



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
1ST BATTALION, 8TH MARINES
2D MARINE DIVISION
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CAMP LEJEUNE, NC 28542-0102

IN REPLY REFER TO:
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CO
17 Jun 11

From: Commanding Officer
To: All Hands

Subj: PHILOSOPHY OF COMMAND

1. Mission success is only possible when every member of the Battalion understands what is to be accomplished and why. Additionally, victory goes to those units which are disciplined and trust each other like a family. To become this unit we must build a collective trust during both operations and our daily lives.

2. I provide the following four principles to be used as foundations for how we conduct business and for how we will live our lives together for the unforeseen future.

a. KNOW YOUR MARINES: Solid teams and families are built on trust. This trust is not easily given, but it is earned. Leaders must know all those they are responsible for as if they were their brother and this includes their families as well. Regardless of rank or position, all Marines and Sailors must know their subordinates, their leaders and their peers. Relationships built upon trust are unbreakable, and a unit built upon trust is unbeatable.

b. KNOW YOUR PROFESSION: We are not in corporate America. We are all in a profession of arms, not a job. We must be smart and we must be tough. Our profession is based on standards and traditions; know them and abide by them leaders, enforce them. Be an expert in your MOS. If you are not, learn through those that are. If ever in doubt, ask questions. Be the total package. If you are married be a good husband. If you have children, be a good Dad. We are held to higher standards of performance and conduct than any group in America. Accept the difficulties and uncertainty of our profession and thrive in it.

c. USE COMMON SENSE: Most accidents can be attributed to lack of common sense. Regardless of environment most things that look bad and smell bad, are indeed bad. Our profession is complex. In many cases the answer to a problem can be found by using basic common sense. Keep things simple, always have a plan and before any action, take the "sniff" test.

d. DON'T BE A JERK: You can use any label you want. The bottom line is that Marines and Sailors are to be treated with respect, always. You represent 1/8 in everything you do. Every member of this unit has one chance to make a first impression. This not only applies to junior members, but senior Marines and Sailors as well; including the Battalion Commander. Leaders who lead through rank and fear are not leaders, they are cowards. Yellers and screamers are not leaders, they are liabilities. Be yourself and others will follow. Subordinates will abide by the orders of a senior strictly out of regulations. They will follow the leader who is a person of character.

K. C. TRIMBLE