Lieutenant Colonel Wade E. Wiegel – Command Philosophy

This squadron's sole purpose is to deploy into combat, fight and win whenever our nation calls. From the World War II Pacific campaign, to Vietnam and the Global War on Terrorism, VMFA-122 has established a remarkable legacy of service to country and Corps. I am honored to command the best squadron in the Marine Corps.

My Vision

"Passionate and disciplined commitment to balanced excellence."

My goal for VMFA-122 – Balanced Excellence

My goal is balanced excellence in everything we will do during and after my time as your commander – every Marine, Sailor and civilian needs to strive for this goal. Balanced excellence has three components:

Tactical Excellence: Generating combat sorties in support of the Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF). This is the culmination of all actions taken by every member of this squadron as well as those supporting this mission. By taking care of our aircraft and equipment and achieving ready and trained personnel with a keen focus on tactical excellence, this squadron will succeed.

Professional Excellence: Developing Marines, Sailors and civilians -- physically, mentally, and socially -- in order to constantly improve our ability to serve our country and Corps. Physical fitness is a must, and time will be made to ensure every Marine and Sailor meets the standards of the Corps and Navy. Occupational credibility, resident PME, and career broadening experiences and tours will ensure everyone fully understands the role and importance of this squadron and the Aviation Combat Element in the MAGTF. An equally important part of balanced excellence is taking the time to understand and celebrate the history we are creating together as a Marine Corps fighter attack squadron.

Personal Excellence: Taking care of our families and having fun! Achieving this will ensure the reserves of integrity, courage, and perseverance are always full. Personal excellence takes 100% concentration. There are resources, mentors and leaders available for each personal step you take – although the first and last step towards each goal is yours to make. Take these steps and each one in between with passion and discipline!

The Foundation of Balance – My Personal Priorities

Family. My family gives me the internal strength to excel both personally and professionally while reminding me what is truly important – a wife and two children who believe in what I am doing and never doubt they come first. For the Marines and Sailors who have not yet started down the path to build a family -- your parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters and others who are most significant in your life should be your number one priority. As I took the Squadron colors, I now consider this squadron as part of my family and this means everyone wearing the "Werewolf" patch (literally and figuratively) is part of my family and you are my first priority.

Country. Service to this country is a selfless call to duty that we have all heard – it is what gives me the passion to put on the uniform every day. Everyone wearing the uniform has sworn an oath to support and defend the constitution of the United States, and this oath provides the guideposts of what our country expects in return.

Corps. The Marine Corps is the service that provides every one of us the opportunity and the resources to accomplish the mission, and when much is given, much is expected. With passion and discipline we will achieve great things together.