

26th Marine Expeditionary Unit – Mission, Vision, Intent

“The nation’s shock troops must be ready when the nation is generally least ready...to promote a balanced force in readiness for a naval campaign and, at the same time, a ground and air striking force ready to suppress or contain international disturbances short of large-scale warfare.” – 82nd Congress, 1952

MISSION: Our Mission is straight forward: While we provide a forward-deployed, flexible sea-based Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) capable of conducting amphibious operations, crisis response, and limited contingency operations, to include enabling the introduction of follow-on forces and designated special operations, in support of theater requirements of the Geographic Combatant Commander (GCC), fundamentally, **we must be ready, relevant, and capable of aggregating forces and deploying with limited notice as a MAGTF in support of crises, expeditionary operations on land or from the sea, or other emergent rotational requirements.**



VISION: The 26th MEU is recognized as an elite, combat ready, relevant, and capable expeditionary rapid response force with a culture of operational excellence, versatility, efficiency, risk management, and combat readiness.

*For more than 50 years, the 26th MEU has provided GCCs with a highly adaptive, potent, rapid response force capable of conducting missions across the full spectrum of military operations. Our performance as a premier MAGTF has marked the 26th MEU as “A Certain Force in an Uncertain World”. We will maintain the legacy of being **Ready, Relevant, and Capable** by focusing on the precepts of **Leadership, Attitude, and Warfighting**.*

- 🦁 **Leadership:** Concerned and engaged leadership makes the difference – it directly influences esprit de corps and unit morale. I expect Marines and Sailors, at all levels of this Team of Teams, to have a bias for action and to set the example – we must be disciplined and professional in our approach to leadership to ensure we are **Ready**. Readiness is a function of leadership – everything we do counts and must contribute to our Team’s combat readiness and effectiveness. This includes taking care of our Families and ensuring every Marine and Sailor is physically, mentally, and spiritually fit – **Ready** to deploy on short notice and **Capable** of accomplishing the mission.
- 🦁 **Attitude:** A positive winning attitude is contagious. Be a winner – do the right thing for the right reason and always treat people with dignity and respect. We will be guided by our Corps’ warrior ethos and our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment in everything we do. We will cultivate an expeditionary mindset with an eye towards future development, professional military education, experimentation, innovation, and future operating concepts to ensure we are a learning organization that remains **Relevant**.
- 🦁 **Warfighting:** Our focus is warfighting. As disciplined professionals, we must be masters of our craft – a mastery of skill creates flexibility, increases productivity, and makes mission accomplishment easier. Our focus on warfighting, including combined arms training centered on our core and assigned missions coupled with meticulous maintenance of our equipment and individual professional development, will ensure we are both **Ready** and **Capable**. Our warfighting focus coupled with our ability to integrate all aspects of the MEU with the Navy, Joint, and Special Forces will ensure we are **Capable** of multi-domain, distributed maritime operations – as the “Inside Force” – within the contact layer of an anti-access, area-denial threat environment or in the littorals of a more permissive environment.

The Nation demands its premier rapid response forces – the MEU – are ready, relevant, and capable because the current and anticipated future environment is plagued with complex challenges and uncertainty.

We, Marines and Sailors, take pride in being the most ready when our nation is the least ready. The MEU, as a MAGTF, is a Team of Teams that when combined with the Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), is able to exploit the asymmetric advantages the sea provides as maneuver space over our potential adversaries.

INTENT: My intent is clear: The 26th MEU is **Ready, Relevant, and Capable...ready to fight tonight and to win in any clime or place**. From raids to parades, we will honor the legacy of those who have gone before us by focusing on **Leadership, Attitude, and Warfighting** while living up to our motto of being “**A Certain Force in an Uncertain World**”.

It is my absolute honor to serve as your Commanding Officer – I will work tirelessly to set the conditions and climate for your individual success and the collective success of this 26th MEU Team. Semper Fidelis!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. W. Sampson".

Colonel D. W. Sampson, USMC

Commanding Officer, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit

