

Leadership Fundamentals for Commanders

DURATION: 50 Minutes

TEACHING METHOD: Discussion (Live or Webinar)

READING: Student Guide

LESSON OBJECTIVE: Demonstrate an understanding of basic leadership principles that are integral to command.

DESIRED LEARNING OUTCOMES (DLO):

1. Describe several leadership styles and when each might be used most effectively.
2. Demonstrate understanding of the Core Values, Ethics Policy, Cadet Protection, and Nondiscrimination Policy and how they form a foundation for leadership.
3. Explain how a leader shows his or her leadership.
4. Describe how a leader makes decisions.
5. Demonstrate conflict resolution skills.
6. Explain the importance of and how a commander might value/show appreciation to members.
7. Describe the importance of, how to recognize, and how to cope with self-management concerns such as stress, burnout, and balance.

LESSON STRATEGY: This lesson is designed to describe key leadership fundamentals commanders need to be successful.

INSTRUCTOR NOTE: This lesson focuses on leadership, the foundations of leadership in CAP, how a leader shows leadership and appreciation, conflict resolution, and self-management.

Students should have completed the assigned reading in the pre-course before coming to the class. This allows you to spend most of your time on the discussion questions. Survey the students to see how well they've absorbed the material and adjust your plan as necessary.

REVIEW: Ask the students if they have questions about the reading. If they have questions, answer them. If not, proceed with a short review. Ask students to share the most important points from the reading. Begin with leadership styles and ask students to name styles. Note their styles on the board or ask a student to make a list. Ask another student for an example of when it is used. Ask a third student for the pros and cons of that style. Ask what serves as a foundation for our leadership in CAP. Ask students to share the fundamentals of decision making. Ask members why it is important to value our members. Ask students to describe conflict resolution. Why is self-management important? Encourage several students to participate/share.

BRIDGE: To become a successful CAP unit commander, you will need to employ basic leadership skills effectively. Leadership is a broad, ever changing subject. One can study leadership for years and still be challenged and grow.

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: Feel free to add or adjust questions as necessary to meet the students' needs as well as the unique conditions in your wing.

Lead off Question: What is your leadership style and why? Choose several students to share.

CAP Unit Commanders Course Instructor Guide
Leadership Fundamentals for Commanders Teaching Plan

Supporting Question: Ask students to define the aspects of leadership presence. Go around the room and ask each student to contribute one attribute of a leader.

Supporting Question: Ask the students to share examples of ways we can value our members. Have each student share one way.

Supporting Question: Ask the students to make a list of things in CAP that cause them stress. Ask the students to list 5 self-management strategies they will use to combat burnout.

CLOSURE: Leading a CAP squadron is a huge undertaking. It is a job with many responsibilities and many rewards. A commander has many tools he or she can employ to successfully complete the tasks at hand. Understanding leadership styles and when to employ different styles is one of the most useful tools a commander has in building a cohesive squadron.

CLOSELY RELATED LESSONS: Developing Our Members, Care and Feeding of a CAP Member, Stewardship and Risk Management