



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE  
814 RADFORD BOULEVARD SUITE 20302  
ALBANY GA 31704-0302

BO 1553.1  
OTD2001

**OCT 06 2014**

MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE ALBANY ORDER 1553.1

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Distribution List

Subj: BASE PROFESSIONAL READING PROGRAM

Encl: (1) MCLB FY15 Professional Reading List

1. Situation. This order provides guidance for Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) Albany military leadership to execute professional development through reading. "In an era of constrained resources, our professional reading program is designed to provide Marines with an intellectual framework to study warfare and enhance their thinking and decision making skills,"- General James F. Amos. Looking to the old adage of "history repeats itself," **it** is important to learn from the writings, research and actions of others. This year's professional reading selections will be in accordance with the titles published in enclosure (1).

2. Mission. Implement a professional reading program for Officers and Staff Noncommissioned Officers (SNCO) in order to facilitate their professional development.

3. Execution.

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. Develop Officers and SNCOs ability to think critically and make effective decisions at the strategic and operational levels. The purpose of these books is to influence our military leaders to think critically and use history and lessons from the past, to solve the problems sets we are currently facing.

(2) Concept of Operations. All Officers and SNCOs will read one of the required titles listed in the enclosure each quarter and write an executive summary, not to exceed one page in length. Participating personnel will also be required to attend a guided discussion (to be scheduled at a later date) that will further expound on the ideas expressed in the reading.

b. Tasks

(1) Executive Officer.

(a) Supervise the command's professional reading program and track Officer and SNCOs completion of required reading selections for FY15.

(b) Assign discussion group leads and coordinate guided discussions on the selected readings each quarter.

(2) Operation and Training Division. Coordinate training venues and audio-visual support as required to support guided discussions on designated reading selections.

(3) Officers and SNCOs. Read selected titles from enclosure (1) and write a one-page executive summary for each to be submitted to each of your respective reporting seniors. The first selection, Flags of Our Fathers, will be completed by December 2014.

c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) Future Base professional reading titles will be published in periodic re-publications of this order no later than 30 September each year.

(2) Scheduling information on the aforementioned guided discussions will be published via separate correspondence.

4. Administration and Logistics.

a. Administration

(1) All recommendations for changes to this order should be addressed to the MCLB Albany Executive Officer at (229) 639-7490 or DSN 567-7490.

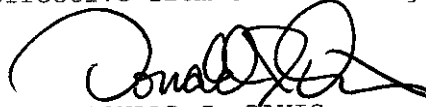
(2) Civilian Marines are not required to participate in the Professional Reading Program but they may participate if they choose to do so.

b. Logistics. Most of the selections on the Professional Reading List can be downloaded at no cost by establishing an "OverDrive" account via Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) to use with the Navy General Library Program Online Library. Instructions for establishing an "OverDrive" account can be obtained from the MCLB Albany library.

5. Command and Signal.

a. Command. This order is applicable to all MCLB Officers and SNCOs.

effective from the date signed.



DONALD J. DAVIS

b. Signal. This order is

**Flags of Our Fathers** – James Bradley

(1" Qtr, FY15)

Few books ever have captured the complexity and furor of war and its aftermath as well as *Flags of Our Fathers*. A penetrating, epic look at a generation at war, this is history told with keen insight, enormous honesty, and the passion of a son paying homage to his father. It is the story of the difference between truth and myth, the meaning of being a hero, and the essence of the human experience of war.

**.Just and Unjust Wars**-Michael Walzer

(2nd Qtr, FY15)

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.

**Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking**- Malcolm Gladwell (3'd Qtr, FY15)

*Blink* 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? How do our brains really work-in the office, in the classroom, in the kitchen, and in the bedroom? And why are the best decisions often those that are impossible to explain to others?

**The Constitution of the United States**

(4th Qtr, FY15)

The Constitution's division of powers leaves the President with some exclusive powers as Commander-in-Chief (such as decisions on the field of battle), Congress with certain other exclusive powers (such as the ability to declare war and appropriate dollars to support the war effort), and a sort of a "twilight zone" of concurrent powers. In the zone of concurrent powers, the Congress might effectively limit presidential power, but in the absence of express congressional limitations, the President is free to act. Although on paper it might appear that the powers of Congress with respect to war are more dominant, the reality is that Presidential power has been more important--in part due to the modern need for quick responses to foreign threats and in part due to the many-headed nature of Congress.

**ENCLOSURE** (4)