

COMMAND PHILOSOPHY

Individual Marines are the bedrock of our Marine Corps. Our most important responsibility is leading these Marines. I believe that every aspect of our profession of arms is directly or indirectly driven by leadership. Leadership is a matter of conditioning. My approach to command will remain laser focused on plain old good leadership development. We will build a sense of shared purpose through the pursuit of balanced excellence across all functional areas. The pacing item for readiness is leadership, as such I will measure our progress against this metric. The following elements underpin my philosophy and provide the framework within which we will operate:

1. **WARFIGHTING IS OUR JOB:** Maintain the warrior spirit, as it is key to defending America. It requires making sacrifices that will better the unit and this country. Ensure you are mentally and physically prepared. Sustainment of combat readiness is our mandate. Be aggressive and intense in the execution of your duties. Embrace your job, taking pride in your effort and the effort of your Marines.
2. **TAKE CARE OF YOUR MARINES AND FAMILY:** We succeed because of the support network behind us. Prepare your family and Marines for contingencies and attend to their personal/professional welfare. Leadership is about influence; empower your Marines.
3. **BE PROFESSIONAL:** This is the one attribute of the Marine Corps that allows us to stand alone. Treat everyone, both subordinate and senior alike, with respect. Maintain your bearing and act in accordance with your respective billet or rank. Strive to be infallible.
4. **BE A LEADER:** Understand the tenants of leadership and the important difference between leading and being led. Read and heed the 14 Leadership Traits and 11 Leadership Principles. Make them the foundation of your own leadership style. I will tell you the grass needs mowing, I will not tell you how to mow it.
5. **BE A PERSON OF CHARACTER:** When you entered the Marine Corps, the veneer of civilization was rubbed off thereby exposing your character. Know the difference between right and wrong and do what is right regardless of how hard it is. Do the right thing even when no one is looking. Do not sacrifice your integrity in pursuit of personal gain. Be honest with yourself and your Marines.
6. **MAINTAIN ACCOUNTABILITY:** Take your job seriously and hold your Marines accountable. Counsel them when they have done well and when they have done poorly. Ensure accountability of your equipment and the proper conduct of maintenance to keep us in the fight. If maintained, our equipment will save our lives and take the lives of the enemy.
7. **ENFORCE STANDARDS/SAFETY:** Be consistent in everything you do. You have a responsibility to uphold Marine Corps standards and an inherent obligation to police our conduct. Our job is extremely dangerous so you must concentrate on the threat to life and limb. Mitigate the potential hazards through proper risk management. Do not be risk averse.
8. **TRAIN AS A TEAM TO FIGHT AS A TEAM:** Training is vitally important to efficiently and effectively execute in combat. There is strength in numbers, especially if the individuals are loyal and united. Teamwork will allow us to increase our proficiency and better prepare for future missions.
9. **WORK HARD, PLAY HARD:** Focus on sound execution, both in garrison and in the field, but know that of equal importance, is the development of camaraderie among your fellow Marines.
10. **ENJOY WHAT YOU DO:** Your attitude is a weapon and a sense of humor can be body armor to your spirit.

Semper Fidelis,



M. S. McFADDEN
Lieutenant Colonel

Commanding Officer, Marine Air Support Squadron 2

"GET ON THE ROPE AND PULL!"