



## HEADQUARTERS BATTALION 1ST MARINE DIVISION (REIN), FMF



### 5-3-5 “FLAT-ASS” RULES

As outlined in our Training and Operating Guidance, the Standard Bearers will implement and continually reinforce the tenets of the 5-3-5 “Flat-Ass” Rules.

These rules have evolved from timeless principles which have ensured battlefield success for generations. General James Mattis first codified them during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and their application extends to both present day and future, undetermined battlefields.

Accordingly, all Standard Bearers will guide their actions according the following axioms:

#### **Pre/Post-Action:**

1. Five-paragraph order / patrol order
2. Rehearsals
3. Pre-combat checks / pre-combat inspections
4. Confirmation briefs / back-briefs
5. Debriefs / after-action reviews

#### **Habits of Action:**

1. Unity of command
2. Geometry of fires
3. Guardian Angel

#### **Habits of Thought:**

1. Sturdy professionalism
2. Maneuver warfare
3. Never be complacent
4. Seize the initiative
5. Accountability of self, buddy, unit, Corps, and country

All Standard Bearer leaders will ensure implementation, execution, and supervision of these principles at the lowest level in order to safeguard our Marines and Sailors and set the conditions for our continued success in the complex 21st Century operating environment.

Semper Fidelis, and *Faciat Georgius*.

S. W. B. Folsom  
Colonel USMC  
Commanding Officer