



“Be”

A leader’s character is the foundation of that person’s inner strength and it lays the foundation for the individual’s values, beliefs and morals. Your personal character is what helps you to know what is right, what you should do and how to act. If you have a strong character you will always know what needs to be done, regardless of the consequences or circumstance, and even if no one will notice or recognize your actions. A leader’s character is demonstrated through their behavior and actions. The United States Army teaches that the core values of a solid character include loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. These attributes and values can be seen through one’s mental, physical and emotional capabilities and capacity.

From *Muddy Boots Leadership*

by MAJ John Chapman, USA (Ret.)

“It was late Friday night. The platoon had been breaking tank track and replacing tank track shoes for hours. The soldiers were beyond exhaustion. They were beyond intimidation. They quit working and sat down, waiting for the inevitable [dress down].

The platoon sergeant had worked just as hard and

long as they had. He was every bit as tired, and many years older. He approached the sullen group and said...nothing.

He walked past them as if they were invisible. He slowly bent down, picked up the tools and began to break track alone.

For several minutes the soldiers watched him sweat and grunt. Slowly, one by one, they each stood up and resumed work. Not a word was said, not then, not ever.”

“Character is doing the right thing when nobody’s looking. There are too many people who think that the only thing that’s right is to get by, and the only thing that’s wrong is to get caught.”

-J.C. Watts

“Know”

Leaders must also possess a certain level of knowledge. In order to achieve excellence a leader’s knowledge is spread across four skill fields. These fields include – interpersonal skills, conceptual skills, technical

MEDAL



OF HONOR

“For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as Rifle Squad Leader, 4th Platoon, Company K, Third Battalion, Seventh Marines (Reinforced), Regimental Combat Team 7, First Marine Division (Reinforced), on 14 April 2004. Corporal Dunham’s squad was conducting a reconnaissance mission in the town of Karabilah, Iraq, when they heard rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire erupt approximately two kilometers to the west. Corporal Dunham led his Combined Anti-Armor Team towards the engagement to provide fire support to their Battalion Commander’s convoy, which had been ambushed as it was traveling to Camp Husaybah. As Corporal Dunham and his Marines advanced, they quickly began to receive enemy fire. Corporal Dunham ordered his squad to dismount their vehicles and led one of his fire teams on foot several blocks south of the ambushed convoy.

Discovering seven Iraqi vehicles in a column attempting to depart, Corporal Dunham and his team stopped the vehicles to search them for weapons. As they approached the vehicles, an insurgent leaped out and attacked Corporal Dunham. Corporal Dunham wrestled the insurgent to the ground and in the ensuing struggle saw the insurgent release a grenade. Corporal Dunham immediately alerted his fellow Marines to the threat. Aware of the imminent danger and without hesitation, Corporal Dunham covered the grenade with his helmet and body, bearing the brunt of the explosion and shielding his Marines from the blast. In an ultimate and selfless act of bravery in which he was mortally wounded, he saved the lives of at least two fellow Marines. By his undaunted courage, intrepid fighting spirit, and unwavering devotion to duty, Corporal Dunham gallantly gave his life for his country, thereby reflecting great credit upon himself and upholding the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.”



JASON L. DUNHAM
CORPORAL, U.S. MARINE CORPS