



Commanding Officer
Marine Wing Support Squadron 373
Command Philosophy



I am honored and privileged to serve as the Squadron Commander for Marine Wing Support Squadron-373. The Aces have an essential and demanding task of providing Aviation Ground Support (AGS) to the Aviation Combat Element (ACE). The Aces and the AGS we provide, gives the MAGTF freedom of movement and extends its range. This has become more crucial as the Organization assesses our next challenge. We are a critical capability which is linked to the success of the unit's mission. We must have a ZERO FAILURE mentality when it comes to the support we provide. My command philosophy is simple, direct, and should be used to guide your actions.

Brilliance in the Basics. We all are created equal, born, and bred with the same institutional and ethical standards drilled into our souls once we crossed the parade decks of the Marine Corps Recruit Depots San Diego, Parris Island, or Quantico. Our entry level training and basic schools have given us the foundation of what it takes to be a Marine and Sailor. We must not let this slip away, continue to maintain that sharpened edge and always strive to improve it. When all else fails, it will be our training that will carry us through the day.

Balance. Our lives and schedules are generally packed full of an endless number of tasks that must be accomplished however, we must find a way to strike a balance for all our competing interests. The Marine Corps is a 4-to-20-year endeavor, your family is a lifelong commitment. Remember, focusing too much on any one area generally means you are neglecting another. Below are the four areas you should strive to balance.

- a. Personal – Sharing time with friends and family
- b. Physical – Dedicating time to your health, fitness, and diet
- c. Professional – Career fulfillment, enhancement, and progression
- d. Spiritual – Identifying a higher calling, whether religious or philosophical

Hard Work, Works. We will work hard, there will be long nights, the workload may not fit nicely in-between 0730-1630. We will be both understaffed and overtasked. The only way to get through this is by working through it as a unit. A unit, leader, can only plan and estimate to a certain point, after that, it is on the individual Marine to work through the problem by dedicating real effort and commitment beyond what is expected. Take on the responsibility, take ownership of your work, billet, or position and your dedication will not go unnoticed. I expect effort, an earnest or strenuous attempt to get something done – nothing less.

Be a Professional. Professionals set the tone and maintain the standard within their unit. Professionals understand timelines and meet deadlines. Professionals hold themselves and others accountable. Professionals give and receive respect. Professionals make the hard call based on the greater good not because it is a comfortable decision. Professionals challenge, develop, mentor, and coach others. Professionals understand and enforce common courtesies and military etiquette. Professionals are curious and thoroughly research standing publications, orders, and directives. Professionals are leaders and are expected to do the right thing – always!

I look forward to the unique challenges, opportunities, and successes we will share throughout our time here at Marine Wing Support Squadron-373. When is your opportunity to lead? It is right now, every day!



Steven B. Dodson