



# VMFAT-502

## Command Philosophy



VMFAT-502 has a rich legacy of excellence, dating back to its establishment as VMF-513 in February of 1944. Throughout the years, our squadron has consistently demonstrated its commitment to the mission by supporting Marines across the globe in nearly every major Marine combat operation since World War II. Today, our mission is to conduct effective training and operations in the F-35B in coordination with joint and coalition partners in order to successfully attain the annual pilot training requirement. Let it not be lost on us that our mission today is equally as important as the mission yesterday; our performance will absolutely have an impact on the success of others tomorrow.

### **Commit to the Challenge**

Commit yourself against every challenge you're faced with. Every one of us decided to stand tall, raise our right hand, and swear an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that we would bear true faith and allegiance to the same. Commit to our service's standards, the work orders you've been assigned, or the flight event that you've been scheduled to instruct or fly in. I ask that you continue to serve and perform your role in our squadron with the same level of commitment and excitement that you had on day one of your journey as a United States Marine.

### **Strengthen the Bond**

Our bond as United States Marines has been formed over nearly 250 years by the blood, sweat, and tears of those who have gone before us. A single F-35 will not excel in any mission as a stand-alone fighter; the same goes for the individual Marine. I will not tolerate racism, hazing, sexual assault, or any other action that degrades the bond that we share as Marines. I need you to coach and mentor if you're a leader. I need you to ask for support if you require assistance in any way, regardless of rank or billet. Never pass up an opportunity to improve or prevent the degradation of the bond we share as Marines.

### **Continue to Invest in Yourself**

We must be physically, mentally, and spiritually fit to succeed. We are in a challenging profession, and the weight of our responsibility is heavy. The amount of responsibility that we're exposed to invites levels of fatigue that no individual is immune to. Do something each day to invest in yourself so that you return better than when you left. Sign up for a marathon or competition and train for it. Read what interests you or challenge yourself academically. Subscribe to or engage in something that aligns with our society's accepted moral and ethical values. Most importantly, understand that investing in your family is an investment in you.

*S. Travis Davis*  
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