



COMMAND PHILOSOPHY

Marine Detachment Fort Meade
Defense Information School

This document articulates aspects of the philosophy that will guide my actions & expectations. It is the crossroads of Marine Corps values, leadership principles, and leadership traits with my personal experience. Its purpose is to help understand my leadership approach, assist leaders in making decisions in my absence, and guide Marines in their conduct.

I expect all Marines to familiarize themselves with and understand this document.

Hold yourself and one another to a high standard. Some aspects of the Marine Corps have minimum standards and other aspects have simply a standard. This is akin to the difference between a class graded on a spectrum (A to F) versus a pass/fail class. In all parts of your personal and professional life, you should strive to meet the standard and excel wherever possible. Along the way, you will make mistakes. This is okay. We are not a zero-defect unit, and we recognize that mistakes, if handled correctly, are opportunities to grow. We will foster a culture that embraces a growth mindset. We will seek opportunities to teach & mentor and encourage individuals to improve & strive for excellence. **Leaders should lead by example, adhere to standards, and hold others accountable.**



Take care of one another. The Marine Corps is a team of teams, and team building is fundamental to our readiness. It's teamWORK, not teamHAPPENS— we must be intentional in building the connective tissue between peers and from leaders to subordinates. The foundation of this is care & interest in one another's personal & professional lives. Taking care of one another means ensuring our teammates have the necessary resources to accomplish their tasks, providing them with opportunities to develop, and treating each other with dignity & respect. It especially extends to off-duty hours and liberty buddies: be prepared to pull your teammate away from danger, be it because of themselves or someone else. **Leaders should foster a culture of care and support, both for one another and for their Marines.**

Take advantage of your time here. This school is an opportunity for you to learn your initial craft, to further develop your craft, to instruct the next generation of Marines, and/or to enable the future of our community. If you are a student, view assignments as valuable opportunities for learning and growth, rather than just tasks to be completed. You are in your prep time for the Fleet Marine Forces and potentially combat. Take advantage of this time to develop yourself, you may not have time later. Also take advantage of this time to explore the area and all it has to offer, to develop your mind & body, and to spend time with your family & friends, even if it is just a phone or video call. **Leaders should optimize the use of their Marines' time, minimizing inefficiencies & maximizing productivity.**


A. T. BOLLA
COMMANDING OFFICER