

# Marine Corps Commandant's 2016 Professional Reading List

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## ENTRY LEVEL

### Recruits – Poolees / OCS Candidates - Midshipmen

#### **BATTLE CRY** - Leon Uris

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB, PDF

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: F URI**

Battle Cry follows the fortunes of a Marine outfit from boot camp to Guadalcanal, Tarawa, and elsewhere in the Pacific during World War II. Many of the events are based on the author's WWII experience with the 6th Marine Regiment. The interactions of the characters and their ability to develop "esprit de corps" is a central theme.

#### **CORPS VALUES** - Zell Miller

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 359.96 MIL**

The author recounts the simple but powerful lessons he learned as a United States Marine: the core values we must embrace if we are to be successful as individuals and as a nation. Only by incorporating such time-honored Marine qualities as pride, discipline, courage, brotherhood, and respect into our personal and professional lives can we meet the challenges that lie ahead.

#### **I'M STAYING WITH MY BOYS: THE HEROIC LIFE OF SGT. JOHN BASILONE, USMC** - Jim Proser; Jerry Cutter

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 940.545 PRO**

The only family-authorized biography of Sgt. John Basilone, the only World War II Marine to win the Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross, and a Purple Heart. The book follows Basilone from is written in the first-person, allowing the reader to experience his significant achievements at Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima as perhaps he did himself.

#### **JOKER ONE: A MARINE PLATOON'S STORY OF COURAGE, SACRIFICE, AND BROTHERHOOD** – Donovan Campbell

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program](#)

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 956.704 CAM**

After graduating from Princeton, Donovan Campbell wanted to give back to his country, engage in the world, and learn to lead. So he joined the service, becoming a commander of a forty-man infantry platoon called Joker One. Campbell had just months to train and transform a ragtag group of brand-new Marines into a first-rate cohesive fighting unit, men who would become his family. They were assigned to Ramadi, the capital of the Sunni-dominated Anbar province that was an explosion just waiting to happen. And when it did happen--with the chilling cries of "Jihad, Jihad, Jihad!" echoing from minaret to minaret--Campbell and company were there to protect the innocent, battle the insurgents, and pick up the pieces.

#### **THE KILLER ANGELS: THE CLASSIC NOVEL OF THE CIVIL WAR** - Michael Shaara

**Goodfellow Library: F SHA**

This book centers around the key battle of the American Civil War: the battle of Gettysburg. In a day-by-day chronicle, the events immediately before and during the battle of Gettysburg unfold through the eyes of Confederate and Union generals and officers. The author's ability to convey the thoughts of men in war as well as their confusion--the so-called "fog of battle" is outstanding.

#### **MY MEN ARE HEROES: THE BRAD KASAL STORY** - Nathaniel R. Helms

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program](#)

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 956.704 HEL**

Account of Marine First Sergeant Brad Kasal's courageous mission to rescue fallen comrades while under intense enemy fire during the Battle of Fallujah. During the fight, Kasal was shot seven times, almost losing his leg, and sustained 47 shrapnel wounds using his body to shield a wounded Marine from an enemy grenade. He was awarded the Navy Cross, the nation's second highest award for heroism, for his actions.

## Marine Corps Commandant's 2016 Professional Reading List

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### **THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE** - Stephen Crane

#### **GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: F CRA**

This book is about a young soldier's experience during the American Civil War and is well known for its realistic depiction of battle. Henry Fleming, a private in the Union Army, runs away from the field of war. Afterwards, the shame he feels at this act of cowardice ignites his desire to receive an injury in combat - a red badge of courage that will redeem him.

# Marine Corps Commandant's 2016 Professional Reading List

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## PRIMARY LEVEL

Private – Corporal / WO - 1st Lieutenant

### [ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT - Erich Maria Remarque](#)

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - EPUB

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: F REM**

This book is about Paul Baumer, who enlists with his classmates in the German army of WWI. They become soldiers with youthful enthusiasm. Through years of vivid horror, Paul holds fast to a single vow: to fight against the principle of hate that meaninglessly pits young men of the same generation but different uniforms against each other, if only he can come out of the war alive.

### [THE ART OF WAR - Sun-Tzu](#)

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB, PDF, WMA & MP3 audiobooks

[DoD-MWR Online Library\\*](#) EBSCO audiobook & PDF, AudioBookCloud audiobook

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 355.02 SUN**

Written over 2,000 years ago, The Art of War is the first known study of the planning and conduct of military operations. In addition to military theory and strategy, the author examines relevant economic, political, and psychological factors. The timeless principles of the Art of War are often applied outside the military realm in the areas of business and management. This book is also on the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Reading List.

### [BATTLE LEADERSHIP - Schell, Adolf von](#)

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 940.53 SCH**

Collection of lessons learned by the author, who served as a small unit infantry commander (German army) during WWI. It includes observations on tactics and psychological reactions of troops in battle.

### [CHESTY - Jon T. Hoffman](#)

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program](#)

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 355.009 HOF**

The Marine Corps is known for its heroes, and Lieutenant General Lewis B. Puller has long been considered the greatest of them all. His assignments and activities covered an extraordinary spectrum of warfare. Puller mastered small unit guerrilla warfare as a lieutenant in Haiti in the 1920s, and at the end of his career commanded a division in Korea. In between, he chased Sandino in Nicaragua and fought at Guadalcanal, Cape Gloucester, and Peleliu. With his bulldog face, barrel chest (which earned him the nickname Chesty), gruff voice, and common touch, Puller became—and has remained—the epitome of the Marine combat officer. At times Puller's actions have been called into question—at Peleliu, for instance, where, against a heavily fortified position, he lost more than half of his regiment. And then there is the saga of his son, who followed in Chesty's footsteps as a Marine officer only to suffer horrible wounds in Vietnam (his book, *Fortunate Son*, won the Pulitzer Prize).

### [THE DEFENCE OF DUFFER'S DRIFT - E. D. Swinton](#)

**FREE ONLINE:** [HathiTrust Digital Library](#)

[Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - WMA & MP3 audiobooks

Insightful analysis of small unit tactics in defending a strategic objective given limited communications, resources, and manpower. Although some advice is outdated, 3 of the 22 lessons learned presented are of extreme relevance to a new platoon leader: the urgency and importance of first setting security and preparing defenses, the use of cover and concealment, and the creation of clear fields of fire.

# Marine Corps Commandant's 2016 Professional Reading List

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**ENDER'S GAME** - Orson Scott Card

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: F CAR**

In this science fiction novel, child genius Ender Wiggin is chosen by international military forces to save the world from destruction by a deadly alien race. His skills make him a leader yet Ender suffers from isolation and rivalry from his peers, pressure from adults, and fear of the enemy. His psychological battles include loneliness and fear that he is becoming like his cruel brother. The novel's major theme is the concept of a "game" and all of the other important ideas in the novel are interpreted through this concept. Some of the important ideas in the book include: the relationship between children and adults, compassion, ruthlessness, friends and enemies, and the question of humanity: what it means to be human.

**THE FORGOTTEN SOLDIER** - Guy Sajer

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY 940.542 SAJ**

Recounts the horror of WWII on the eastern front as seen through the eyes of a teenage German soldier. It depicts a desperate struggle for survival against cold, hunger, and terrifying Soviet artillery. Photos show the hardships and destructiveness of war such as troops battling through snow, mud, burned villages and rubble-strewn cities.

**GATES OF FIRE: AN EPIC NOVEL OF THE BATTLE OF THERMOPYLAE** - Steven Pressfield

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB, PDF

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY F PRE**

In the battle of Thermopylae (480 B.C.), 7000 Greeks led by 300 Spartans held an enormous Persian army of 200,000 at bay for several days - an army that would have changed our civilization had the Greeks not died fighting it. Never before or since has such a badly outnumbered army fought so valiantly nor effectively. This book is also on the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Reading List.

**THE LAST STAND OF FOX COMPANY: A TRUE STORY OF U.S. MARINES IN COMBAT** - Bob Drury

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - WMA & MP3 audiobooks

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 951.904 DRU**

During the Korean War, 234 heroic Marines from Fox Company, First Division, held off a force of 10,000 Chinese soldiers in subzero weather to secure the Toktong Pass. This is their story. This book is also on the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Reading List.

**THE MARINES OF MONTFORD POINT: AMERICA'S FIRST BLACK MARINES** - Melton Alonza

[McLaurin](#)

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY 355 MCL**

Collection of interviews with members of the Montford Point Marines Association, organized by chronology and theme. This recognizes and honors the men who desegregated the Marine Corps and loyally served their country in three major wars. It is about the first black recruits who received Marine Corps basic training at the segregated Camp Montford Point (adjacent to Camp Lejeune). Between 1942 and 1949, more than 20,000 men trained at Montford Point, most of them going on to serve in the Pacific Theatre in World War II as members of support units. This book is also on the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Reading List.

**MY MEN ARE HEROES: THE BRAD KASAL STORY** - Nathaniel R. Helms

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program](#)

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 956.704 HEL**

Account of Marine First Sergeant Brad Kasal's courageous mission to rescue fallen comrades while under intense enemy fire during the Battle of Fallujah. During the fight, Kasal was shot seven times, almost losing his leg, and sustained 47 shrapnel wounds using his body to shield a wounded Marine from an enemy grenade. He was awarded the Navy Cross, the nation's second highest award for heroism, for his actions.

## Marine Corps Commandant's 2016 Professional Reading List

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### **RIFLEMAN DODD - C. S. Forester**

**Goodfellow Library: F FOR**

Study of one man's commitment to duty taking precedence over his own personal survival. It shows how one man with ability, courage, and initiative can make a difference to the outcome of a war. This book is also on the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Reading List.

### **WHAT IT IS LIKE TO GO TO WAR - Karl Marlantes**

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program](#)

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 959.704 MAR**

In this narrative, the author weaves accounts of his combat experiences with thoughtful analysis, self-examination, and his readings from Homer to the Mahabharata to Jung. He talks frankly about how he is haunted by his wartime experiences and how he finally finds a way to make peace with his past. He discusses the daily contradictions that warriors face in the grind of war, where each battle requires them to take life or spare life. He also underscores the need for returning veterans to be counseled properly.

### **WITH THE OLD BREED AT PELELIU AND OKINAWA - E. B. Sledge**

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 940.542 SLE**

First-person account of fighting at Peleliu and Okinawa. Eugene Sledge was part of WWII's famous 1st Marine Division, 3d Battalion, 5th Marines. It is based on notes Sledge secretly kept in a copy of the New Testament and documents what saved, threatened, and changed his life. It is also a story of how Sledge learned to hate and kill—and came to love—his fellow man. This book is also on the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Reading List.

# Marine Corps Commandant's 2016 Professional Reading List

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## CAREER LEVEL

### Sergeant - Staff Sergeant / CWO 2 - Captain

**ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT** - Erich Maria Remarque

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - EPUB

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: F REM**

This book is about Paul Baumer, who enlists with his classmates in the German army of WWI. They become soldiers with youthful enthusiasm. Through years of vivid horror, Paul holds fast to a single vow: to fight against the principle of hate that meaninglessly pits young men of the same generation but different uniforms against each other, if only he can come out of the war alive.

**ATTACKS** - Erwin Rommel

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 940.41 ROM**

Reprint of Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's World War I military classic, *Infanterie Greift An*. In his autobiography, Rommel traces his development from a "green" Lieutenant to a confident, seasoned and singularly successful Commander. Providing keen insight into his mind and character, it is an important treatise on combat leadership and psychology, containing many valuable lessons for those who would raise and train armies. Prime among these lessons is the reminder that men are the key element in combat; that it is the will, spirit and skill of men, led by competent and courageous officers that win battles; that high morale is developed by the accomplishment of difficult tasks.

**BLACK HEARTS** - Jim Frederick

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 956.704 FRE**

Story of a small group of soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division's fabled 502nd Infantry Regiment - "the Black Heart Brigade." Deployed in late 2005 to Iraq's "Triangle of Death", the Black Hearts found themselves in the country's most dangerous location at its most dangerous time. It is a story about men in combat, the fragility of character in the savage crucible of warfare, and a warning of new dangers emerging in the way American soldiers are led on the battlefields of the twenty-first century.

**CURIOS: THE DESIRE TO KNOW AND WHY YOUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT** - Ian Leslie

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 153.8 LES**

"Today it seems we have the world at our fingertips. Thanks to smartphones and tools such as Google and Wikipedia, we're able to feed any aspect of our curiosity instantly. But does this mean we are actually becoming more curious? Absolutely not. In *Curious*, Ian Leslie argues that true curiosity-the sustained quest for understanding that begets insight and innovation-is becoming increasingly difficult to harness in our wired world. We confuse ease of access to information with curiosity, and risk losing our ability to ask questions that extend our knowledge gap rather than merely filling it. Worst of all, this decline in curiosity has led to a decline in empathy and our ability to care about those around us. Combining the latest science with an urgent call to cultivate curious minds, *Curious* draws on psychology, social history, and popular culture to show that being deeply curious is our only hope when it comes to solving current crises-as well as an essential part of being human."--Publisher information.

**THE FORGOTTEN SOLDIER** - Guy Sajer

Recounts the horror of WWII on the eastern front as seen through the eyes of a teenage German soldier. It depicts a desperate struggle for survival against cold, hunger, and terrifying Soviet artillery. Photos show the hardships and destructiveness of war such as troops battling through snow, mud, burned villages and rubble-strewn cities.

**INFANTRY IN BATTLE (FMFRP 12-2)** - Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga.

**FREE ONLINE:** [Marines.mil](#)

**Goodfellow Library: 355.4 INF**

This publication covers small unit tactic as illustrated by examples drawn from WWI. It checks the ideas acquired from peacetime instruction against the experience of battle.

# Marine Corps Commandant's 2016 Professional Reading List

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## **INTO THE TIGER'S JAW: AMERICA'S FIRST BLACK MARINE AVIATOR** - Frank E. Petersen

Autobiography of the first black aviator in the United States Marine Corps. After earning his wings in 1952, Petersen saw combat in Korea and Vietnam where he flew over 350 missions. He commanded at the squadron, group, brigade, and Marine Aircraft levels during his career as a Marine aviator.

## **ON KILLING: THE PSYCHOLOGICAL COST OF LEARNING TO KILL IN WAR AND SOCIETY** - Dave Grossman

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB, PDF, WMA audiobook (\*Account required. [More info...](#))

### **GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 355 GRO**

Study of the techniques the military uses to overcome the powerful reluctance to kill, of how killing affects soldiers, and of the societal implications of escalating violence. It includes information on 21st-century military conflicts, recent trends in crime, suicide bombings, school shootings, and more.

## **OUTLIERS: THE STORY OF SUCCESS** - Malcolm Gladwell

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB, WMA audiobook

### **GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 302 GLA**

An intellectual journey through the world of "outliers" — the best and the brightest, the most famous and the most successful. The author challenges the reader to answer the question: What makes high-achievers different? His answer is that we pay too much attention to what successful people are like, and too little attention to where they are from: that is, their culture, their family, their generation, and the idiosyncratic experiences of their upbringing.

## **QUARTERED SAFE OUT HERE** - George MacDonald Fraser

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - WMA audiobook

### **GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 940.542 FRA**

Action-packed memoir of the author's experiences in Burma during WWII. Although only 19 years old when he arrived during the war's final year, he offers a first-hand glimpse at the camaraderie, danger and satisfaction of service.

## **RESILIENCE: HARD-WON WISDOM FOR LIVING A BETTER LIFE** - Eric Greitens

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program](#)

### **GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 155.24 GRE**

A masterpiece of warrior wisdom that shows how to overcome obstacles with positive action. Eric Greitens unexpectedly heard from a former SEAL comrade, a brother-in-arms he hadn't seen in a decade. Zach Walker had been one of the toughest of the tough. But ever since he returned home from war to his young family in a small logging town, he'd been struggling. Without a sense of purpose, plagued by PTSD, and masking his pain with heavy drinking, he needed help. Zach and Eric started writing and talking nearly every day, and Eric set down his thoughts on what it takes to build resilience in our lives. Eric's letters--drawing on both his own experience and wisdom from ancient and modern thinkers--are now gathered and edited into a timeless handbook. They explain how we can build purpose, confront the pain in our lives, practice compassion, develop our vocations, find a mentor, create happiness, follow a role model, think about the story of our lives, and much more. Resilience grapples with real hardship. The lessons are deep, yet practical, and the advice leads to clear solutions. This is a profoundly hopeful book: We all face pain, difficulty, and doubt. But with resilience, we can lead vital, flourishing lives.

## **SOURCES OF POWER: HOW PEOPLE MAKE DECISIONS** - Gary Klein

### **GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 658.403 KLE**

This book discusses the naturalistic decision making approach, which views people as inherently skilled and experienced. It is based on observations of humans acting under such real-life constraints as time pressure, high stakes, personal responsibility, and shifting conditions. The professionals studied include firefighters, critical care nurses, pilots, nuclear power plant operators, battle planners, and chess masters.

## Marine Corps Commandant's 2016 Professional Reading List

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### **STORM OF STEEL** - Ernst Junger

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 940.414 JUN**

This book illuminates not only the horrors but also the fascination of total war, seen through the eyes of an ordinary German soldier. Leading raiding parties, defending trenches against murderous British incursions, and enduring as shells tore his comrades apart, the author was constantly tested by the Great War, which he saw not just as a war but as a personal struggle.

### **WAR MADE NEW: TECHNOLOGY, WARFARE, AND THE COURSE OF HISTORY, 1500 TO TODAY** - Max Boot

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB, PDF

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 355.02 BOO**

Focuses on four revolutions in military affairs and describes how inventions ranging from gunpowder to GPS-guided air strikes have remade the field of battle and shaped the rise and fall of empires. The author argues that even as cutting-edge technologies have made America the greatest military power in world history, advanced communications systems have allowed decentralized irregular forces to become an increasingly significant threat.

### **WE WERE SOLDIERS ONCE AND YOUNG: IA DRANG - THE BATTLE THAT CHANGED THE WAR IN VIETNAM** - Harold G. Moore

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program](#)

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 959.7 MOO**

This book is about a group of men persevered, sacrificed themselves for their comrades, and never gave up. In November 1965, some 450 men of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, fought against 2,000 North Vietnamese soldiers in the Ia Drang Valley - one of the most savage and significant battles of the Vietnam War.

# Marine Corps Commandant's 2016 Professional Reading List

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## INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

**Gunnery Sergeant - First Sergeant / CWO 4 - Lieutenant Colonel**

**AMERICAN SPARTANS: A COMBAT HISTORY FROM IWO JIMA TO IRAQ** - James Warren

**FREE ONLINE:** [DoD-MWR Online Library](#) - [OneClick Digital](#)\* OneClick Digital e-audiobook

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 359.9609 WAR**

Authoritative battle history of the Marines from the islands of the Pacific to Korea to the Middle East. It reveals how "the few and the proud" have drawn on their timeless precepts across six decades while reinventing themselves in the face of political change to forever remain America's finest warriors.

**BATTLE CRY OF FREEDOM: THE CIVIL WAR ERA** - James M. McPherson

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program](#)\* - Kindle, EPUB

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 973.73 MCP**

Recounts the momentous episodes that preceded the American Civil War, is a chronicle of the war itself, and includes the author's view on such matters as the slavery expansion issue in the 1850s, the origins of the Republican Party, the causes of secession, internal dissent and anti-war opposition in the North and the South, and the reasons for the Union's victory. This book is also on the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Reading List.

**BATTLE LEADERSHIP** - Schell, Adolf von

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 940.53 SCH**

Collection of lessons learned by the author, who served as a small unit infantry commander (German army) during WWI. It includes observations on tactics and psychological reactions of troops in battle.

**BLINK: THE POWER OF THINKING WITHOUT THINKING** - Malcolm Gladwell

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program](#)\* - Kindle, PDF, WMA audiobook

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 153.44 GLA**

This is a book about how we think without thinking, about choices that seem to be made in an instant-in the blink of an eye-that actually aren't as simple as they seem. Why are some people brilliant decision makers, while others are consistently inept? Why do some people follow their instincts and win, while others end up stumbling into error? It reveals that great decision makers are not those who process the most information or spend the most time deliberating, but those who have perfected the art of "thin-slicing"—filtering the very few factors that matter from an overwhelming number of variables.

**BLOODLANDS: EUROPE BETWEEN HITLER AND STALIN** - Timothy Snyder

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program](#)

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 940.54 SNY**

Timothy Snyder offers a groundbreaking investigation of Europe's killing fields and a sustained explanation of the motives and methods of both Hitler and Stalin. He anchors the history of Hitler's Holocaust and Stalin's Terror in their time and place and provides a fresh account of the relationship between the two regimes.

**BOYD: THE FIGHTER PILOT WHO CHANGED THE ART OF WAR** - Robert Coram

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program](#)\* - Kindle, EPUB, PDF

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: B BOYD**

John Boyd, considered by many to be the greatest U.S. fighter pilot ever, is the man who, in simulated air-to-air combat, defeated every challenger in less than forty seconds. His manual of fighter tactics changed the way every air force in the world flies and fights. Boyd was a rebel who cared not for his reputation or fortune but for his country.

# Marine Corps Commandant's 2016 Professional Reading List

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## **BRUTE: THE LIFE OF VICTOR KRULAK, U.S. MARINE** - Robert Coram

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - WMA & MP3 audiobooks

Biography of LtGen Victor "Brute" Krulak (USMC, Ret.). He went on daring spy missions, was badly wounded, pioneered the use of amphibious vehicles and use of helicopters in warfare, and masterminded the invasion of Okinawa. In Vietnam, he developed a holistic military strategy in stark contrast to the Army's "Search and Destroy" methods. Yet it can be argued that all of these accomplishments pale in comparison to what he did after WWII and again after Korea: he almost single-handedly stopped the U.S. government from abolishing the Marine Corps.

## **CARNAGE AND CULTURE: LANDMARK BATTLES IN THE RISE OF WESTERN POWER** - Victor Hanson

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB

Examines 9 landmark battles from ancient to modern times from Salamis, where outnumbered Greeks devastated the slave army of Xerxes, to Cortes's conquest of Mexico to the Tet offensive. Looking beyond popular explanations such as geography or superior technology, the author argues that it is in fact Western culture and values—the tradition of dissent, the value placed on inventiveness and adaptation, the concept of citizenship—which have consistently produced superior arms and soldiers. This book is also on the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Reading List.

## **THE CHANGING FACE OF WAR: COMBAT FROM THE MARNE TO IRAQ** - Martin Van Creveld

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB

Examines the path that led to the impasse in Iraq, why powerful standing armies are now helpless against ill-equipped insurgents, and how the security of sovereign nations may be maintained in the future. Paying close attention to the unpredictability of the human element, the author takes the reader on a journey from the last century's clashes of massive armies to today's short, high-tech, lopsided skirmishes and frustrating quagmires.

## **COMMAND CULTURE: OFFICER EDUCATION IN THE U.S. ARMY AND THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES, 1901-1940, & THE CONSEQUENCES FOR WORLD WAR II** - Jörg Muth

The United States Army and the German Armed Forces traveled different paths to select, educate, and promote their officers in the crucial time before WWII. The author explores the paradox that in Germany officers came from a closed authoritarian society but received an extremely open minded military education, whereas their counterparts in the United States came from one of the most democratic societies but received an outdated military education that harnessed their minds and limited their initiative. While German officer candidates learned that in war everything is possible and a war of extermination acceptable, American officers, raised in a democracy, learned that certain boundaries could never be crossed.

## **DEFEAT INTO VICTORY: BATTLING JAPAN IN BURMA AND INDIA 1942-1945** - Field Marshall Viscount Slim

This detailed autobiography by British Field Marshal Viscount Slim (1891-1970) is a first-person account of the retaking of Burma during World War II. In this book, Slim honestly examines his decisions as a leader and consequences of those decisions, both good and bad. Defeat into Victory is widely regarded as a classic memoir of high command. This book is also on the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Reading List.

## **FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS** - James Bradley

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB, WMA audiobook

[DoD-MWR Online Library\\*](#) EBSCO audiobook

**Goodfellow Library: 940.54 BRA**

The true story behind the immortal photograph that has come to symbolize the courage and indomitable will of America. In February 1945, the US Marines plunged into the surf at Iwo Jima - and into history. Through a hail of machine-gun and mortar fire that left the beaches strewn with comrades, they battled to the island's highest peak and raised the American flag.

# Marine Corps Commandant's 2016 Professional Reading List

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## **FORGOTTEN WARRIORS: THE 1ST PROVISIONAL MARINE BRIGADE, THE CORPS ETHOS, AND THE KOREAN WAR** - Thomas Hammes

At the outbreak of the Korean War, the Marine Corps was ordered to deploy an air-ground brigade in less than ten days, even though no such brigade existed at the time. Assembled from the woefully under strength 1st Marine Division and 1st Marine Air Wing units, the Brigade shipped out only 6 days after activation, sailed directly to Korea and was in combat within 96 hours of landing. Despite these enormous handicaps and numerically superior enemy forces, the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade won every one of its engagements and helped secure the Pusan Perimeter.

## **HELMET FOR MY PILLOW: FROM PARRIS ISLAND TO THE PACIFIC : A YOUNG MARINE'S STIRRING ACCOUNT OF COMBAT IN WORLD WAR II** - Robert Leckie

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB, PDF

**Goodfellow Library: 940.54 LEC**

This book follows the author's journey from basic training on Parris Island, South Carolina, to the raging battles in the Pacific, where some of the war's fiercest fighting took place. Recounting his service with the 1st Marine Division and the brutal action on Guadalcanal, New Britain, and Peleliu, the author spares no detail of the horrors and sacrifices of war, painting an unvarnished portrait of how real warriors are made, fight, and often die in the defense of their country.

## **JUST AND UNJUST WARS: A MORAL ARGUMENT WITH HISTORICAL ILLUSTRATIONS** - Michael Walzer

**Goodfellow Library: 355.02 WAL**

Examines the moral issues surrounding military theory, war crimes, and the spoils of war. The author studies a variety of conflicts over the course of history, as well as the testimony of those who have been most directly involved—participants, decision makers, and victims. He specifically addresses the moral issues surrounding the war in and occupation of Iraq, reminding us once again that "the argument about war and justice is still a political and moral necessity."

## **LEADING CHANGE** - John P. Kotter

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program](#)

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 658.406 KOT**

What will it take to bring your organization successfully into the twenty-first century? Leading Change examines the efforts of more than 100 companies to remake themselves into better competitors. This book identifies the common mistakes leaders and managers make in attempting to create change and identifies an eight-step process that every company must go through to achieve its goal, and shows where and how people - good people - often derail.

## **MILITARY INNOVATION IN THE INTERWAR PERIOD** - Williamson R. Murray (Editor); Allan R. Millett (Editor)

This volume of comparative essays studies major military innovations in the 1920s and 1930s and explores differences in innovating exploitation by the seven major military powers. It investigates how and why innovation occurred or did not occur, and explains much of the strategic and operative performance of the Axis and Allies in WWII.

## **RIPPLES OF BATTLE: HOW WARS OF THE PAST STILL DETERMINE HOW WE FIGHT, HOW WE LIVE, AND HOW WE THINK** - Victor Davis Hanson

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB, PDF

The effects of war refuse to remain local: they persist through the centuries, sometimes in unlikely ways far removed from the military arena. The author explains how the Athenian defeat at Delium in 424 BC brought tactical innovations to infantry fighting; it also assured the influence of the philosophy of Socrates, who fought well in the battle. Perhaps most resonant for our time, the book discusses how the agony of Okinawa spurred the Japanese toward state-sanctioned suicide missions.

# Marine Corps Commandant's 2016 Professional Reading List

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**TEAM OF TEAMS : NEW RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR A COMPLEX WORLD** - Stanley McChrystal; Chris Fussell; Tatum Collins; David Silverman

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program](#)

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 658.402 MCC**

As commander of Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), General Stanley McChrystal played a crucial role in the War on Terror. But when he took the helm in 2004, America was losing that war badly: despite vastly inferior resources and technology, Al Qaeda was outmaneuvering America's most elite warriors. McChrystal came to realize that today's faster, more interdependent world had overwhelmed the conventional, top-down hierarchy of the U.S. military. Al Qaeda had seen the future: a decentralized network that could move quickly and strike ruthlessly. To defeat such an enemy, JSOC would have to discard a century of management wisdom, and pivot from a pursuit of mechanical efficiency to organic adaptability. Under McChrystal's leadership, JSOC remade itself, in the midst of a grueling war, into something entirely new: a network that combined robust centralized communication with decentralized managerial authority. As a result, they beat back Al Qaeda. In this book, McChrystal shows not only how the military made that transition, but also how similar shifts are possible in all organizations, from large companies to startups to charities to governments. In a turbulent world, the best organizations think and act like a team of teams, embracing small groups that combine the freedom to experiment with a relentless drive to share what they've learned. Drawing on a wealth of evidence from his military career, the private sector, and sources as diverse as hospital emergency rooms and NASA's space program, McChrystal frames the existential challenge facing today's organizations, and proposes a compelling, effective solution.

**THIS KIND OF WAR: THE CLASSIC KOREAN WAR HISTORY** - T. R. Fehrenbach

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB, PDF

**Goodfellow Library: 951.9 FEH**

History of the Korean War written from the perspective of those who fought it. Partly drawn from official records, operations journals, and histories, it is based largely on the compelling personal narratives of small-unit commanders and their troops. As Americans and North Koreans continue to face each other across the 38th Parallel, this book offers vital lessons for the future.

**THE UTILITY OF FORCE: THE ART OF WAR IN THE MODERN WORLD** - Rupert Smith

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program](#)

"War no longer exists," writes General Sir Rupert Smith, reminding us that the clash of mass national armies--the system of war since Napoleon--will never occur again. Instead, he argues, we must be prepared to adapt tactics to each conflict, or lose the ability to protect ourselves and our way of life. General Smith draws on his experience as a commander to give us a probing analysis of modern war and to call for radically new military thinking. Why do we use armed force to solve our political problems? And how is it that our armies can win battles but fail to solve the problems?

**THE WARRIORS: REFLECTIONS ON MEN IN BATTLE** - J. Glenn Gray

**Goodfellow Library: 355.02 GRA**

A philosophical meditation on what warfare does to us and an examination of the reasons soldiers act as they do. The author explains the attractions of battle—the adrenaline rush, the esprit de corps—and analyzes the many rationalizations made by combat troops to justify their actions. The author notes that "War reveals dimensions of human nature both above and below the acceptable standards for humanity."

**WE WERE SOLDIERS ONCE AND YOUNG: IA DRANG : THE BATTLE THAT CHANGED THE WAR IN VIETNAM** - Harold G. Moore

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB

**Goodfellow Library: 959.7 MOO**

This book is about a group of men persevered, sacrificed themselves for their comrades, and never gave up. In November 1965, some 450 men of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, fought against 2,000 North Vietnamese soldiers in the Ia Drang Valley - one of the most savage and significant battles of the Vietnam War. This book is also on the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Reading List.

# Marine Corps Commandant's 2016 Professional Reading List

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## SENIOR LEVEL

### Master Gunnery Sergeant - Sergeant Major / Colonel - General

#### **ACHILLES IN VIETNAM: COMBAT TRAUMA AND THE UNDOING OF CHARACTER** - Jonathan Shay

Examines the psychological devastation of war by comparing the soldiers of Homer's Iliad with Vietnam veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Although the Iliad was written 27 centuries ago, it has much to teach about combat trauma, as do the more recent, compelling voices and experiences of Vietnam vets. This book is also on the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Reading List.

#### **ANOTHER BLOODY CENTURY: FUTURE WARFARE** - Colin Gray

This book looks into the future to provide some intriguing answers about the ways Western armed forces—which have traditionally been trained to fight conventional, not guerrilla, warfare—may need to evolve.

#### **ASSIGNMENT: PENTAGON: HOW TO EXCEL IN A BUREAUCRACY** - Perry M. Smith; Daniel M. Gerstein

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB, PDF

Essential guide for newly assigned military personnel, fresh civilians, and interested outsiders to the Pentagon's informal set of arrangements, networks, and functions that operate in the service and joint-service world. It delivers practical advice and helpful hints about surviving the pressures and problems of working in "The Building." If you've been assigned to the Pentagon or are starting work for any large company, you need to read this book.

#### **DERELICTION OF DUTY: LYNDON JOHNSON, ROBERT MCNAMARA, THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, AND THE LIES THAT LED TO VIETNAM** - H. R. McMaster

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB

Analysis of how and why the United States became involved in an all-out war in Southeast Asia. Based on transcripts and personal accounts of crucial meetings, confrontations and decisions, it re-creates what happened and why. The book focuses on: President Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, General Maxwell Taylor, McGeorge Bundy and other top officials.

#### **DIPLOMACY** - Henry Kissinger

**Goodfellow Library: 327.73 KIS**

Overview of the history and an account of Henry Kissinger's negotiations with world leaders. The author describes how the art of diplomacy has created the world in which we live, and how America's approach to foreign affairs has always differed vastly from that of other nations.

#### **THE FACE OF BATTLE** - John Keegan

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB, PDF, WMA audiobook

**Goodfellow Library: 355.4 KEE**

This book looks at military history from the battlefield and at the direct experience of individuals at the "point of maximum danger." In the author's scrupulous reassessment of 3 battles representative of 3 different time periods, he manages to convey what the experience of combat meant for the participants, whether they were facing the arrow cloud at the battle of Agincourt, the musket balls at Waterloo, or the steel rain of the Somme. This book is also on the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Reading List.

# Marine Corps Commandant's 2016 Professional Reading List

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**THE FEDERALIST PAPERS** - Alexander Hamilton; James Madison; John Jay; Garry Wills (Introduction by, Editor)

**FREE ONLINE:** [Library of Congress](#)

[Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB, PDF, WMA and MP3 audiobooks

[DoD-MWR Online Library\\*](#) EBSCO PDF

**Goodfellow Library: 342.73 HAM**

This book explains the complexities of a constitutional government—its political structure and principles based on the inherent rights of man. Scholars have long regarded this work as a milestone in political science and a classic of American political theory. It is commonly referred to the third “sacred writing” of American political history, behind the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

**THE LANDMARK THUCYDIDES: A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR -**

Robert B. Strassler (Editor)

Comprehensive guide to the Peloponnesian War. It includes several maps, brief informative appendices by classical scholars, explanatory marginal notes on each page, an index of unprecedented subtlety, and numerous other useful features.

**THE LITTLE BOOK OF ECONOMICS: HOW THE ECONOMY WORKS IN THE REAL WORLD -** Greg Ip

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program](#)

From inflation to the Federal Reserve, taxes to the budget deficit, the author walks us through how the economy really works and its role in our everyday life.

**NO BENDED KNEE: THE BATTLE FOR GUADALCANAL: THE MEMOIR OF GEN. MERRIL B.**

**TWINING USMC (RET.)** - Merrill B. Twining

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - Kindle, EPUB

In this military memoir by the 1st Marine Division's operations officer during the 1942 battle for Guadalcanal, Twining gives us an appreciation for Marines at war from the strategic, operational, and tactical levels. His firsthand report details the fierce fighting and horrid conditions endured by Marines on the ground, the decision of US Navy to pull away from Guadalcanal, as well as addressing the role of the MAGTFs, conducting amphibious operations, hostility between the armed forces, and understanding joint and combined theater logistics.

**THE SOLDIER AND THE STATE: THE THEORY AND POLITICS OF CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS -**

Samuel P. Huntington

**GOODFELLOW LIBRARY: 306.27 HUN**

In a classic work, Samuel P. Huntington challenges most of the old assumptions and ideas on the role of the military in society. Stressing the value of the military outlook for American national policy, Huntington has performed the distinctive task of developing a general theory of civil-military relations and subjecting it to rigorous historical analysis.

**STRATEGY: A HISTORY -** Lawrence Freedman

Sir Lawrence Freedman, one of the world's leading authorities on war and international politics, captures the vast history of strategic thinking, in a consistently engaging and insightful account of how strategy came to pervade every aspect of our lives.

**SUPREME COMMAND: SOLDIERS, STATESMEN, AND LEADERSHIP IN WARTIME -** Eliot A. Cohen

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - WMA audiobook

[DoD-MWR Online Library\\*](#) EBSCO audiobook

This book offers compelling proof that, as Clemenceau put it, “War is too important to leave to the generals.” By examining the shared leadership traits of four politicians (Abraham Lincoln, Georges Clemenceau, Winston Churchill, and David Ben-Gurion) who triumphed in extraordinarily varied military campaigns, the author argues that active statesmen make the best wartime leaders, pushing their military subordinates to succeed where they might have failed if left to their own devices.

# Marine Corps Commandant's 2016 Professional Reading List

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## **TEAM OF RIVALS: THE POLITICAL GENIUS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN** - Doris Kearns Goodwin

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program\\*](#) - WMA audiobook

**Goodfellow Library: B LIN**

Biography of Abraham Lincoln, centered on his mastery of men and how it shaped the most significant presidency in the nation's history. Throughout the turbulent 1850s, each of his "rivals" energetically sought the presidency as the conflict over slavery was leading inexorably to secession and civil war. Lincoln's understanding of human behavior and motivation enabled him to bring his disgruntled opponents together, create the most unusual cabinet in history, and marshal their talents to the task of preserving the Union and winning the war.

## **TREASURY'S WAR: THE UNLEASHING OF A NEW ERA OF FINANCIAL WARFARE** - Juan Zarate

How the United States uses economic embargoes and financial tools as weapons against murderous terrorist groups and "rogue states" such as North Korea, Iran and Syria. Zarate, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, is a former federal prosecutor who joined the U.S. Treasury Department after the 9/11 attacks to figure out ways to constrict the financing of terrorist groups. Relying heavily on anecdotes, acronyms and actual case studies, he provides detailed explanations of secretive operations far less publicized than ground wars and drone strikes.

## **THE WAR THAT ENDED PEACE: THE ROAD TO 1914** - Margaret MacMillan

**FREE ONLINE:** [Navy General Library Program](#)

This work presents a narrative portrait of Europe in the years leading up to World War I that illuminates the political, cultural, and economic factors and contributing personalities that shaped major events. Named one of the best books of the year by The New York Times Book Review, The Economist, The Christian Science Monitor, Bloomberg Businessweek, and The Globe and Mail.