



Commanding Officer, VMU-2

Command Philosophy



IT IS ALL ABOUT RESPECT.

The future security environment is uncertain. The missions of the Marine Corps are undefined. Our duty as Marines is "to be most ready, when the nation is least ready." When called upon, the *Night Owls* will be **Combat Ready** to rapidly deploy in support the MAGTF Commander during amphibious, expeditionary, joint, or combined operations.

We can ensure that we are ready to meet any challenge placed before us by embracing one simple principle: **RESPECT**. When applied to our daily lives, this principle can have profound and lasting effects.

Respect for our Family. Our ability to be most ready when our nation is least ready requires a stable home front. Family is the cornerstone upon which all of our successes are built. Without the foundation of a strong family, we cannot expect to focus on our primary mission, which is combat effectiveness. Family has different forms: blood relation, civil relation, and marital relation. Put family first and get your house in order. Families are an integral part of who we, as Marines, are and I consider their welfare and well-being to be of the highest importance.

Respect for our Faith. We each determine our own personal interpretation of Faith. Whether it is faith in your God, faith in your moral upbringing, or faith in each other, your Faith should guide you in everything you do and is easily recognizable by the way in which you live.

Respect for our Nation. We each raised our right hand and have sworn to "...protect and defend the Constitution, against all enemies, both foreign and domestic..." That oath means that we are committed to the defense of freedom and the ideals set forth by our founding fathers. To compromise that promise jeopardizes the fabric of the cloth that binds us all.

Respect for our Corps. The traditions of the Marine Corps have been forged on battle fields and in disaster areas over many generations. The Nation holds us to a higher standard and looks up to Marines in ways for which other services can only wish. Do not disrespect the Corps through acts of dishonor. Our duty as military professionals is to exhibit the moral courage to live our lives in a manner worthy of being called "Marines."

Our success as a unit rests in our ability to accomplish the mission. My primary job is to facilitate your success. I take great pride in that task because I respect each and every one of you. I will give my last breath to maintain your respect. All I ask in return is that you give Respect to those who have earned it and demand that they continue to earn it. It is your right to demand the same in return, but never stop continuing to earn that Respect.

It is all about Respect. Follow this principal and the *Night Owls* will be more than just combat ready – we will be **Combat Effective!**

Semper Fidelis

A. Che Bolden

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer



Commanding Officer, VMU-2 Command Guidance



VMU-2 IS A FLYING SQUADRON.

It is our ultimate duty to be a *combat effective* flying squadron. We operate airborne weapons systems of incredible capacity and lethality, capable of providing MAGTF support across the multiple functions of Marine Aviation. Our weapons systems consist of many moving parts – the most important being the Marines and sailors who operate and employ them. It is my responsibility to facilitate your success and to ensure that Night Owl combat readiness is up to the high standards of the Marine Corps so that we will be combat effective.

Abiding by the following doctrine, VMU-2 will continue to be the vanguard of excellence and ready for any task that our Nation requires of us.

RESPECT THE BASICS. Our squadron needs to excel at the basics. There is a difference between “easy” (less effort) and “simple” (clear cut). The basic tenets of Leadership, Responsibility, and Accountability provide the foundation for everything we do and are quite simple, but they are far from easy. Our core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment set us apart from other organizations, serve to foster trust and esprit, and ultimately serve as force multipliers. Common and military courtesies should be second nature – individual actions speak volumes. Tactical expertise starts with the fundamentals. It is impossible to consider advanced tactics and employment, unless we can flawlessly perform the fundamental tasks – AVIATE, NAVIGATE, and COMMUNICATE. No matter what the mission, adherence to basics will keep Marines safe while punishing our adversaries.

RESPECT AND EXPECT EXCELLENCE. Integrity is the fundamental element of our warrior culture. In all areas of our lives, it entails doing the right thing when no one is looking. *Say as you do and do as you say.* Excel at your job by surpassing the required level of knowledge. Be relentless in mastering the basics and training to a higher standard. In doing so, mission accomplishment will be attained in any environment.

RESPECT THE WEAPONS SYSTEM. True to form, Marines continue to “do more with less.” We sit at a critical moment in the evolution of Marine Aviation. The VMU community is being asked to expand our “portfolio” while developing capabilities necessary for MAGTF success. Manfred Von Richthofen (The Red Baron) once said, “*The quality of the box matters little. Success depends upon the man who sits in it.*” VMU-2 will safely develop tactics, techniques and procedures while fielding upgraded equipment and new systems. We will assess all risks, mitigate those risks, and execute our mission. Concentrate on the basics and strive to execute them to perfection – with every tool at your disposal.

RESPECT ONE ANOTHER. The title “Marine” is special! We’ve each earned the right to wear the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor. With that right comes a solemn responsibility to our fellow Marines. We train, deploy, and fight just as much for each other as for any other reason. Continually strive to enhance respect and trust within your section and the unit as a whole. Abusive or destructive behavior of ANY form – be it *sexual assault, sexual harassment, discrimination, denial of equal opportunity, fraternization, or hazing* – is cancerous and **will not be tolerated** or allowed to fester. It is adverse to good order and discipline and contrary to our ethos as Marines. Any substantiated behavior of misconduct, will be prosecuted in accordance with the Uniform Code of Military Justice and may be cause for disciplinary action that could result in discharge from the Navy or Marine Corps. If you witness inappropriate behavior, **it is your duty to stop it** and you are required to report it and ensure that it is handled in an appropriate and timely manner. The *Night Owl* Family needs to be a cohesive unit ready to execute as directed. Any rift or seam in unit integrity threatens our cohesiveness.

The Marine Corps – and VMU-2 – is made up of the best and brightest that our country has to offer. Together, we will advance our community and continue to set the bar high. As a Unit, we will continue to succeed by fostering a climate of RESPECT, PROFESSIONALISM, and EXCELLENCE. We will be innovative and boundary-expanding. We will talk about what we are going to do, and then we are going to do it. We are, and will continue to be, the best at what we do.

Semper Fidelis

A. Che Bolden

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
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