

CHAPTER 2

Personal Behavior

Attitude and discipline in JROTC. Attitude is a state of mind behind an individual's actions. Every appearance given (positive or negative) is a direct result of the individual's general state of mind. Often, the success or failure of many activities is determined by the nature and quality of the individual's attitude. Attitude then, is an individual's personal philosophy of life as expressed by his or her actions. It is the frame of mind in which individuals view themselves, their work, and others.

Are you wondering what all this means? A good attitude is essential for success in practically every activity! The JROTC Program is built around the individual. Every person in the Program is key to the success of their flight, and ultimately, the entire unit. If attitudes are good (cadets working up to their full potential while actively participating in the Program), cadets will be doing their share in the cooperative operation of a successful JROTC unit.

How can a cadet develop a proper attitude toward JROTC? Understanding is the key to a good attitude. A cadet must try to understand the reason behind JROTC requirements for strict discipline, good behavior and exemplary bearing.

Discipline. Most people do not understand the real meaning of discipline. They associate it with harshness, undue severity and restrictions. In the JROTC environment, it refers to instruction with an aim to guide the cadet towards proper conduct. JROTC discipline is an extension and adaptation of the disciplines you have experienced throughout life -- i.e., understanding the difference between right and wrong.

Disciplined actions bring about rewards and undisciplined actions bring about punishment. Properly identified and understood, JROTC discipline does not differ in many ways from the various types of civilian discipline.

What is the purpose of military drill? Drill is used to teach the basic principles of discipline and leadership. How? Drill and specific standards of performance teach cadets to act in unison. Drill teaches cadets to respond instantly and subconsciously to a word or command.

In addition, drill and the common responsibilities shared by all cadets give each person a feeling of belonging, fellowship and esprit de corps.

CADET HONOR CODE. Another way of developing a positive attitude is adhering to the Cadet Honor Code: "I will not lie, cheat, steal, nor tolerate those who do."

As a cadet, you must set the example for others to follow. Your character must not only be above and beyond reproach, but also must be strong enough to sustain you in stressful situations. Why? *Others will not follow someone they cannot trust.*

Doing what is right is not always easy. Sometimes you have to "pay the price" for having the courage to stand by your convictions. You, the cadet, must believe in yourself and in what is right. This involves having to make tough decisions and then carrying them out, regardless of the circumstances.

If you tolerate a violation of the Cadet Honor Code, you are as guilty as the one committing the violation. Throughout life, you will face temptations and urges that will encourage you to abandon your ideals. Some people

have no problem with matters of conscience, because they choose *not* to be ethical.

The Cadet Honor Code is the cornerstone for ethical training. It is the minimum standard from which a cadet can evaluate and build their moral character throughout the years. The “code” has proven to be a key factor in a successful cadet’s overall professional development.

We strongly encourage you to make the Honor Code and personal integrity a part of your life. Because you are a cadet, you will be given responsibility and you will be expected to perform. ***Only you can decide the path you will take.*** The Cadet Honor Code will prepare you for the rigors of life and your leadership responsibilities. It will play a vital role in the never-ending development of your character. Personal integrity is a common thread linking cadets of the past, present, and future. It enables you and your peers to accomplish the tremendous tasks you will face as you meet the challenges of life. **If you stand for nothing, you will fall for anything.**

CADET CORE VALUES. Our Core Values are also helpful in developing a proper attitude. Core values are the foundation upon which a high quality Air Force Junior ROTC unit and cadet is built. Our Core Values are:

Respect: willingness to show consideration or appreciation; treat others as you would like to be treated.

Responsibility: capable of making moral or rational decisions on one’s own, thereby answerable for one’s behavior.

Integrity: an unfaltering devotion to honesty, truthfulness, doing one’s duty, and doing what is right.

Courage: the quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty or danger with firmness despite fear.

Patriotism: devoted love, support and

defense of one’s country.

Competence: having the skill, knowledge and experience needed to complete the task.

Tenacity: to persist in anything undertaken despite difficulty or obstacles.

Service: the giving of self to provide for the welfare of others.

In conclusion, discipline in the JROTC program should be viewed as self-discipline, not imposed discipline (the discipline should come from within). Developing a proper attitude toward discipline will enhance your success as a cadet. Attitude and discipline go hand-in-hand to make a smooth running and competent JROTC unit. Finally, if you have a positive attitude, you will have a head start on success in whatever you attempt, whether it is JROTC or life in general. ***Go for it!***

