COMMANDING OFFICER,
MARINE TACTICAL AIR COMMAND SQUADRON-18

COMMAND PHILOSOPHY

It is a tremendous honor to serve as the Commanding Officer of MTACS-18. I want everyone to understand my command philosophy and be familiar with those things I believe will contribute directly to mission success. They are *Pride, Preparedness, Professionalism, and Proficiency.*

Pride: Instilling pride at every level, from the individual Marine to the squadron, is critical. Pride was a key factor in leading Marines to victory against the odds at Guadalcanal, Chosin Reservoir, and Khe Sahn. It pushes our limits of endurance, drives us to be the best, builds esprit de corps, and strengthens unit cohesion. It also prevents individuals from engaging in behavior that could bring dishonor upon the unit or the Corps.

Preparedness: As the nation's 911 Force, we must be ready to respond to any crisis around the world on short notice. Contingencies may range from large-scale, forcible-entry operations to smaller stability and humanitarian support actions. We will maintain a constant state of preparedness by maximizing training opportunities, supporting family readiness, and ensuring weapons and equipment are properly maintained.

Professionalism: MTACS-18 Marines must always conduct themselves in a professional manner. Everyone in the squadron is expected to maintain the highest standards of personal appearance and behavior at all times, whether in or out of uniform. Every leader will establish trust, provide mentorship, and foster initiative amongst their subordinates. Strong moral character, honesty, and integrity are all virtues we will uphold. Accountability and discipline are expected and enforced. Confidence and humility are encouraged; hubris and arrogance are not. Discrimination in any form violates our core values and will not be tolerated. Family members are considered an integral part of our unit and will be treated as such.

Proficiency: We must strive to remain more capable and proficient than our enemies in all areas. Our number one priority is to be experts in our profession. Through tactical competence, by training to our Mission Essential Tasks, we will ensure operational success. We will always seek unit and self-improvement by strengthening our minds and our bodies.

These four pillars are the foundation of our success and will serve as our guiding philosophy as we embark together on our mission as Marines.

Semper Fidelis,

S. M. Kampen

S. M. KAMPEN
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding

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