

# Marine Corps Leadership Principles and Traits

## Marine Corps Leadership Principles

- Know yourself and seek self-improvement.
- Be technically and tactically proficient.
- Develop a sense of responsibility among your subordinates.
- Make sound and timely decisions.
- Set the example.
- Know your Marines and look out for their welfare.
- Keep your Marines informed.
- Seek responsibility and take responsibility for your actions.
- Ensure assigned tasks are understood, supervised, and accomplished.
- Train your Marines as a team.
- Employ your command in accordance with its capabilities.

## Marine Corps Leadership Traits

- **Dependability**  
The certainty of proper performance of duty.
- **Bearing**  
Creating a favorable impression in carriage, appearance and personal conduct at all times.
- **Courage**  
The mental quality that recognizes fear of danger or criticism, but enables a man to proceed in the face of it with calmness and firmness.
- **Decisiveness**  
Ability to make decisions promptly and to announce them in clear, forceful manner.
- **Endurance**  
The mental and physical stamina measured by the ability to withstand pain, fatigue, stress and hardship.

- **Enthusiasm**  
The display of sincere interest and exuberance in the performance of duty.
- **Initiative**  
Taking action in the absence of orders.
- **Integrity**  
Uprightness of character and soundness of moral principles; includes the qualities of truthfulness and honesty.
- **Judgment**  
The ability to weigh facts and possible solutions on which to base sound decisions.
- **Justice**  
Giving reward and punishment according to merits of the case in question. The ability to administer a system of rewards and punishments impartially and consistently.
- **Knowledge**  
Understanding of a science or an art. The range of one's information, including professional knowledge and an understanding of your Marines.
- **Tact**  
The ability to deal with others without creating offense.
- **Unselfishness**  
Avoidance of providing for one's own comfort and personal advancement at the expense of others.
- **Loyalty**  
The quality of faithfulness to country, the Corps, the unit, to one's seniors, subordinates and peers.