



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

4TH RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION

4TH MARINE DIVISION

W. J. BORDELON NAVAL AND MARINE CORPS RESERVE CENTER

3837 BINZ ENGLEMAN ROAD

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78219-2235

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1500

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1 Oct 2016

From: Commanding Officer, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion
To: Marines and Sailors of 4th Reconnaissance Battalion

SUBJ: COMMAND PHILOSOPHY

Gentlemen, it is my distinct honor and privilege to serve with you as the Commanding Officer of this proud organization. Our nation has been at war for over 15 years, and many of you have completed multiple combat deployments. Although major U.S. ground combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have concluded, the level of conflict throughout the world has not decreased. We must all remain ready to answer our nation's call at any moment. With that fact in mind, I offer the following:

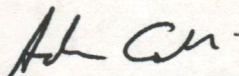
1. Recon is Never the Main Effort. We support the infantry. Our customers are the Ground Combat Element Commander and the MAGTF Commander. Our mission is to provide them with timely, accurate, actionable intelligence.

2. Brilliance in the Basics. It may be a cliché, but it remains true. As someone once said, there is no Advanced Reconnaissance Course. As Reconnaissance Marines, your basics are patrolling, concealment, observation, and reporting/communications. This is where I need you to focus. As Marines, we must always maintain proficiency in shooting, but recognize that in the reconnaissance role, if you have to fire your personal weapon, something has gone wrong. Focus your training efforts accordingly.

3. Focus on the Mission. Our ability to conduct jump and dive operations is important, but remember that they are insertion methods, nothing more. They are a means to an end, not an end in and of themselves. Jumping and diving get you to the objective area, so you can accomplish the mission. If you can't execute the basics, jumping and diving are irrelevant.

4. Focus on Fires. As stated above, the reconnaissance mission often does not involve firing your personal weapon. However, through the use of supporting arms, a recon team can achieve kinetic effects disproportionate to its size. I challenge every 0321 to become an expert at employing artillery and Close Air Support. These will be your best tools to shape the battlespace.

5. Quiet Professionals. Recon is a unique organization, with a demanding mission that is often not well understood by our fellow Marines. We must educate the units we support on the proper employment of reconnaissance teams, and the unique capabilities we bring to the fight, but we must guard against projecting the image that we are "better" than other Marines- that attitude will destroy our credibility. Be proud of who you are, but never be arrogant. It is the responsibility of every member of this command to represent the Reconnaissance community with the utmost professionalism.


A. L. COLLIER