

2d Marine Division

COMMANDING GENERAL'S PHILOSOPHY OF COMMAND

22 May 2025

This is designed to promote a shared understanding across the Division so that, when faced with combat, we can collectively generate the tempo of operations required to prevail.

MISSION FIRST. OUR PEOPLE ALWAYS.

We are a *warfighting* organization. This Division is a force-in-readiness that exists *to fight and win in high-end combat* and *to respond to crisis globally*. Everyday must be lived with intentionality, because the call could come at any time. Our strength lies in our Marines, Sailors, and Civilians-develop and challenge them, and care for them and their families.

BE PROFESSIONAL, COMPETENT, ACCOUNTABLE, & DISCIPLINED.

Professionalism is a standard we must embody. We will be tactically and technically proficient and implement accountability at all levels. Discipline underpins everything we do, driving habits of action that lead to excellence and virtue.

BE BRILLIANT IN THE BASICS AND RELEVANT FOR THE FUTURE.

Master the fundamentals of modern combined arms warfare. Excellence in basic warfighting enables us to scale to more complex operations. We must be students of doctrine as well as the evolving character of war. We will aggressively adapt our tactics, techniques, and procedures while modernizing our capability using our own resources and creativity.

DO WHAT IS RIGHT, ALWAYS.

Our oath is to the Constitution. That oath binds us to principle, not popularity. Leaders must do what is right, not what is easy. Ethical courage and seeking moral clarity are non-negotiables in the Marine Corps, especially in those who lead.

BUILD TRUST.

Trust is the currency of combat and the foundation of strong units. It can only be built over time, doing hard things. Leaders must know their people-who they are, what motivates them, and how they are doing. In cohesive, high-functioning teams, the leader is among those they lead, communicating often and clearly, seeking feedback, and holding themselves and their people accountable.

ISSUE INTENT, THEN GET OUT OF THE WAY.


Our small unit leaders will fight distributed in harsh, adverse, and contested environments against a peer adversary. Therefore, leaders must issue clear intent, provide direction and resourcing, and then get out of the way. While it stands to reason that subordinates must earn the trust they will execute under, we must trust subordinates to act with initiative and speed, grounded in discipline and shared understanding.

SEEK FEEDBACK, CONSTANTLY IMPROVE.

We must be a learning organization where honest mistakes are viewed as opportunities. Leaders must demand and provide feedback and clear-eyed assessments where facts and data are balanced with honed intuition. Candor fuels improvement, exposes friction points, and helps us adapt. Do not allow ego or emotion to cloud decision making.

HONOR THE LEGACY – EARN IT DAILY.

From Belleau Wood to Tarawa to the battles in Iraq & Afghanistan, 2d Marine Division earned a preeminent place among warfighting organizations throughout history. We honor that legacy best not through nostalgia, but through relentless commitment to excellence in everything we do today.



F.J. SULLIVAN

“Human will, instilled through leadership, is the driving force of all action of war.” -MCDP-1