



Military Leadership Traits

Northridge High School MCJROTC



Purpose

This lesson explains and provides examples of the 14 military leadership traits used in the Marine Corps.



Lesson Objectives

1. Provide a definition and example of each of the 14 leadership traits.
2. Describe how the 14 leadership traits apply to the MCJROTC.



**"You do not lead by hitting people over the head
— that's assault, not leadership."**

— Dwight D. Eisenhower





LEADERSHIP TRAITS

"JJ DID TIE BUCKLE"

J: Justice

J: Judgment

D: Dependability

I: Integrity

D: Decisiveness

T: Tact

I: Initiative

E: Enthusiasm

B: Bearing

U: Unselfishness

C: Courage

K: Knowledge

L: Loyalty

E: Endurance



1. Justice

Justice means that you are fair and “even” in your decisions. Impartiality should be your watchword.

- Favoritism should **never** be a factor in your decisions.
- If your team members see that they are treated fairly, they will trust your judgment.





1. Justice

EXAMPLE

"I will assume people I deal with have positive intentions, but I will consider all factors when I make a decision regarding something going on in my life."



1. Justice

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

Be honest with yourself about why you make a particular decision.

Avoid favoritism.

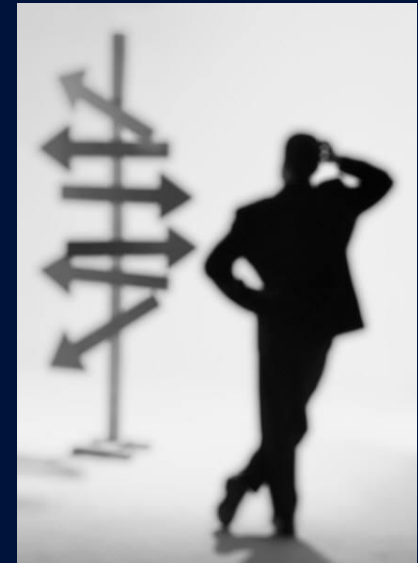
Try to be fair at all times and treat things and people in an equal manner.



2. Judgment

Judgment is the ability to consider all the factors of a problem and then make the correct decision.

- Good judgment must be nurtured and developed.
- You must examine a situation carefully before you can make a good decision.





2. Judgment

EXAMPLE

"I will think about all factors, (5 W's & how) before I make a decision about something in my life."



2. Judgment

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

You can improve your judgment if you avoid making rash decisions.

Approach problems with a common sense attitude.



3. Dependability

Reputation for completing assigned tasks completely.
Means your team will know that you will perform your duties in a proper manner.

- For your **superiors**, this quality is of utmost importance.
- For your **team**, they are depending on you to lead them safely under the given conditions.





3. Dependability

EXAMPLE

"I will work to develop a reputation for always doing the right thing, at the right time, the right way."

The squad leader ensures that his/her squad arrives in the proper uniform without having been told to by the platoon sergeant.



3. Dependability

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

You can increase your dependability by forming the habit of being where you're supposed to be...on time.

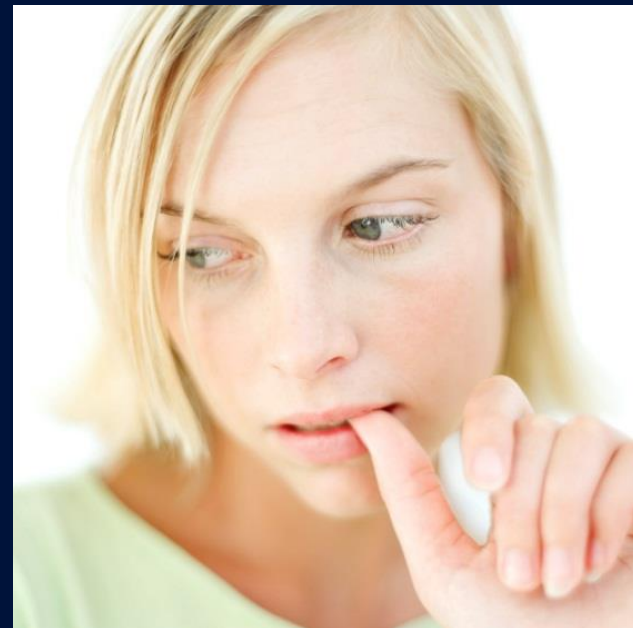
By not making excuses and by carrying out every task to the best of your ability regardless of whether you like it or agree with it.



4. Integrity

Complete truth & honesty. Doing the right thing all the time. In order to lead, you must be **honest** and **upright**; you must be **truthful** in your actions and words.

- You might be asked to lie, cheat, or engage in illegal activities.
- If you behave in an unethical manner, your team members will come to distrust you.





4. Integrity

EXAMPLE

"I will be honest in what I say and do. I will not lie, cheat or steal."

- *Dodgeball*
- *Friend has answers to test before your class*





4. Integrity

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

Be absolutely honest and truthful at all times.

Stand up for what you believe is right.



5. Decisiveness

Ability to make sound & timely decisions. A quality that allows you to take swift and firm action.

To take decisive action you must have:

- All available facts
- Courage
- The ability to act quickly





5. Decisiveness

EXAMPLE

"I will make a timely decision and will resolve the situation that I am involved with."

"If I see a potentially dangerous situation developing, I will immediately take action to prevent injury from occurring."



5. Decisiveness

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

Practice being positive in your actions instead of acting half-heartedly or changing your mind on an issue.

Do not be afraid to decisively change your decision or plan if it is not working...That is decisiveness!



6. Tact

Tact is the ability to deal with others without creating offense.



- You should speak to others without being **demeaning** or **condescending**.
- Treat others as you think all people should be treated.



6. Tact

EXAMPLE

"I will be polite in speaking with others even when I have to address difficult topics."



6. Tact

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

Begin to develop your tact by trying to be courteous and cheerful at all times.

Golden Rule: Treat others as you would like to be treated.



7. Initiative

Seeing what needs to be done and getting it done without being told to.

The ability to take action in the absence of any clearly defined orders.

- It will often be necessary for you to work with little or **no supervision**.
- If something needs to be done, do it!





7. Initiative

EXAMPLE

"I will take the correct action on my own without waiting for someone to tell what to do."

"I will help out at home without being told."



7. Initiative

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

To improve your initiative, work on staying mentally and physically alert.

Be aware of things that need to be done and then do them without being told.



8. Endurance

Mental & physical strength. The ability to endure hardships such as **hunger**, **cold**, **heat**, and **stress**.

- Two forms: Physical & Mental
- When you work long hours with little rest, you will need endurance.
- To endure and overcome is the essence of the Corps.





8. Endurance

EXAMPLE

"I will work to the best of my ability even though I may be undergoing things that affect my work."

A leader who works all night to ensure that pay problems are corrected as quickly as humanly possible because he/she realizes that only through this effort can one of his/her employees receive badly needed back-pay the following morning.



8. Endurance

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

Develop your endurance by engaging in physical training (PT) that will strengthen your body (& mind).

Finish every task to the best of your ability by forcing yourself to continue when you are physically tired and your mind is sluggish.



9. Bearing

Create a favorable impression by your **appearance**; **carry yourself well**; act in a **manner becoming of an officer at all times**.

- Always look, act, and speak like a leader, whether you feel like it or not.
- Others will naturally feed off of you – positively or negatively.





9. Bearing

EXAMPLE

"I will take pride in my appearance and will act like a young lady or gentleman."

I will not use profanity and will always be polite to people with whom I come in contact."



9. Bearing

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

To develop bearing, you should hold yourself to the highest standards of appearance & personal conduct.

Never be content with meeting only the minimum requirements.

Find methods to effectively control your temper.



10. Unselfishness

Placing the welfare (*comfort & advancement*) of others ahead of your own.

- This does not mean you put the needs of subordinates ahead of the task, for the task always comes first.
- True leaders place themselves last in priority.





10. Unselfishness

EXAMPLE

"I will do my best to share my abilities, skills, and knowledge with others.

I will let others go first.

I will look out for my younger siblings and give to them first before I help myself."



10. Unselfishness

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

Avoid using your position or rank for personal gain, safety, or pleasure at the expense of others.

Be considerate of others.

Time – Help others to improve on *your* own time.

Leaders Eat Last!



11. Courage

A mental quality that recognizes fear of danger or criticism, but enables a leader to proceed in the face of it with calmness and firmness.

- **Physical Courage:** Acting without regard for your physical welfare.
- **Moral Courage:** Standing up for your beliefs despite criticism.





11. Courage

EXAMPLE

"I will speak up to correct a wrong.

I will lead through my moral voice.

I will accept criticism for doing what is right.

I will overcome physical challenges and push myself to overcome muscular failure."



11. Courage

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

You can begin to control fear by practicing self-discipline and calmness.

If you fear doing certain things required in your daily life, force yourself to do them until you can control your reaction.



12. Knowledge

Learned information. You must **study** to become aware of current events, equipment, and the capabilities of your team.

- Both **technical** and **tactical** knowledge will help you accomplish your task.
- Leaders should keep abreast of current developments in their field, policies, etc.





12. Knowledge

EXAMPLE

*"I will do my best to develop my intellect by working hard in my education.
I will learn to work with others."*



12. Knowledge

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

Increase your knowledge by remaining alert.

Listen, observe, and find out about things you don't understand.

Be in tune with the needs of your subordinates and those around you.



13. Loyalty

Loyalty is the quality of faithfulness to your country, organization (*Northridge/MCJROTC*), seniors, subordinates, and peers.

- A good leader does not allow personal opinion to interfere with the mission.
- Loyalty is the essence of serving your unit and others.





13. Loyalty

EXAMPLE

"I will work to be a helpful member of my unit, my family and my community."



13. Loyalty

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

Show your loyalty by never discussing problems of your organization or its members with outsiders.

Never talk about seniors unfavorably in front of subordinates.

Once a decision is made and the order is given to execute it, carry out that order willingly as if it were your own.



14. Enthusiasm

You must show sincere **interest** and **exuberance** in the performance of your duties.

- Remain optimistic and cheerful.
- Set a positive example for your team members.





14. Enthusiasm

EXAMPLE

"I will have a positive attitude toward the challenges of high school and will approach each task with the goal of successful completion."

A person who helps others even when physically & emotionally exhausted...Encourages others to persevere.



14. Enthusiasm

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

Understanding and belief in your mission will add to your enthusiasm for your job.

Try to understand why even uninteresting jobs must be done.



Acronym for Leadership Traits

JJ DID TIE BUCKLE

Justice

Judgment

Dependability

Integrity

Decisiveness

Tact

Initiative

Enthusiasm

Bearing

Unselfishness

Courage

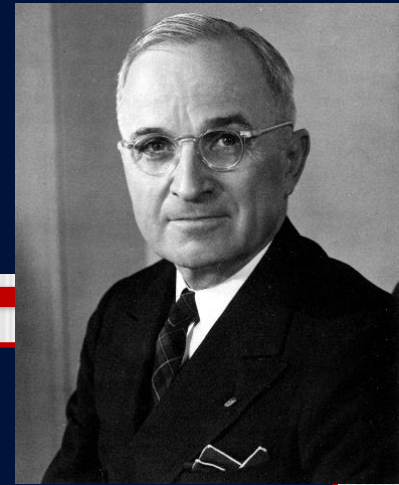
Knowledge

Loyalty

Endurance



President Truman on Leadership



"Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better."