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ROTC Essay

Biggest Influence on Others

The most influential people are the kind of people who are so influential that others are not aware of their influence. What does this statement mean exactly? Well try to recall a time when you instinctively trusted someone, followed their lead, or believed whatever they said. These are the kinds of people who moves wave of people by not just their words, but also their actions. People who illustrates this kind of influence is Martin Luther King Jr., Nick Saban, and the late Gen. George S. Patton; these people can move a crowd by their words and actions.

Soldiers should want to sharpen their ability to be influential by their presence, actions, and words. As a soldier, people are always watching you. You’re expected to live the army values while in uniform and out of uniform. I believe as a soldier, someone who represents our country; what you do, what you say, and how you act will give people an idea of what it means to be American. If a soldier is failing his pt, getting into trouble with the law, or displaying negative behaviors; then, other soldiers will be hesitant to follow a leader who acts in these kinds of ways. A leader should have confidence, not cockiness, but demonstrates composure and outward calm under pressure (ADRP 6-22, Table 4-1). For an example, Captain America is able to analyze the situation, give out orders, and execute in the scene of New York being destroyed from an alien invasion. Captain America, although a fictional character, is basically an embodiment of the Army Values. Confident people can easily influence others. The first step as a leader to influence others its to find common grounds so trust can be established. In *the Essence of Leadership*, it talks about how having “trust” in the link between a leader and his followers. People will follow you if they trust you. Soldiers will do what you say because they trust and respect your rank; however, having soldier’s trust and respect as a fellow soldier and person is far more beneficial for being a leader. A leader should also have accountability for themselves and others. A leader with these traits will be the kind of soldier that others look to for advice and guidance.

A leader who is treated as a friend but is respected and seen as an officer is the kind of lieutenant I want to be. I would like to have unknowing influence on others. If I can have subordinates unconsciously follow and accept me as a leader than I know I’m doing something right. I will always have the best interests of the soldiers I lead. I will network and continue to learn everyday to accomplish my tasks and goals. My desire is the be the kind of leader soldiers can have faith in. If I fail at anything, I will never make an excuse; but for myself and others sake I will take it as a lesson and bounce back. I believe everything I have learned in class will help me as I go through basic, in the civilian world, and as a I continue down the path of becoming an Army officer. I’ve always been a fighter and I aim to make a difference, anyway I can, in the military; also, influence others in ways unknown to them and help the people around me grow.