



From the Officers Seat

“Leading By Example”

Leadership is the process by which one individual influences the behaviors, attitudes and thoughts of others. Leaders set the direction by helping others see what lies ahead and rising to the challenges. They see everyone’s potential and encourage and inspire those around them. Leading by example is a trait of a true leader. A group of individuals with poor leadership will quickly degenerate into conflict, because everyone sees things differently and will naturally lean toward different solutions.

Leaders can guide nations or businesses in either a positive or negative direction. For example, Adolf Hitler had strong leadership skills but put them to horrible uses. By contrast, the head of a charitable organization can use the same type of leadership skills to guide the group to help others. Ethics are a key element of leadership. They are the inner compass that motivates and directs a leader toward what is good and fair, and ethics help guide leaders in using their skills for noble purposes.

Leaders must lead with their actions as well as their words. Leaders can effectively translate intention into reality by acting on the concepts and messages they teach and the things they say to those around them. Leadership is the act of setting the right example for those who follow. Leadership is about actively demonstrating your belief, not just talking about it. People who say one thing but do another eventually lose credibility.

Leaders' actions set an unspoken standard about what is appropriate and what is not. Followers learn about acceptable behaviors through observation. For example, a leader can consciously or unconsciously set the dress code for an office by wearing a certain style of clothing to work. That's why it is important for leaders to check their own behaviors and lifestyles; followers will watch, learn and imitate what leaders do.

For an organization to grow, the people within it also must grow. The way for leaders to bring a team to a higher standard is by committing to a greater challenge themselves. The abilities, talents and characteristics of leaders provide a larger foundation on which those around them can grow, both as individuals and as a group. By being the example of greater discipline and greater drive, a leader encourages those who follow him to adopt a higher standard as well.

In closing, let me say I can learn from this more than anyone. Sometimes I do not get out front and take the Lead as I should. I was reminded one time that I have “New Guys” working for me and although I may feel like I am invincible, they are watching and what kind of example am I setting. We can all do a better job, and as one force pulling in the same direction we can accomplish even more. Until Next Time Remember...” Lay Going In.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Quinn'.

Captain Steve Quinn