

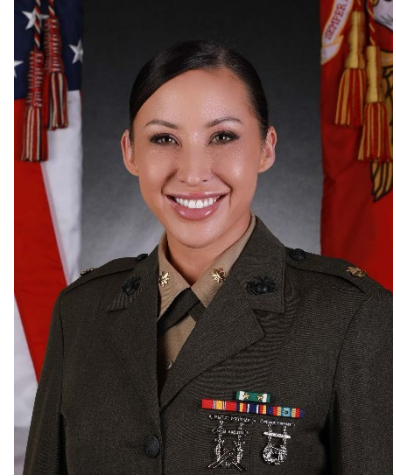


# COMMAND PHILOSOPHY

Marine Detachment Fort Meade  
Defense Information School

Every Marine who checks into this detachment carries the legacy of those Marines who came before—who upheld the standards and values that define who we are. My philosophy is simple: **We are Marines first**. This truth shapes how we train, lead, communicate, and hold ourselves accountable, even when no one is watching. It's not just a set of rules; it's a guide for how I lead, how I expect you to lead, and how we honor the Marines who paved the way.

Being a Marine isn't just a title—it's a mindset. It means showing up with discipline, humility, and an unwavering commitment to your fellow Marines. While we are here to learn our craft as communicators, remember: our credibility starts with being Marines first. We are sharp, focused, and mission-driven, both in our profession and in our identity.




I expect every Marine in this detachment to strive for excellence—not perfection, but genuine excellence rooted in hard work, honesty, and the drive to always improve. Mistakes will happen, and that's okay. What matters is how we respond. We take responsibility for our actions, lift each other up when we stumble, and push ourselves and our fellow Marines to be better every day. Accountability is essential—it's how we build trust, and trust is what makes us stronger, more respected, and lethal.

Leadership isn't about rank—it's about presence. Whether you're a private, SNCO, or a company grade officer, how you carry yourself matters. Do you lead from the front, or step back and wait for someone else to take charge? Leaders step up, take responsibility, and look out for their Marines. This means fostering an environment where high standards are the norm, growth is constant, and no one gets left behind.

One of the most important things we'll focus on here is each other. We're not here to just show up—we're here to build a team that rises to the challenge and takes care of its own. When you know the Marines next to you have your back—and you have theirs—you perform better. That kind of unity is built through consistent effort, honesty, and genuine concern for each other's success and well-being.

Finally, make the most of your time here at Fort Meade. Learn everything you can. Push your limits. Strengthen your body, sharpen your mind, and get ready to lead Marines in whatever comes next.

My Command Philosophy is not just a set of words—it's how I lead, how I expect you to lead, and how we honor the legacy of those who came before us. Hold the standard. Know your craft. Take care of each other. And never forget—you are first and foremost a **United States Marine**.

  
N. M. PLYMALE  
COMMANDING OFFICER