

The Purpose of the Chain of Command

Purpose

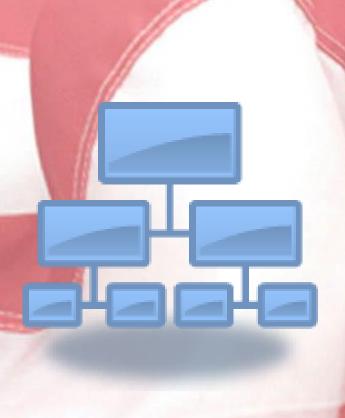
This lesson <u>defines</u> chain of <u>command</u>, and identifies and <u>describes</u> the <u>two purposes</u> of the chain of command.

Lesson Objectives

- 1. Define "Chain of Command"
- 2. Identify two purposes of the chain of command
- 3. Describe how the chain of command decentralizes authority
- 4. Describe how the chain of command links different levels of command

Introduction

- A line of responsibility and authority extends from top to bottom
 - Relationships between and within sections are spelled out.



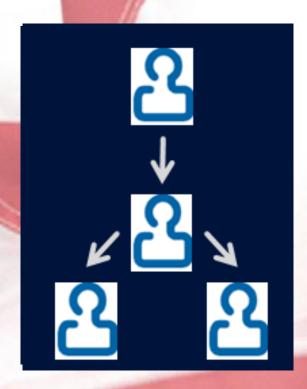
Chain of Command Defined

- The chain of command is the system used to ensure that each individual receives instructions for a particular task from ONLY ONE SUPERVISOR.
- A chain of command provides proper avenues of communication.
- When a commander wants a specific task accomplished, a subordinate is given an order that is passed down the chain of command.
- The chain of command varies based on the command involved. (i.e. Plt / School / Work)

Purposes of the Chain of Command

The chain of command serves two purposes:

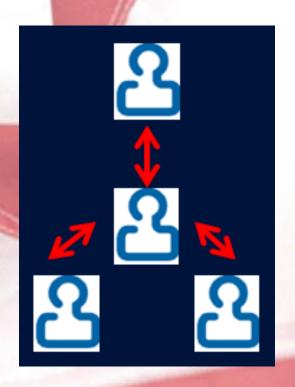
1. Decentralize authority



Purposes of the Chain of Command

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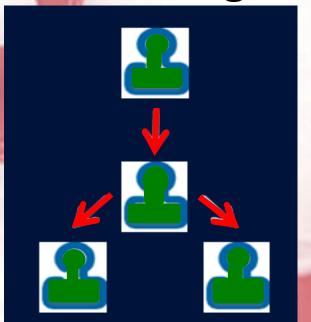
- 1. Decentralize authority
- 2. Links the different levels of command



Decentralize Authority

Since it is extremely difficult for one person to supervise every task personally, assignments are passed down through the levels of command.

 This is called decentralized authority.



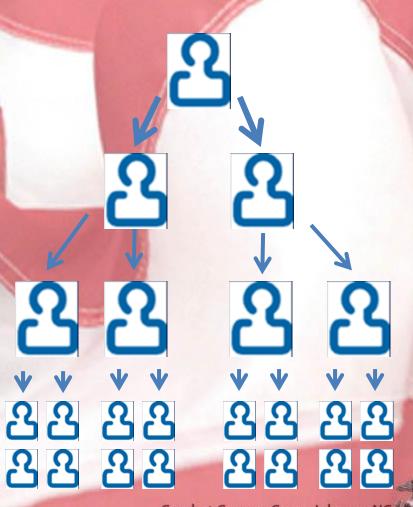
Decentralize Authority

EXAMPLE:

The <u>commander</u> gives an order to the <u>junior officers</u> (platoon commanders).

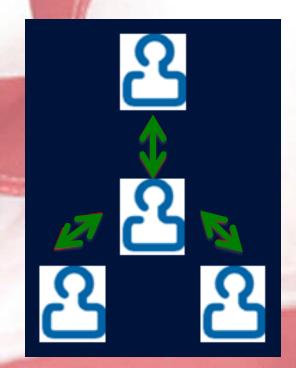
They give the order to the NCOs (squad leaders).

They give the order to their squad members.



Link Levels of Command

- Another purpose of the chain of command is to link the different levels of command.
- Go through each level of command in your chain of command one step at a time until the problem is resolved or the question is answered.

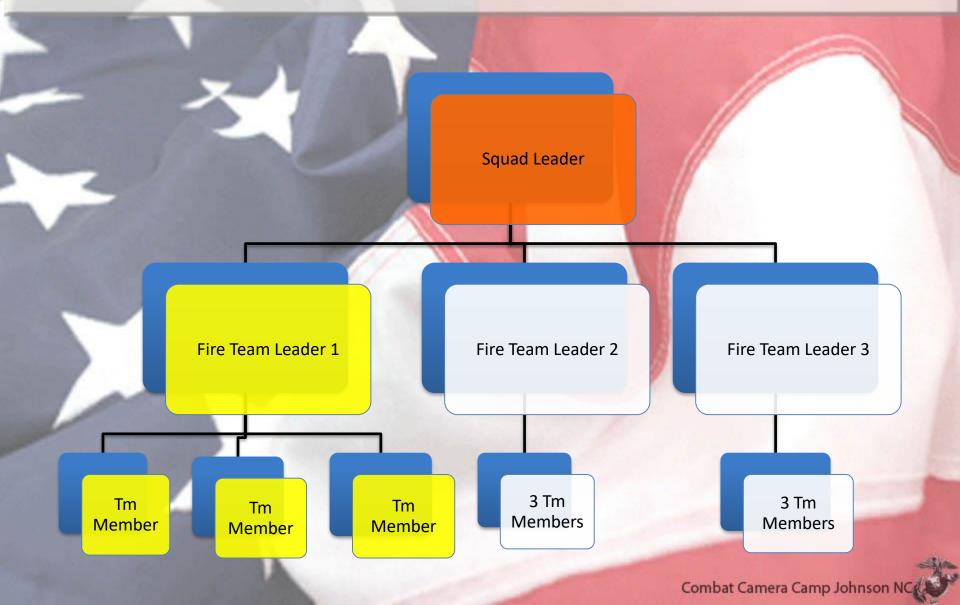




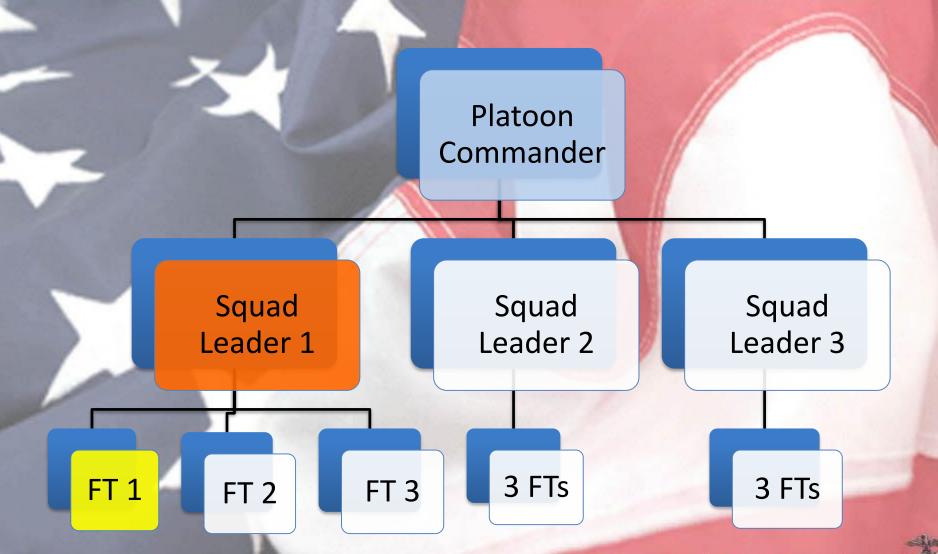
Fire Team Leader

Team Member Team Member Team Member

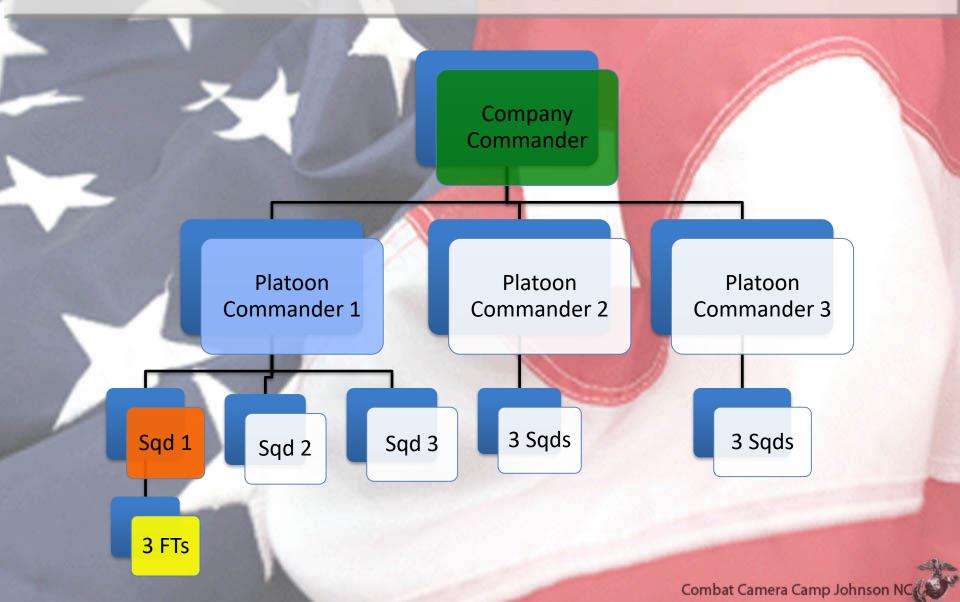
Rule of 3's

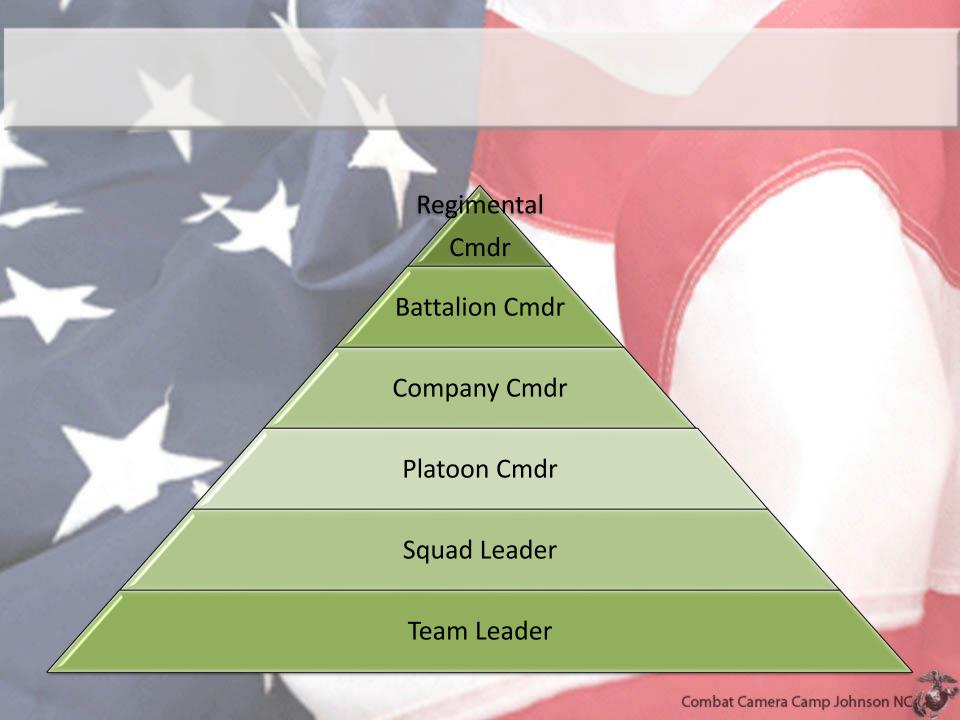


Rule of 3's



Rule of 3's





True or False:

One of the main reasons for a chain of command is to ensure that each individual receives instructions for a particular task from only one supervisor?

- A. True
- False

A chain of command provides proper avenues of

- A. Communication
- **B.** Authority
- **C.** Decision making
- D. All of the above

True or False:

If you have a problem that needs to be resolved, the best way is to go immediately to the highest level of authority.

A. True

B. False

Name two purposes of the Chain of Command.

Decentralize Authority

Link the different levels of command

What part of the organizational structure is highlighted in this diagram?

- A. Battalion
- **B.** Platoon
- C. Squad
- D. Company

