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ROTC Essay

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Midterm Essay

If leadership was defined by appearance, then I would say Gene Kranz are one of many characters who takes the cake. One look at this guy reminded me of First Sergeant Duke from *G.I. Joe* and Guile from *Street Fighter*. Both of these characters are the definition of leadership in their respected fields. Kranz has a presence of a leader as he walked into the room with authority. His shoulders are broad, back is straight, his chest is out, and more importantly he talks loud and clear, only raising his voice when needed too. Everyone seems to be in a frantic state, yet Gene is calm focused. Because of his calm state you’ll notice others become more compose. You can tell in the clips that his colleagues respect him for who is and what he stands for; other than, his position and rank. At time 1:41, his tone and eye contact with each individual in the room illustrates how much authority and control he has over his team (5/11 clip). While convincing in his speech, he eased his team minds by assuring and motivating them. It gives the viewer a as if saying, “listen to what I’m saying; it will work”, kind of feeling.

A wiseman once said, “don’t work harder, work smarter” (MSG). Gene Kranz displays a far greater level of intelligence despite there being an emergency. At time 1:00, while the team argues amongst themselves, he quickly devised a plan that suits both parties and get the shuttle back safety. (5/11 clip) This demonstrates his quick wits and ability to think on the fly. He’s knows their running out of time and out of options, so he thinks three or four steps ahead. Referring back to time 1:41, when asked about a certain part he simply replies, “I don’t care what anything is designed to do; I care about what it can do” (5/11 clip)! From this phrase we can determine he’s thinking outside the box. Others are concerned about the how things are done and function by the book. Gene focuses on the functions of how things work and in what ways can he apply it to get something done. Tom Stafford, an astronaut on Apollo-Soyuz, saves himself and crew-members from suffocating from a toxic air-leak by releasing floatation devices on the capsule to flipping it in upright position and releasing the airducts allowing fresh air to come in. This is a real-life example of Gene’s behavior. Gene is looking at the problem from many angles, thus seeing the bigger picture that others aren’t seeing.

It wouldn’t surprise me if Ed Harris live out the Army Values other than when he’s playing a fictional character. Gene Kranz illustrates what it means to live the Army Vales in just five minutes. Loyalty is displayed at 1:12, he puts his faith in he teammate John in his belief that the astronauts has a better chance of survival if they cut power to conserve energy (6/11). Actually, Gene shows loyalty throughout both clips because he’s trusting he’s trusting his team with coming up with solutions to get the shuttle back home safely, when he could agree himself that chances are too low. The effort and thought Gene are showing illustrates his willingness to fulfill his duty by exhausting all possible outcomes and solutions to getting the shuttle back to earth safely. There are several instances in both clips where Gene shows the amount of respect, he has for his peers by listening to what others has to say, not yelling at them when he knows he can scold them and looking at things from their perspective. It takes a lot of personal courage and integrity to handle the particular situation Gene is in. If he fails, he could possibly lose his job and never work again; however; if he succeeds, he gets promoted and more importantly he won’t have to live with the burden of not being able to save his friends lives.