



From: Commanding Officer

To: The Marines and Civilians of the Marine Detachment, Fort Sill, OK

Subj: PHILOSOPHY OF COMMAND

1. There is no higher professional achievement than to serve in the Marine Corps' home of artillery and fire support training: The Marine Detachment, Fort Sill. Success in training our Marines does not come without significant professional effort and personal sacrifice by members of the command and their families. Below are some of the principles upon which we will base our unit's day-to-day activities. By design, these principles are simple and straightforward. Along with our leadership traits, principles, warrior culture and unit esprit, we will continue to sustain the operating forces – the Regiments – with highly trained and professional Marines. I expect our leaders to share these thoughts with the members the Detachment and strive to live up to our hard-earned reputation and the expectations of those who have gone before.

2. **Fire Support –What We Do:** Whether you are a cook, mechanic, administrator, cannoneer, rocketeer, radar operator, communicator, fire support or fire direction Marine within the Detachment, support to our maneuver and operating force Regimental brothers and sisters resides in our very DNA; it is why we exist. Our community's reputation is derived by our demonstrated ability to provide timely, accurate, and devastating fires in support of the Division and its subordinate elements. Never forget this: we hold a special place within the maneuver formations as the only all weather, day-night, highly mobile, accurate and timely fire support arm within the GCE and we must speak, live, breath and execute this on a daily basis. We support and we must always find a way to say "yes" whether here at Fort Sill or when we go back to the Regiments.

3. **Shoot, Move, and Communicate:** Regardless of MOS, within Marine field artillery and fires support, our ability to execute these three core functions will drive our every activity. We need to ask ourselves routinely what we are doing towards improving our Marines' capability to shoot, move and communicate when they get to their units.

4. **Brilliance At The Basics:** This often quoted term has special meaning to the MarDet. Our core competencies – to shoot, move, and communicate – rely heavily on the choreographed efforts of (literally) thousands and our lethality depends on it. Here at the MarDet, we will focus on the basics: thoughtful, standards-based training using a systems approach to training to our T&R and ITS fundamentals. We will focus on a grounding in the fundamental technical and tactical skills of our profession. Consistent with this philosophy, we will embrace and nurture a culture of technical expertise built on the strengths of our permanent personnel and the resident community of experts augmented by our Corps-wide technical expertise. Speed will always play second fiddle to properly performed procedures (by the numbers) or we'll never truly learn our deadly dance and parlay our skill into lethal action. Simply put, there's no use in doing something if you can't do it right...do the simple things brilliantly and there is no limit to expanding our capabilities.

5. **Every Marine Is a Leader:** The ranks of our Detachment are filled with the best the Marine Corps can offer. Our personnel have been – quite literally – screened and hand-selected to be here. On a daily basis, we must imbue in every member of our command that they are a leader. I expect leaders to work tirelessly to train and educate their Marines – permanent personnel and students alike – in the fundamentals of Marine Corps leadership – our traits and principles...our core values – are two sources to begin and build upon and imbue our most junior leaders with the ability to take charge in any situation and win the day. They will grow to be our NCOs, SNCOs and officers – the reason our enemies should fear us.

6. **Supply, Maintenance, and Risk/Safety: Operational Imperatives.** There is an oft quoted cliché that states: "amateurs talk tactics, professionals talk logistics." Our mission demands that supply, maintenance and operational risk/safety are aggressively integrated into our daily operations. These essential functions will not be relegated to a supporting role or after thought, as they are pillars upon which sound superior performance, operational excellence, esprit and unit excellence are built. Our supply, maintenance and safety functions will planned and integrated into operations. Our mission, our customers and our Marines deserve no less.

7. I am humbled to be part of this command and will strive to ensure we prepare our charges for war.

C. A. TAVUCHIS