



To the Marines, Sailors, and Civilian Team Members of 1st Battalion, 8th Marines



## COMMAND MANTRA: **LEAD**

**LEADERS MAKE THINGS HAPPEN.** I'm a big believer that leaders - fire team to battalion commander - are the catalyst to the accomplishment of great things. I want this thought to guide the actions of all Marines in this outfit regardless of rank. If you are in charge, accomplish things! If no one is leading, **SOMEONE** better take charge and **MAKE** things HAPPEN! Normally, when things go wrong, it is the failure of a leader executing this philosophy at some level in the chain.

**EVERYTHING IS PREP FOR COMBAT & LIFE.** Every opportunity, both in garrison and in the field, will be focused on preparing for future combat operations. All decisions will be made with this in mind.

**ALWAYS FIND A WAY TO HAVE FUN.** Outstanding training coupled with a professional working environment and a genuine personal commitment to our Marines is what brings us all in every day. What we do is a serious and deadly business; if we can't laugh at ourselves along the way we will burn out. Everyone can't be a MARINE...enjoy the privilege.

**DO WHAT IS RIGHT.** All of us have some form of values that should guide our thinking in uncertain situations. Bottom line: If it doesn't feel right, or seem right, it probably isn't. **FIX IT!** Everyone in this command has a responsibility to do what is right. If we get it right once...we won't do it twice.

R.J. MCCLAM, LtCol, USMC  
Commanding