



Character defined

- A person's moral and ethical qualities
- It helps determine what is right and gives a leader motivation to do what is appropriate regardless of the circumstances or the consequences
- Leaders should have informed ethical consciences

Character Traits of Leaders

- Loyalty to country, the CACC, your unit and cadets
- Commitment to fulfill responsibilities
- Respect for other people, property, ideas, and differences
- Selfless service
- Not lying, cheating, or stealing – doing what is right even when others are not looking
- Facing fear, danger, adversity, and criticism with a willingness to proceed

More character traits

- Empathy – acknowledging the needs and feelings of others
- Taking care of subordinates
- Self-disciplined
- Expertness and professionalism; valuing education and schooling
- Commitment to the team
- Promptness and good attendance
- Not being a quitter
- Patriotic spirit; defending the US Constitution

How this manifests (shows) itself

- Not allowing yourself or others to fall prey to the temptations of unethical behavior
- Making choices rooted in a set of core values (the ones on the previous pages)
- Being unpopular with those who want to “go with the flow” of the “popular society”
- Setting high goals, planning to achieve them, and working toward them
- Problem-solving and decision-making

Some ethical scenarios

- Your friend asks you to cheat on an English test
- You need money to go to the next cadet event, your mom says no, and you see \$10 sitting on her dresser
- You forgot to put up the flag this morning and your commandant asks you why

More ethical scenarios

- A superior tells a racial joke
- Your parents ask you to go right home after school to do chores, but you have been asked to be on the drill team
- You are offered a cigarette
- You are exhausted from a long, hard week and your superior asks you to come in to help with a project Saturday morning

Can you come up with others?

- Describe a situation when you had to be a person of character.
- What did you do?
- What values did you use?
- What was difficult about the situation?
- What could/should you have done differently?
