

The Oldest and Proudest Shanghai Regiment

Command Guidance and Intent

The mission of the 4th Marine Regiment is to close with and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver, or repel the enemy's assault by fire and close combat. The regiment's history and legacy is one of expeditionary, forward-deployed service in defense of our nation's interests. That legacy continues today. We are forward deployed and a part of actively protecting our country's interests and values in an era where those values are increasingly threatened. We will focus on three priority areas to ensure we are prepared to answer our nation's call:

Ready: Our first priority is warfighting readiness – the ability to employ forces capable of defeating any adversary with little or no warning. We are ready to “Fight Tonight.” Every Marine and Sailor in the regiment and their families must be physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually ready to respond to crisis at a moment's notice. Every Marine and Sailor must know his/her job and how it contributes to the overall mission of the unit. To win every battle we must be a learning organization. We will train to failure to learn about ourselves, expand our capabilities and reduce our weaknesses. In doing so we will never compromise the welfare and safety of our Marines. Exercises are mission rehearsals. You are competing with our adversaries below the threshold of conflict every time you “leave the wire.” As an expeditionary force in readiness we are prepared to execute any mission that may be given us, from high end combat to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.

Resilient: Personal, family and unit resiliency is a product of understanding who we are, what our purpose is and being prepared physically, temporally, emotionally and spiritually for the rigors of our profession. Resiliency is the product of prioritizing those things in our lives that are most important. To me that is Faith, Family and Corps – in that order. Resiliency comes from feeling like a valued member of a team and recognizing the value of others on that team. Our critical capability is the individual Marines and Sailors who make up this regiment. Those same individuals will be our critical vulnerability if we do not take care of them. Individuals are supported by families who make immeasurable contributions to our readiness. With the building blocks of resilient individuals and families, we can create resilient, sturdy units when each member is valued, challenged and made to be a part of a team.

Responsible: As Marines we are ultimately accountable for our actions and our equipment. As a forward-deployed Regiment we are each ambassadors. Our Regimental Motto, “Hold High the Torch,” reminds us to set a sterling example in our conduct. We respect ourselves and those around us through proper conduct and personal discipline. We are responsible to each other for our decisions and actions. Nothing in our actions should stain our reputation as the “Oldest and the Proudest.” We must always be ready to “Fight Tonight.” To do this we will be good stewards of the equipment we have. It is what will keep us in the fight when the time comes. We will account for and treat our equipment as if our lives depend on it – because they do.

HOLD HIGH THE TORCH!