

COMMANDING GENERAL'S COMMENTS



DISCIPLINE

expect it & reflect it

This deployment has provided me with countless opportunities and experiences, including the honor of observing Soldiers as they define discipline through their daily actions. In some ways I think “discipline” is the most important principle of “STEADFAST” Leadership, because when we are disciplined, personally and professionally, then all the other principles fall into place.

I grew up in a disciplined, strict, but loving, home. There were expectations for school grades, sports, respect for elders, chores, etc.

After high school, I attended West Point and without a doubt, discipline was instilled, expected and demanded of all cadets. It was much more than just following rules and regulations, it was about character. The discipline we were taught was in preparation for being officers who were reliable, trustworthy, dependable and selfless in word and deed.

Being disciplined truly means choosing the harder right over the easier wrong. Discipline is digging deep when you do not feel like going on; it is pushing to the end when you think you cannot take another step or do another lap; it is biting your tongue when your emotions want to take over; it is making time for someone else when your own time seems so valuable or out of your control.

Discipline is doing the right thing even when no one else is watching BECAUSE it is the right thing to do; it defines your character!

I believe the difference between a good and a great Soldier/person is discipline. I believe the same about organizations.

I also believe discipline is the difference between a safe and unsafe unit. I think disciplined people strive to reach the maximum standards versus the minimum standards, and disciplined people want to be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

When you are disciplined, you think hard, listen hard, ask “why not” instead of “why;” you are curious, concerned, and care about the second and third order effects of your decisions and actions.

None of us is perfect. None of us gets it right all the time. However, with a little bit of effort and discipline, we can get it right most of the time.

There is a saying I once heard, “It is better to learn through obedience than experience.”

Simply put, when there are rules, regulations, policies, guidelines and gut instinct to guide you through what is right versus what is wrong, it is far better to be disciplined and learn through obedience than it is to break the rules and suffer consequences.

I would encourage each of us to look at life through a lens of discipline for doing what is right, smart, productive and meaningful for ourselves and others.

EXPECT IT and REFLECT IT! THANK YOU for being disciplined in your words and actions!

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