

## COMMAND PHILOSOPHY & FIRST PRINCIPLES

### Command Philosophy

We serve The Constitution and The People of the United States. Inherent in our service is the responsibility for mission accomplishment. We fulfill this solemn responsibility by remaining, "Ready to Fight" – ready to fight and win, on and off the battlefield. Readiness of our Marines, Sailors, and their families, readiness of our units, and readiness of our equipment, are essential to our success and are the truest form of troop welfare. To remain ready, we work and live by First Principles.



### First Principles

The following principles are imperative to our readiness, and they thrive in the bedrock of discipline – the discipline of self-control and personal responsibility – the hallmark of the U.S. Marine Corps.

- Service and Sacrifice. We voluntarily serve something greater than ourselves. Service involves continuous sacrifice – sacrifice of our time and energy for others. A genuine willingness to give of oneself, to serve and sacrifice for those we lead, distinguishes true leaders from the rest.
- Trust. We operate through earned trust. Trust is a function of character and competence. Individually and organizationally, we must be of strong character (always maintaining our integrity while pursuing noble intent) and relentlessly improve our competence in the art and science of warfighting (continually developing our capabilities/proficiency while delivering superior results).
- Excellence. We pursue balanced excellence. Readiness requires we be physically fit, mentally tough, emotionally resilient, and spiritually grounded. We must commit and challenge ourselves daily to pursue personal and professional excellence across these realms. Each day we get better, or we get worse.
- Pride and Respect. We take pride in the greatness of our country, the reputation of our Marine Corps, and the legacy of our Regiment. Foster a positive, healthy, and ethical command climate through good order, discipline, and mutual respect. Value the dignity of each and every Marine and Sailor, and be proud of our individual and collective accomplishments.
- Attitude. We maintain a positive attitude. A positive attitude accelerates individual and organizational growth and contributes to a strong command climate. In every moment – between the existing or emergent situation and our response – is the freedom to choose. Choose to be positive and choose to be grateful for the opportunities that present themselves.

The profession of arms is our chosen profession and although service in the Marine Corps can be a hard and demanding life, it is a life with meaning and purpose. Enjoy the camaraderie, the sense of accomplishment, and the feeling of success it provides... and remain, "Ready to Fight!"

Semper Fidelis,

B. W. GRAHAM

Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

Commanding Officer, 1st Marine Regiment