

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
OFFICER CANDIDATES SCHOOL
TRAINING COMMAND
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LDR 2049
MAR 2009

INTRODUCTION TO MARINE CORPS LEADERSHIP

TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVE

1. Without the aid of references, identify the definition of Marine Corps Leadership, without omissions. (MCCS-LDR-1015)

ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Without the aid of references, select the definition of "leadership", without omissions and in accordance with MCRP 6-11B and the Marine Corps Manual. (MCCS-LDR-1015a)

2. Without the aid of references, select the primary objective of leadership, without omissions and in accordance with MCRP 6-11B and the Marine Corps Manual. (MCCS-LDR-1015b)

3. Without the aid of references, select the secondary objective of leadership, without omissions and in accordance with MCRP 6-11B and the Marine Corps Manual. (MCCS-LDR-1015c)

4. Without the aid of references, select the purpose of the chain of command, without omissions and in accordance with MCRP 6-11B and the Marine Corps Manual. (MCCS-LDR-1015d)

5. Without the aid of references, identify the chain of command for a Marine rifle company, without omissions and in accordance with MCRP 6-11B and the Marine Corps Manual. (MCCS-LDR-1015e)

6. Without the aid of references, identify the billet holders not in the chain of command of a Marine rifle company, without omissions and in accordance with MCRP 6-11B and the Marine Corps Manual. (MCCS-LDR-1015f)

1. LEADERSHIP

a. Leadership is defined as the art of influencing others in such a manner to accomplish the mission: "The sum of those qualities of intellect, human understanding and moral character that enable a person to inspire and control a group of people successfully" (General Lejeune).

b. There are two objectives of military leadership: mission accomplishment and looking out for the welfare of your Marines.

(1) The primary objective of military leadership is mission accomplishment.

(2) The secondary objective of military leadership is the Marine's welfare.

2. CHAIN OF COMMAND

a. Definition: The succession of commanding officers from a superior to a subordinate through which command is exercised. This means that each military member has but one immediate supervisor and that each supervisor has their immediate supervisor. In this way, each supervisor links the different levels of command.

b. Purpose: To allow commanders to communicate, supervise, and maintain effective control of a unit's actions at the lowest possible level.

c. Characteristics:

(1) Two-way communication. Subordinates must be able to communicate with seniors, as much as seniors must communicate with subordinates.

(2) Responsibilities are clearly defined for both senior and subordinate.

(3) Each individual knows who they are responsible to and who they are responsible for.

d. In order for the chain of command to be successful, those in the chain must develop:

(1) Good working relationships.

(2) Familiarity with, and trust of other's capabilities.

(3) Effective communication. Ineffective communication by those in the chain of command creates two problems:

(a) It increases the chance that information and orders will be misinterpreted.

(b) It increases the time required to accomplish the mission.

3. CHAIN OF COMMAND IN THE MARINE RIFLE COMPANY. There are various levels of every chain of command. It is easy to compare these levels as jobs. Jobs are called 'billets' in the Marine Corps. The following are the 'billets' in the chain of command of a Marine Corps rifle company:

a. Rifleman.

(1) He is the first element in the chain of command.

(2) He is responsible for the effective employment, condition, and care of his weapon and equipment.

(3) His rank is Private, Private First Class or Lance Corporal.

b. Fire Team Leader.

(1) He supervises the three members of his fire team.

(2) He is responsible for the fire discipline and control of his fire team, and for the condition, care, and economical use of its weapons and equipment.

(3) His rank is Corporal.

c. Squad Leader.

(1) He supervises three Fire Team Leaders.

(2) He is responsible for the discipline, training, control, conduct, and welfare of his squad at all times, and for the care and economical use of its weapons and equipment.

(3) His rank is Sergeant.

d. Platoon Commander.

(1) He controls the actions of the three Squad Leaders.

(2) He is responsible for the training, combat efficiency, discipline, administration, and welfare of his Platoon. In essence, he is responsible for everything that his Platoon does, or fails to do, in garrison and combat.

(3) His rank is Second Lieutenant.

e. Company Commander.

(1) He controls the actions of his three rifle platoons and his weapons platoon.

(2) He is responsible for the training, combat efficiency, discipline, administration and welfare of his company. Much like the platoon commander, he is responsible for everything his company does, or fails to do, in garrison and combat.

(3) His rank is Captain.

5. LEADERS NOT IN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND.

a. There are also leaders in the platoon, but not actually in the chain of command. These leaders are the Platoon Guide and the Platoon Sergeant.

(1) Platoon Guide: He performs administrative duties as directed by the Platoon Commander. He is the senior Sergeant in the platoon. His rank is Sergeant.

(2) Platoon Sergeant: He performs duties assigned by the Platoon Commander. He assists the Platoon Commander in all aspects of supervision and control of the

platoon. He assumes command of the platoon in the Platoon Commander's absence. His rank is Staff Sergeant.

b. The leaders in the company, but not in the company's chain of command, are the Company Executive Officer, the Company First Sergeant, and the Company Gunnery Sergeant.

(1) Company Gunnery Sergeant: He is the principle enlisted advisor to the Company Commander in logistical and training functions of the company. He ensures that a high state of police and sanitation are maintained in the company area. His rank is Gunnery Sergeant.

(2) Company First Sergeant: He is the senior enlisted Marine in the company. He is the principle advisor to the Company Commander in supervising the administration of the company. His duties compliment those of the Company Executive Officer. His rank is First Sergeant.

(3) Company Executive Officer: He performs such duties as directed by the Company Commander. He supervises the activities of the company headquarters. He keeps abreast of the tactical situation of the company in combat. He assumes command of the company in the absence of the Company Commander. His rank is First Lieutenant.

NOTES :

REFERENCES :

1. Marine Corps Manual
2. Leading Marines

MCM
MCDP 1-0