

# Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group – 36

## Command Philosophy

If you review the legacy of Marine Aircraft Group 36, from 1952 to present, it is clear that this unique organization has faced and overcome some significant challenges throughout its colorful history, from being the first MAG in Vietnam, and eventually evacuating over 7000 personnel out of Saigon, to conducting Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster Relief (HADR) missions throughout the Asia-Pacific region, the strength of MAG-36 has been its ability to consistently adapt in order to remain **relevant, reliable and ready** to meet the needs of the Marine Corps, and the Nation.



While the challenges we face today may differ from those experienced by our predecessors, our ability to overcome them should not. As Marines (and as Sailors and civilians serving in Marine units), our history shows a proven record of overcoming difficult challenges better than anyone else. If we embrace that legacy, and approach every problem with the same tenacity and sense of purpose as those that have served before us, there is nothing this MAG can't achieve.

Our ability to effectively operate as a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) is what makes us unique as Marines, separates us from other services, and defines our relevance to the Department of Defense, and to the Nation. Everything we do, at every level within the organization, needs to be focused on improving the strength and capabilities of the MAGTF, particularly when it comes to planning and conducting aviation operations as an Aviation Combat Element (ACE).

Teamwork is the very essence of what allows the MAGTF to succeed and must be at the foundation of everything we do in MAG-36. In order for us to achieve greatness as a team, everyone must be committed to a strong work ethic, taking ownership of the problems we face, finding creative and innovative solutions, and doing the right thing each and every day. As members of the MAG-36 team, everything you do on or off duty will either add or detract from the professional reputation of this organization. I expect you to take that responsibility seriously, and do the right thing.

My desire for this command is to be the best MAG in the Marine Corps. Not through arrogance, but through action, and by being **relevant, reliable and ready** to do whatever the Marine Corps and the Nation asks of us:

### Relevant

- Professional understanding of the operating environment and the missions we must be prepared for
- Understanding and supporting the bigger picture (how our missions are nested in HHQ/MAGTF missions)
- Focus on MAGTF effectiveness through the professional execution of expeditionary aviation operations

### Reliable

- Establish and maintain a reputation of professionalism and operational excellence in everything we do
- Engaged leadership/mentorship/communication at all levels, with a focus on enabling collective success
- Empower teamwork & responsibility at all levels (focus on finding solutions over identifying problems)

### Ready:

- Readiness in all things so that we can fight tonight! (Personnel, equipment, training, medical, dental...)
- Focus on MAG readiness over unit readiness as a means to supporting MAGTF readiness
- Taking a personal interest in the lives of our Marines/Sailors, and their families (Family readiness)

  
J. F. HARP