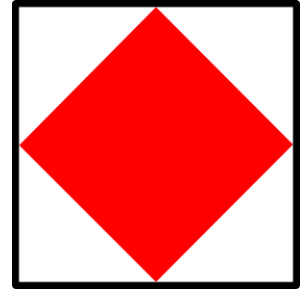




Foxtrot Company Guidon Bearer
Command Philosophy
2/c Justin P. Sherman
Aug. 2013



“My Primary Goal is to Assist with Your Development into Effective and Successful Cadets.”

My Guiding Principle as Guidon

Each commanding officer provides his or her crew with a command philosophy, which is a set of principles that govern that leader’s conduct and thoughts. As such, a command philosophy should lay the foundation for the command climate as well as guide those under the leader to synchronize their actions with his/hers.

I Will Be a Coach: First and foremost, I am a second class cadet, which means that my role is to provide mentorship to the two classes of cadets below mine; I am thrilled to take on this role, especially for the class of 2017. Additionally, as your company guidon, I have been given the privilege and responsibility of *coaching* the 4/c cadets in Foxtrot Company. A coach has three important tasks when leading a team: He must observe, instruct, and inspire. These three actions are what differentiate a mentor from a coach; a coach is proactive and comes to his advisees with a game plan. Even when a coach is not actively participating in the team’s endeavors, he still provides crucial support necessary for the team’s success. I am fortunate to have many assistant coaches—the other 2/c cadets in the company—who will assist me in observing and evaluating you, and in continuing the instruction some of them began during Swab Summer. Most importantly, I will strive to inspire you to excel here at the Coast Guard Academy. My classmates put time and effort into training you because we see that you have potential to do well here. My goal is to help you see that potential in yourselves.

Guiding Principles for 4/c Cadets in Foxtrot Company

Being a fourth class cadet can be a rewarding experience—I loved my fourth class year. I encourage you to make the most of your first two semesters here. Over the course of this first semester, we will work together to develop you from swabs into effective cadets. My expectations for you are no different than those expected of all cadets here at the Coast Guard Academy—you are simply less familiar with them, which is why we focus on their importance so much during the first few months of the school year.

I will continue the training and teaching that my classmates started with you during Swab Summer. Already, by completing Swab Summer, you have shown my classmates, the Corps of Cadets, and me that you are maturing into effective, successful cadets. Demonstrate that you, too, are continuing to strive for efficiency and success as a cadet by displaying the following characteristics and attitudes:

Be United: A goal of Swab Summer was to enable you to build a team, and you have now succeeded in doing so. You are shipmates. Continue to foster those relationships with your classmates. The school year is no different than Swab Summer in the sense that you will succeed by helping one another. Now, however, you are individuals—in fact, your unique skills and talents will benefit the team. Nor is your team isolated. You may freely interact with the 4/c cadets in the other companies and you have upper-class cadets who are willing to assist you. Remember, we will all serve together in the fleet, so a respect for others and a pride in your community should help guide your actions.

Be Forward-Thinking: Successful cadets remain optimistic and enthusiastic about their Academy experience. Even when you face difficulties and situations that don't make sense to you, remain positive and seek to bring up solutions instead of merely complaints. The Academy does not promise an easy four years, but those years can be extremely rewarding if you maintain the appropriate outlook. You are fortunate to be a cadet not simply because your basic needs are conveniently met but because your future is filled with opportunities and experiences that would not be available to you otherwise. Allow your attitude to reflect that.

Be Tenacious: You worked diligently and purposefully to become a student who was eligible for an appointment to the Academy. Continue to work with that same dedication. Continue to strive for the next step in your future. If you capitalize on the many resources available to you at the Academy, you will be in control of your journey here. Fourth class year is the time to begin taking charge. Confidence will enable you to achieve your goals. Seek out opportunities and guidance, learn about others' experiences in the Coast Guard, and understand the consequences—either the good or the bad—that come with each decision.