



MARINE WING COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON 18 COMMANDER'S PHILOSOPHY



Our Commander-in-Chief has identified the US Indo-Pacific as a priority theater for the Department of Defense in the National Defense Strategy, and our Commandant has echoed the same for our service by designating III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) as the "Stand-in Force." Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18 (MWCS-18) is home to this region, which includes formidable adversaries that challenge our nation and allies.

It is significant to the mission accomplishment of Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and III MEF that each Marine within MWCS-18 be prepared to "Fight Now." This includes planning, operating, and maintaining redundant communications networks that will enable crucial command and control across the formation, including with key joint and bi-lateral partners and allies. All squadron Marines, regardless of rank and military occupational specialty, are vital to our success.

My below 3 priorities will set conditions to ensure the squadron's ability to win no matter how complex the operational environment:

1. Readiness

Squadron
Individual Marine
Gear and equipment
Family and loved ones

2. Relationships

Look out for and take care of each other
Be an engaged leader and valued teammate
Always lead by example; teach, coach, and mentor
Treat everyone with dignity, respect, and compassion
Form connections with counterparts throughout III MEF

3. Fundamentals

Focus on brilliance in the basics; this always leads to excellence
Make professional and personal goals; work hard to achieve them
Manage risk; deliberately plan for safe outcomes in everything you do
Strive to maintain the highest of standards; always give 100 percent effort
Do the right thing always; maintain your honesty, trustworthiness, and integrity
Have self and unit pride; know you are absolutely critical to the squadron's success
Know your job; continuously seek improvement of your technical and tactical proficiency
Hold others to standard; provide the leadership necessary to do so (regardless of your rank)
Use dedicated resources when in need; chaplain, medical, EPBHC, MFLC, UVA, SARC, OSCAR, etc.
Always demonstrate ethical behavior; adhere to our core values of honor, courage, and commitment
Communicate early and often; this facilitates proper planning and awareness throughout the squadron

I enlisted in the Marine Corps 26-years ago for the challenge, and to be part of something bigger than myself. I have remained in the service because of great Americans like you, who represent the best and brightest of our country. I am humbled and honored to command MWCS-18, a unit with a rich history and a superb reputation, and look forward to standing shoulder-to-shoulder with each Marine within the squadron.

Semper Fidelis,

Kevin M. Soeder

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Commanding Officer, Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18