



TRAITS & PRINCIPLES OF USMC LEADERSHIP

Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines,
31st MEU, Talisman Saber. Australia. 2017

OVERVIEW

A group of six soldiers in full combat gear, including helmets and jackets, are seated in a black inflatable boat on a calm body of water. The boat is moving, creating a slight wake. The background shows a clear blue sky and distant mountains. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue filter.

THE 14 LEADERSHIP TRAITS

THE 11 LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A group of six soldiers in military gear are seated in a black inflatable boat on a calm body of water. The background shows a clear blue sky and distant mountains. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent grey filter.

**READ YOUR TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES
AND
ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES**



LEADERSHIP DEFINED



The sum of those qualities of intellect, human understanding, & moral character that enable a person to inspire & control a group of people successfully.

Gen Clifton B. Cates

19th Commandant



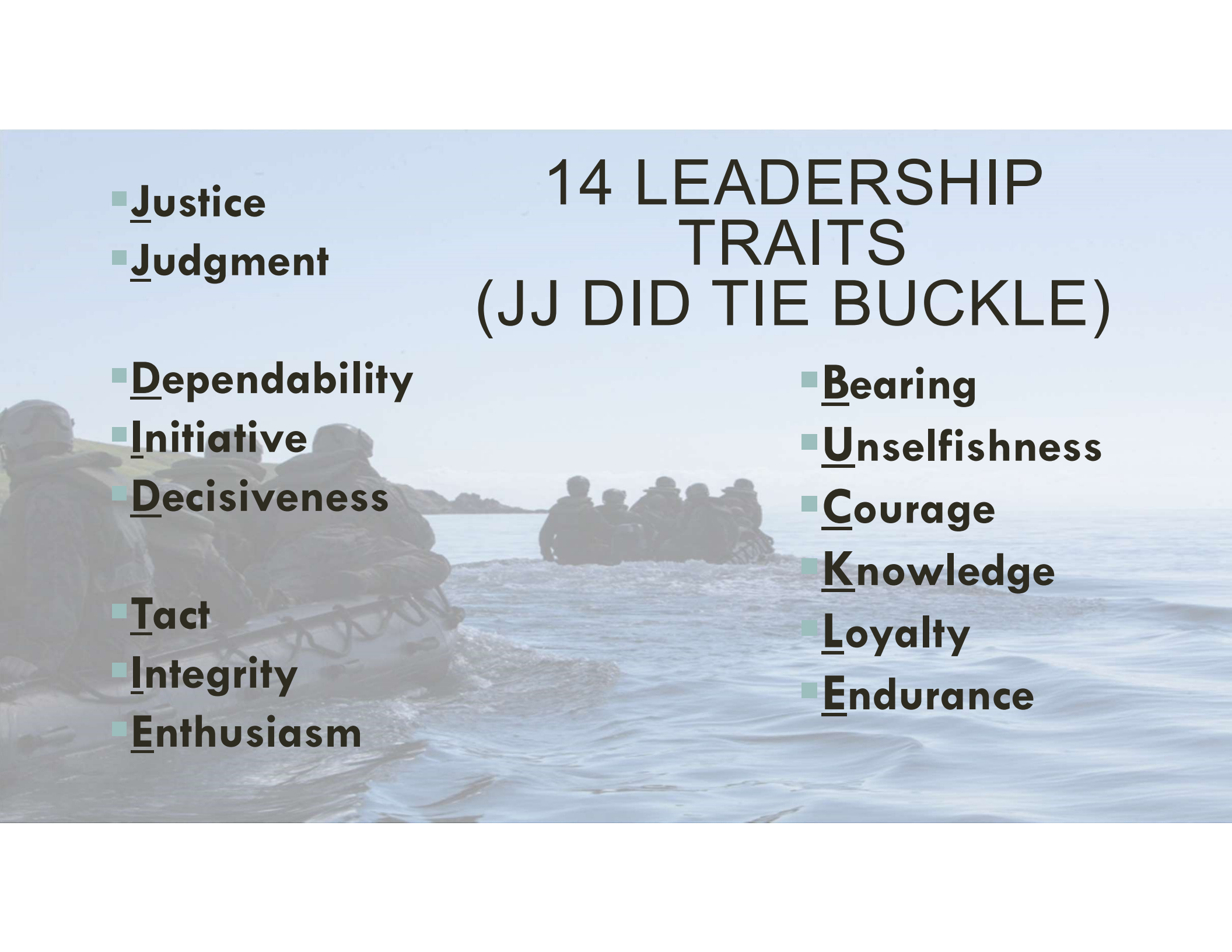
“Leadership is intangible, hard to measure, & difficult to describe. Its quality would seem to stem from many factors. But certainly they must include a measure of inherent ability to control & direct, self-confidence based on expert knowledge, initiative, loyalty, pride, & sense of responsibility. Inherent ability cannot be instilled, but that which is latent or dormant can be developed. Other ingredients can be acquired. They are not easily learned. But leaders can be & are made.”

Primary Goal of Marine Corps
Leadership



**MISSION
ACCOMPLISHMENT!**





14 LEADERSHIP TRAITS (JJ DID TIE BUCKLE)

- Justice
- Judgment

- Dependability
- Initiative
- Decisiveness

- Tact
- Integrity
- Enthusiasm

- Bearing
- Unselfishness
- Courage
- Knowledge
- Loyalty
- Endurance

JUSTICE

A background image showing a group of Marines in a boat on the water. The scene is slightly faded and serves as a backdrop for the text.

Giving reward & punishment according to the merits of the case in question. The ability to administer a system of rewards & punishments impartially & consistently.

A leader must demonstrate fairness & impartiality with his Marines in order to maintain their trust & respect.

JUDGEMENT

A background image showing a group of Marines in a landing craft on the water. The scene is slightly hazy, with the Marines in the foreground and middle ground looking towards the horizon. The water is blue and the sky is light blue.

The ability to weigh facts & possible courses of action in order to make sound decisions.

Sound judgment allows a leader to make appropriate decisions in the guidance, training, & employment of his Marines.

DEPENDABILITY

A background image showing a group of Marines in a landing craft on the water. The scene is slightly faded and serves as a backdrop for the text.

The certainty of proper performance of duty.

A leader who is dependable gives his Marines confidence in his abilities to make the right decisions.

INITIATIVE

Taking action in the absence of orders.

Marines must understand their Commander's Intent & use it to make appropriate decisions in the absence of direct guidance or supervision.

DECISIVENESS

The ability to make decisions promptly & to announce them in a clear, forceful manner.

It is often better that a decision be made promptly than a potentially better one be made at the expense of more time. A leader who is confident in his decisions instills confidence in his Marines.

TACT

The ability to deal with others in a manner that will maintain good relations & avoid offense. More simply stated, tact is the ability to say & do the right thing at the right time.

Consistently treating peers, seniors, & subordinates with respect & courtesy is a sign of maturity & is conducive to mission accomplishment.

INTEGRITY

Uprightness of character & soundness of moral principles. The quality of truthfulness & honesty.

Integrity means doing the right thing even when no one is looking.

ENTHUSIASM

The display of sincere interest & exuberance in the performance of duty.

Displaying interest in a task & showing optimism that it can be successfully completed greatly enhances the likelihood that the task will be successfully completed.

BEARING

Creating a favorable impression in carriage, appearance, & personal conduct at all times.

Bearing bestows a Marine the ability to conduct himself as a leader & a professional that others will respect.

UNSELFISHNESS

Avoidance of providing for one's own comfort & personal advancement at the expense of others.

The quality of looking out for the needs of your subordinates before your own is the essence of leadership.

COURAGE

The moral, mental, & physical strength to do what is right, to adhere to a higher standard of personal conduct, & to make tough decisions under stress & pressure.

Marine leaders must know & stand for what is right, even in the face of popular disfavor. Additionally, Marine leaders are expected to demonstrate physical courage in training & on the battlefield.

KNOWLEDGE

Understanding of a science or an art. The range of one's information, including professional knowledge & understanding of your Marines.

Knowledge gives a leader credibility with his Marines & enhances his ability to make appropriate decisions.

LOYALTY

A leader expresses loyalty to his subordinates by supporting their needs and ensuring their welfare in a number of ways. Subordinates express loyalty by positively and efficiently carrying out the leader's orders.

The quality of faithfulness to country, the Corps, the unit, to one's seniors, subordinates and peers.

ENDURANCE

The mental & physical stamina measured by the ability to withstand pain, fatigue, stress, & hardship.

Marines leaders must be able to hold up to extraordinary feats of physical & mental endurance if mission accomplishment so requires.





THE 11 LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES



1. KNOW YOURSELF & SEEK SELF IMPROVEMENT

Constantly evaluate yourself to determine your strengths & weaknesses. Work to improve upon your weaknesses.



2. BE TECHNICALLY & TACTICALLY PROFICIENT

A Marine leader must know his job thoroughly in order to make good decisions & have credibility with his Marines.



3. KNOW YOUR MARINES & LOOK OUT FOR THEIR WELFARE

This allows a leader to keep his forces strong & to most effectively employ them in accordance with their capabilities.

A photograph of a beach landing operation. In the foreground, a Marine in full combat gear stands with his back to the camera, looking out at the ocean. In the middle ground, two amphibious assault vehicles (AAVs) are beached. The vehicle on the left has several Marines inside, one of whom is waving. The vehicle on the right is also beached with Marines inside. The ocean is blue with white waves breaking on the shore.

4. KEEP YOUR MARINES INFORMED

When practical, a leader should inform his Marines of all happenings & give reasons why things are to be done. Informing your Marines of the situation makes them feel that they are a part of the team & promotes morale.



5. SET THE EXAMPLE

A Marine leader's personal conduct is always on display for his Marines. Remember that Marines tend to emulate the characteristics of their leaders.

A soldier in camouflage gear stands on a beach, looking out at two inflatable landing craft in the ocean. The scene is set on a sandy beach with the ocean in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

6. ENSURE THAT THE TASK IS UNDERSTOOD, SUPERVISED, & ACCOMPLISHED

Leaders must give clear orders that cannot be misunderstood & then by close supervision, ensure that his orders are properly executed.

A photograph of Marines in the water. In the foreground, a Marine in full combat gear, including a helmet and a tactical vest, is seen from the back, looking out towards the ocean. In the middle ground, two groups of Marines are in the water, appearing to be in a small boat or inflatable. The water is blue with white foam from the waves. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.


7. TRAIN YOUR MARINES AS A TEAM

Teamwork is essential from the smallest unit to the entire Marine Corps. As a leader, you must insist on teamwork from your Marines. Ensure that your Marines know their roles & responsibilities within the team framework.

A photograph of a Marine amphibious landing. In the foreground, a Marine in full combat gear, including a helmet and a tactical vest, stands on a sandy beach looking out at the ocean. In the middle ground, two Landing Vehicle Tracked (LVTs) are being pushed onto the beach by waves. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a pale, hazy blue. The overall scene is one of a military operation in progress.

8. MAKE SOUND & TIMELY DECISIONS

Marine leaders must be able to rapidly estimate a situation & make good decisions. Hesitation to make a decision - or failure to make a smart decision - leads subordinates to lose confidence in their leaders.



9. DEVELOP A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AMONG YOUR SUBORDINATES

Doing so allows subordinates to accomplish tasks & remain productive in the absence of direct guidance or supervision. It promotes initiative & wholehearted cooperation in accomplishment of the mission.



10. EMPLOY YOUR COMMAND WITHIN ITS CAPABILITIES

In order to ensure mission accomplishment, a Marine leader must have a thorough knowledge of the tactical & technical capabilities of his Marines.

A Marine leader in full combat gear, including a helmet and tactical vest, stands on a beach looking out at the ocean. In the distance, two amphibious assault vehicles (AAVs) are in the water, with waves crashing against them. The scene is set on a bright, sunny day with a clear blue sky and calm sea.

11. SEEK RESPONSIBILITIES & TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

Seeking out responsibilities will ensure that you continue to grow & remain productive as a Marine leader. Taking responsibility for your actions & decisions is a matter of integrity.



Summary

- **Leadership defined**
- **The primary goal of Marine leadership**
- **The 14 leadership traits**
- **The 11 leadership principles**

