

## **Personal Leadership Philosophy**

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The servant-leader is servant first... It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Leadership is not about titles, positions or flowcharts. It is about action and passion. (Greenleaf, 1996). I have developed my leadership philosophy from my Army experiences and following influential leaders. To understand my leadership philosophy, you need to understand my background. I come from a large family where education is a heavy focus. My grandfathers attended college and joined the military; therefore, I am a proponent of military service and lifelong learning. I will back continuing education and learning as much as the budget and schedule will support. Your role as a team member is crucial in ensuring our leadership philosophy is upheld. I will walk around. Expect to see me in your area from time to time. I don't want you to change what you are doing when you see me; I am there to learn and understand what I can assist you with. I will ask questions; don't be alarmed by my questions. I ask because I want to know your methods and thoughts.

I challenge you to create your philosophy to help you through this journey. As for me, I base mine on the five F's. Faith, Family, Friends, Fitness (Physical, Financial, and Spiritual), and Fun. These are not just words but the pillars that guide my decisions and actions. Rely on your faith to lead you in the proper direction, understand that we all have different faiths, and respect them. Family is why you are who you are and your reason for doing so. You call friends for support, comfort, and encouragement; choose the right friends. Your physical and mental fitness matter to your balance, but remember that your spiritual and financial matters also. Finally, life is too short not to have fun. You will grow old, and your kids will grow up. Take a breath and do something fun for/with yourself, your family, and your friends. This philosophy is not just for me

but for all of us to provide a sense of security and guidance in our personal and professional lives.

We don't always get along with or agree with our leaders. Do not become self-deceived because it causes your thoughts and feelings to shift focus from the common goal (Institute, 2008). Remember, there is a chain of command in place for a reason. It is important to address everything through your individual leadership channels, as this ensures a smooth and efficient flow of communication. However, when that is not possible, I have an open-door policy. If you have a pressing matter that needs immediate attention, you are welcome to stop by my office and invoke my open-door policy, and I will see you as quickly as possible.

I am here to work as a servant leader and identify with the Five Practices of Exemplary Leaders. I believe in modeling the way, challenging the process, inspiring a vision, enabling others to act, and encouraging the heart (Kouzes & Posner, 2017). Think before you act, and only treat others the way you want to be treated.

## References

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