quits first. Never, ever quit.
2. Do what's right. Be a person worthy of trust. Never tolerate Marines who lie, cheat, steal, use drugs, haze fellow Marines, abuse the weak, or take up with another Marine's spouse. Never mistreat the dead, wounded or prisoners. Be a leader. Act in the absence of orders. If you see a mistake, correct it. Let your actions be an example for others to follow.
3. Protect each other. Look out for your buddy at all times. Never leave a fallen comrade. If you are a leader, never abuse your power. Ensure new Marines are welcomed into the brotherhood of warfighters. Grow your subordinate leaders. Create an environment that fosters initiative, aggressiveness, and a winning attitude within the commander's intent. Generate cohesion. The antidote for fear is confidence in self and trust in each other. Trust your comrades.
4. Be ready now. Can we return to war tomorrow if called? We need to be ready to accomplish our traditional mission essential tasks as an air assault or mechanized combined arms task force. Additionally, we must prepare to form a battalion landing team to serve as a force in readiness afloat or to conduct stability operations. Because we do not know for certain where we will serve next, we need to set the standard in discipline, combat conditioning, maintenance, and individual weapons skills to prepare for the unknown. Our minds, our bodies and our families must always be ready. Strive for perfection in the little details that make the big things possible. Be physically and mentally tough, and then revel in a hard life well lived.

  
J. B. REID