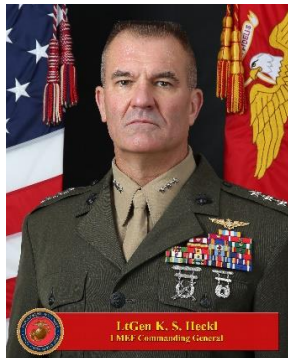


# **COMMANDING GENERAL I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**

## **Command Philosophy**



***For we serve in a Corps with no institutional confusion about our purpose:  
To Fight! To Fight Well! - Gen Jim Mattis.***

Hopefully you don't see the "Command Philosophy" title and subconsciously or otherwise, decide this is just going to be another well-intentioned, but platitude filled document and therefore not worth your time. Gen Mattis' quote is about as clear and concise a purpose statement as I've ever read and it serves as the cornerstone of my command philosophy for the I Marine Expeditionary Force. A command philosophy should help every member of a unit understand their commander's personal values and beliefs that will obviously influence how the unit is led. With that in mind, here's what I want you to know.

First and foremost, I need every single one of you, every single day, on duty! Regardless of what it is you do, from the commanding general, to a cannoneer at 3/11 in 29 Palms, to a rifleman with 1/5 up in San Mateo or a maintainer turning a wrench on a piece of equipment at Maintenance Battalion or along our flight lines at Camp Pendleton, Yuma or Miramar, I need you, your Corps needs you, and your nation needs you...fulfilling your obligation as a Marine! Your contribution, no matter how big or small you may see it as, is so very, very critical, every single day. **DON'T EVER FORGET THAT.**

**What I expect from you is, to just be a Marine...ALL the time.** Live up to the ideals and standards that have been defining who you are since the first moment that you realized you wanted to be a Marine. Do your duty. Make yourself, your family, your country and all the Marines who have gone before, proud!

One of my favorite quotes is President Theodore Roosevelt's "The Man (or Woman) in the Arena" from his Citizenship in a Republic speech. "*The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again...*" Point is, mistakes mean you're trying, they aren't an evil thing or something to fear and the fact that you have the fortitude to attack the problem **AGAIN** is the true measure of success. It would be easy to do the same old, same old, day after day, but where would that get us? And just remember, moral and ethical errors **DO NOT** an honest mistake make, **EVER...PERIOD!**

Our nation's leadership is dealing with profound and epic threats; what you do every single day, regardless of what that is, gives them the maneuver space, and quite frankly the confidence, to deal with the challenges they face. What you do matters. What our Expeditionary Force does, matters. So, Marines, Sailors and Civilians of I MEF...do your duty to the absolute best of your ability. Do the right thing, all the time...you know what that is, you don't need me or anyone else to tell you.

We are all standing on the shoulders of giants who have gone before us and we wear the cloth of one of the most storied war fighting organizations in the recorded history of mankind. You have earned the right to wear the EGA for the rest of your life...your solemn challenge going forward is to deserve it, and continue to earn it **EVERY DAY!** I am **your** Commanding General, I believe in you...just be a Marine, and do the right thing! Remember, when you protect what you've earned, by extension you bring honor to yourself, your unit, our force and our Corps.

Let's get to work ensuring the legacy of this storied warfighting organization, our fabled Corps and our unstoppable democracy, of which you are such a vital member!

*Semper Fidelis,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. S. Heckl". The signature is stylized and fluid.

**Lieutenant General, U. S. Marine Corps  
Commanding General  
I Marine Expeditionary Force**