As servants of the Nation, we hold ourselves to high standards. To fulfill our oaths and maintain a state of readiness, it is imperative that we engage in physical activity so that we are best able to act, in the harshest of conditions, as mission requires. Equally as important is our cognitive fitness. To help you exercise your mental muscles, I’ve made a list of books that helped shape me into the leader I am today.Touching on emotional intelligence, character, warfighting, history, philosophy, and ethics, my reading list focuses on the fundamental characteristics necessary to be calm in crisis. This diverse book list is here to augment your own reading choices and assist in our shared quest of lifelong learning. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on these books and taking any recommendations you may have for me to read.

Thank you,
M GrySgt Scott H. Stalker, USMC
Command Senior Enlisted Leader, United States Cyber Command & National Security Agency

“Not all readers are leaders, but all leaders are readers.”
– Harry Truman

M GrySgt STALKER’S 2020 READING LIST

MARGIN
Restoring Emotional, Physical, Financial, and Time Reserves to Overloaded Lives
by Richard A. Swenson, M.D.

LIKE WAR
The Weaponization of Social Media
by P.W. Singer & Emerson T. Brooking

MADAM FOURCADE’S SECRET WAR
The Daring Young Woman Who Led France’s Largest Spy Network Against Hitler
by Lynne Olson

Talking to Strangers
What We Should Know About the People We Don’t Know
by Malcolm Gladwell

DESTINED FOR WAR
Can America and China Escape Thucydides’s Trap?
by Graham Allison

QUIET STRENGTH
The Principles, Practices, & Priorities of a Winning Life
by Tony Dungy with Nathan Whitaker

The Three Wars of Roy Benavidez
by Roy P. Benavidez and Oscar Griffin

THE HUNDRED-YEAR MARATHON
China’s Secret Strategy to Replace America as the Global Superpower
by Michael Pillsbury

PRISONERS OF GEOGRAPHY
Ten Maps That Explain Everything About the World
by Tim Marshall

SMALL BOATS AND DARING MEN
Maritime Raiding, Irregular Warfare, and the Early American Navy
by Benjamin Armstrong

THE CULTURE CODE
The Secrets of Highly Successful Groups
by Daniel Coyle

WAR STORY
Sometimes the Real Fight Starts After the Battle
by Steven Elliott