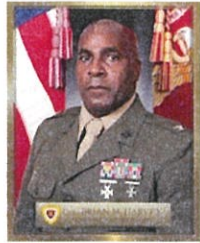




## Commanding Officer, Headquarters Battalion Command Philosophy



Over my short tenure in the Marine Corps, I have come to find that training and readiness are the essential elements required to succeed in both combat and in garrison environments. My philosophy highlights how I envision training and readiness as it applies to the battalion's preparation. Training is defined as the action of teaching a person a particular skill or type of behavior. Readiness is defined as the quality or state of being ready. If we are to succeed and accomplish our assigned mission, we must holistically apply training and readiness to how we train, individual preparation, the sustainment and maintenance of our equipment, and our approach to the mission.

**Training begins with mental and physical preparation.** In order to train effectively we must take the appropriate steps to ensure we are mentally sharp and physically capable of extrapolating the benefits of progressive training opportunities. The established training and readiness standards will serve as the benchmarks for our training approach. We will be methodical and deliberate.

The **Readiness of Our Personnel** is not bound by the workplace, social circles or interests, nor demographics. In fact, an individual's readiness may involve these areas in varying degrees for the purposes of mental health or assimilation, but personnel readiness must encompass the Marine as a whole. Professional Military Education, physical fitness, mental toughness, critical thinking capability, sound and efficient decision-making, and most importantly family balance are just a few areas that contribute to one's personal readiness.

The **Readiness of Our Equipment** speaks for itself- or does it? The readiness of our equipment is more than pre-operation checks, accountability thereof, and other close horizon actions. The readiness of our equipment involves routine maintenance, preservation of the asset, and upgrades to promote longevity. The short and long horizon activities enable us to provide support to the Division. If our equipment is not maintained, we jeopardize the Division. I will not rely on inspections to assess the state of our equipment. Maintenance is a focus area.

The readiness of the battalion determines **Mission** success or failure. If we are not ready to "Fight Now" or deploy on short notice, we compromise the Division's ability to efficiently command and control, move throughout the battle space, and communicate. We have a no fail mission and responsibility to facilitate and contribute to operations throughout the Division's area of responsibility. As we incorporate readiness into our daily routines, we should always ask, "How is what I am doing today contributing to our ability to Fight Now?" Do not let the answer be nothing.

This is how I see myself shaping the mindset of the battalion. What has been done prior to my arrival has been nothing less than spectacular. Let's continue to sharpen the edge of Headquarters Battalion together.

Semper Fidelis,  
*B. M. Harvey*  
Brian M. Harvey  
Colonel, United States Marine Corps