



Philosophy of Command Marine Barracks Washington



I am truly honored and humbled to serve with you at the “Oldest Post of the Corps.” My philosophy on command prioritizes two things, our mission and our people.

The mission and the Marines, Sailors, and civilians are inextricably linked. Mission accomplishment requires unselfish dedication as well as leaders in both rank and billet that care for those who help accomplish the mission. The individual Marine, Sailor, and civilian is the most valuable and adaptable asset of our unit and our Corps. As a member of the Oldest Post, you should expect 100 percent from every leader in the battalion, as those under your charge will demand it from you...as will I. We must constantly be mentors and trainers to juniors and seniors alike. I charge each member of the command to set a positive climate based on engaged leadership, which breeds an environment of success.

Marine Barracks Washington is the face of the Marine Corps. We maintain the Marine Corps standard and its storied traditions. Marine Barracks Washington has an unparalleled reputation throughout the Corps and in the community; our unit has earned it through past success and your continued superior performance. We must continue to challenge each and every Marine, Sailor, and civilian through tough and realistic training. Work hard through these periods and once complete take advantage of this unique assignment and spend time with your families. We must also meet standards by continuous debriefs and evaluations...this is mandatory!

Challenge yourself daily and set the example. We must choose the harder right over the easier wrong. Whether it is in training, garrison, or combat; we owe this to each other as Marines, Sailors, and civilians. Never hide bad information or lie about it hoping it will go away. Bad news never gets better with time and I expect to know the bad news before the good. Own up to your mistakes and errors...everyone makes them. Integrity is key! Together we will make it right.

I seek out Officers, SNCOs, NCOs, and supervisors who know their jobs and lead from the front. We should all expect this from our leaders.

Marine Barracks Washington is made up of many different occupational specialties, skills, and talents; we all have something to learn. Additionally, we are a small unit and need to know more than just our specialty...if you don't know it, find a way to learn it. Take any opportunity you can to prepare yourself and your Marines for the future. Plant trees that you will never see grown.

Be proud of our unit, but do not rest on its laurels. I remain constantly open to ideas and recommendations; some of the best ideas come from those who execute the plan. Use your chain of command though, I firmly believe in it.

Follow this philosophy and you will succeed at Marine Barracks Washington, and, more than likely, at anything you pursue. I am honored to serve alongside of each of you.

R. A. SUCHER
Colonel, USMC