"Marines of the Ozarks"

Command Philosophy: What's Important To Me

Vision: To be the Marine Corps' premiere technical training and leadership institute, totally focused on the training and continuing development of its student Marines, and to be the duty station of choice for Marines leaving the operating forces.

Here is how I envision the permanent personnel of this Detachment as we move toward realizing this vision:

-People of **character**. **Character matters, absolutely**. Always do the right thing. "Core values" isn't just a slogan; internalize our core values of honor, courage and commitment and use them as the filter through which you view everything you do, both on and off duty. For the entry level Marines you are the first Marine they have met in their MOS, and, accordingly, you are on display to hundreds of these impressionable Marines everyday. Don't let them down by displaying less than exemplary character, either on or off duty. Remember, you are a Marine everyday, all day. Conversely, be aware, you will be held accountable if you choose to do the wrong thing. Unprofessional relationships with student Marines, irresponsible use of alcohol and lying and cheating in your professional or personal life will result in corrective action. Similarly, hazing will have no place at this Detachment. I expect you to lead your Marines with justice, dignity and respect in thought, word and deed.

-Competent and creative. Competence in the material we teach is an absolute. Nothing destroys credibility faster than an ill-prepared or poorly informed instructor. All hands will take advantage of continuing education programs and self-study to continually hone their technical skills, knowledge base and instructional ability. Creativity in the instruction makes the difference between students just going through the motions and students who are excited about their training and who will, therefore, retain their lessons and truly be of benefit to the operating forces. Think out of the box and hold their interest. For support personnel, your technical proficiency is key because your expertise in your functional area allows the instructors to focus solely on teaching the student Marines. It's all up to you---your goal is to be known as the best.

-Combat-ready at all times. Maintain a warrior focus, for a warrior is what you are. Impart this mindset to your student Marines and lead these Marines so they will be ready to assume their place in their unit which is likely on its way into combat. Focus on being brilliant in the basics and never compromise that most basic of the basics: discipline. For yourselves, realize that duty at this Detachment carries with it a heavy responsibility, conveying your operational knowledge and experience to the next generation, while preparing yourself to return to the operating forces. The fact that our Nation is at war produces an undeniable sense of urgency for what we do here. Take this responsibility deadly serious.

-Contagiously enthusiastic. Attitude can make the difference between victory and defeat. Maintain a sense of humor and truly enjoy what you are doing! Make sure to leave this Detachment a better Marine or civilian employee than when you arrived, and be able to look back at your individual and team accomplishments with pride. Duty at this Detachment is a unique opportunity, actually a leadership opportunity without parallel, that may never come your way again. Here you are actively shaping the next generation. Nothing is more satisfying than doing this job well. So, enjoy it while you have it!

Colonel N. A. Springer
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