



Command Philosophy

I consider myself extremely fortunate to assume command of a company of Marines that enjoys a well-earned reputation for consistent excellence in support to NSA/CSS Georgia, the Marine Corps Intelligence Enterprise, and Fort Gordon, Georgia. To exploit success requires continued teamwork and an understanding that **this is a people business**. Our pursuit of perfection hinges on recognizing the importance of life balance and mutual respect, while avoiding complacency.

Balance in Life. We are only as effective as we are ready to function in our assigned capacities. Therefore, readiness is paramount. Being “ready” is not simply ensuring we have the appropriate training, weapons, and equipment to fight and win wars, but balancing life through: physical and mental fitness, professional proficiency, personal administration, intellectual acuity, emotional stability, and spiritual awareness. Critically assess your life, determine which facets of it deserve more attention, and then work towards achieving balance. Do not be too proud to ask for help; I will not allow it. The end state is each one of us is ready to answer our Nation’s call to fight today as a holistically-ready Marine.

Mutual Respect.

Never assume affiliation equals entitlement. Being a Marine may open doors, but personal behavior and performance results in an invitation to stay or be forcibly removed out those same doors. Respect is an earned commodity based on proven competence, trustworthiness, and dependability. Moreover, respect is a two-way street. Seniors should receive due regard based on knowledge, experience, and occupying positions of authority, while juniors should be continually groomed to replace their leaders. I expect all Company D Marines to look out for each other’s welfare through involved camaraderie. We can and should actively learn from each other to become better collectively, with the aim to better inform decision-makers and dutifully carry out their guidance.

I believe respect is built on trust, both of which sit atop a foundation of integrity. I value judgment above all Marine Corps leadership traits, only because I think exercising integrity is a personal judgment call. If we are all dependable examples of doing the right thing, perfection is achievable. Once honor is compromised, some, if not all, trust is lost. Our success or failure as a unit depends on how much we can develop, cultivate, and nurture a positive reputation and relationships internal and external to the Company.

Complacency Kills....this is what happens when Marines do not live by the “Know yourself and seek self-improvement” principle. Exercise initiative to not simply maintain standards, but exceed them. Personal life balance is crucial to achieve holistic readiness and the ability to fight today. However, what goals have you set to not only achieve life balance, but improve yourself while waiting for the Nation’s call? What personal and professional challenges have you posed to your fellow Marines? I will be Company D’s fiercest advocate, but also a dutiful steward of the Marine Corps institution. We are unique as Marines assigned to support a Joint command; however, we are not special because of our mission or skill sets. We expended a lot of blood, sweat, and tears to earn the title, “Marine;” we will protect what we have earned.

Marines, I am thrilled to be your Commanding Officer. I promise to work tirelessly to enable you for mission success. I expect the same level of commitment of you to yourselves.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. M. Snipes'.

D. M. SNIPES
Major
United States Marine Corps
Commanding