



DARKSIDE 6

Enduring Commander's Intent



"We are either waging war, or we are preparing for it!"

DARKSIDE is first and foremost a warfighting organization. **We exist to fight and win battles** in "any clime or place," against any foe, at any time, while keeping our honor clean. Developing lethal and ethical warriors doesn't happen by chance... it takes a deliberate effort. In support of the effort, the Marines and Sailors of this battalion will live by the following principles:

- **Uncompromising Discipline:** Units that lack discipline are ineffective in combat. Ruthless adherence to standards is non-negotiable. **Discipline must define everything we do as an organization** – how we wear our uniform, how we prepare for combat, how we maintain accountability, and everything else we do as warfighters, both in uniform and out. Know the standards and hold yourself and your Marines and Sailors accountable to them. **Live up to the title United States Marine or United States Sailor.** Don't tarnish the reputation!
- **Team over Self:** As stated in MCDP-1, "Maneuver warfare is a warfighting philosophy that seeks to **shatter the enemy's cohesion** through a variety of rapid, focused, and unexpected actions which create a turbulent and rapidly deteriorating situation with which the enemy cannot cope." Cohesion is an essential component of any effective team... particularly a warfighting organization. Cohesion will not exist in an organization full of individuals (i.e., individual Marines, individual sections, individual platoons, individual companies, individual battalions, etc.) who value their own needs over the team. We will build cohesion through trust and teamwork. Take care of each other and build the team.
- **Bias for Action:** Friction, uncertainty, and disorder are natural byproducts of the battlefield. Inaction, fueled by timidity and uncertainty will cede the initiative to our enemy... forcing us to fight on their terms. We must learn to thrive in chaotic and uncertain environments. Leaders at all levels in this battalion (Private – Lieutenant Colonel) are empowered to act based on commander's intent and their estimate of the situation. **Individual initiative**, guided by **sound judgment** developed through training, education, and mentorship will win the day.
- **"Fight Now" Mentality:** While slated for UDP in 2026, that is not our sole aimpoint. We must be prepared to execute contingency operations anywhere in the world, on little to no notice. **Make every minute count!** Prepare yourself, prepare your family, hone your skills, sharpen your minds, harden your bodies, and maintain your gear! We will train the people we have while integrating new members as they join the team. "You don't go to war with what you want, you go with what you have." Be RIPPER Ready!

2025 marks the 250th birthday of our Corps and the 100th birthday of V34. We have an obligation to uphold the legacy of warfighting prowess, professionalism, and selfless sacrifice of those who have gone before us. **I am honored to be a part of this team** and look forward to rowing alongside you to ensure that we remain prepared to "Fight Now" and win on any battlefield in the world and return home with our honor clean.

Semper Fidelis



A. D. Wright

12 June 2025