



Commanding Officer, Headquarters and Support Battalion Command Philosophy

Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.

- Aristotle



I believe it is my responsibility as your Commanding Officer to ensure each member of this command—whether a Marine, Sailor, or civilian Marine—achieves excellence not only in Headquarters and Support Battalion, but also in their personal and professional lives. To do so, I offer the following six maxims that have guided my actions and decisions throughout my career. These define who I am, how I think, and serve as the framework for my Command Philosophy.

1. Maintain a Warfighter mindset.

- Warfighters understand that every Marine is, first and foremost, a rifleman.
- Warfighters emphasize training in peace to ensure excellence in combat.
- Warfighters never shy away from the opportunity to lead.
- Warfighters take care of each other.

2. Have a strong body, a strong mind, and a strong character.

- Physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual fitness is the gateway to achieving excellence in all aspects of your life.
- Your mind is a muscle that will atrophy if not regularly exercised.
- Learning is a life-long commitment.
- Integrity is the backbone of a strong character—never compromise it!
- Do what you know is morally right, always.

3. Be professional in all you do.

- Professionals know their mission, know their military occupational specialty, and know their people.
- Professionals treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- Professionals do not stop being professionals when off duty.

4. Share your knowledge with others.

- Knowledge and information is power and must be shared.
- Think like a subject matter expert, but talk like a layman.
- Good communication is the lubrication needed to keep the Battalion running smoothly.

5. Be a problem solver, not a problem finder.

- You are all empowered to solve problems as they arise at your level.
- When presenting problems to a higher level, always offer a solution if possible.
- Figure out how to get to “yes” by focusing on purpose and intent, not process.

6. Accept responsibility for the bad, share praise for the good.

- How you respond to making a mistake is often more important than how the mistake was made.
- Our business is a team sport—we cannot achieve excellence without the help of others.
- The more you recognize your people for their efforts, the more they will support yours.
- Protect What You’ve Earned—make responsible choices and don’t be a bystander to destructive behavior.

Semper Fidelis,

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Commanding Officer, Headquarters and Support Battalion