



NAVY LEAGUE  **LIGUE NAVALE**
A New Wave Of Adventure! *Une mer d'aventure!*

NAVY LEAGUE CADET OFFICER TRAINING

Sub-lieutenant Qualification

Module 26 - DRESS AND
DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCTION

At the end of this module, you will be better informed as to what is expected of you as a senior officer.

RATIONALE

As an officer in The Navy League, you need to be a positive role model and set a good example. How you look and how you act, both with the cadets and out in the public, has a direct bearing on your cadet corps and the overall organization.

PREREQUISITES

Midshipman Qualification Course
Acting Sub-Lieutenant Qualification Course

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Study printed material
Attend Officers Rank Qualification Course
Self-help test

RESOURCES

Module
Instructor
NL (226)
Self-help test

DELIBERATE & UNCONSCIOUS EXAMPLES

The example you set for the cadets may be of two types: either deliberate or unconscious. If you make a particular point of dressing smartly to impress the cadets with the need for good dress and deportment, that is a deliberate example and is to be commended. But remember that everything you do, deliberate or otherwise, sets an example for others. If the next day you dress carelessly, you set a very negative unconscious example for the cadets.

The trick is to set out deliberately to be a positive example in all aspects of your cadet life (in other words, you have to think about it consciously). If you do this for a little while, it will become habit. You will then find that you no longer have to be quite so deliberate about it, since you will now set a good example unconsciously.

This is the aim of good leadership. There are many different types of training aids that an instructor can use to reinforce this.

EXAMPLES TO SET - DRESS AND APPEARANCE

The importance of your appearance cannot be over-emphasized, since it is the first thing that others see. From cadet officers, nothing but a policy of perfection can be expected. For an officer to show up for parade out of uniform is an appalling example of poor leadership. To show up with a scruffy uniform is equally bad. Your hair should be neatly trimmed; your cap snowy white and your uniform should conform to the Dress Manual in all respects. It is not enough for your boots to be clean; they should gleam like mirrors. Nothing engenders respect as quickly as a first rate turnout. On the other hand, nothing will turn a cadet off more quickly than being criticized for a dirty lanyard by an officer with dirty boots.

DEPORTMENT

Your junior officers will look up to you and expect of you a degree of dignity. This does not mean you must be pompous or that you cannot have fun at the proper time and place; it does mean that you cannot act like a follower and expect to be treated like a leader. A junior cadet can afford to "jack around"; a Petty Officer cannot, even at stand-easy. Harmless skylarking by younger cadets is no problem to control, providing seniors have stayed out of it. When seniors are involved in or encouraging it, it can easily get out of hand.

SHARING THE WORK

"Never ask a subordinate to do what you wouldn't do yourself". Some cadet officers feel that certain jobs are beneath their dignity and that they would lose respect if they did them. This is nonsense. Junior cadets will respect a PO who turns to and helps out with menial chores when there is a need. It need not be every time or for the whole time, but this sort of example is tremendously valuable in building respect for the leader.

VOICE AND LANGUAGE - These are some types:

- a) Avoid loud talking or laughing among your equals, it sounds arrogant
- b) Avoid shouting to convey an order or correct a problem; these matters can normally be handled best in a quiet voice
- c) Avoid an harassing or an exasperated tone; it turns people off
- d) Avoid bad language or profanity; it lowers respect for a leader
- e) Practice courtesy among your peers and with subordinates; you will be surprised at the results you get

LOYALTY

The leader needs the loyalty of his subordinates. It is in turn this joint loyalty that builds corps pride. Loyalty does not come without a price; it must be purchased by your loyalty to others.

LOYALTY TO THE CORPS

The best way to develop corps loyalty in the junior ranks is for it to be shown by the senior officers. Take every opportunity to "talk up" the corps among the cadets and among your peers. That sort of talk is contagious. On the other hand, a chance remark to a fellow officer, downgrading the corps, can have the most unfortunate results if overheard. Always look for the things your corps does best and emphasize them in your conversations. Make sure the junior officers get the message: YOUR CORPS IS THE TOPS!

LOYALTY TO SUPERIORS

- a) You expect loyalty; give it in turn to those above you.
- b) Never discuss the problems or activities of superiors with junior cadets.
- c) Identify with your superior's orders. Pass along each order without complaining, as if it were your own.
- d) If you feel it is your duty to express disagreement with what a superior has said or done, do it in private, and do not discuss it publicly afterwards.
- e) Encourage and assist your cadets in any sports or competitive endeavour.
- f) Let the cadets of your division or crew know that they are your cadets, and that you consider them to be superior to all others (even when you sometimes have doubts on that score). Not infrequently, the belief may create the fact.

RESPECT FOR SUBORDINATES

A leader cannot expect respect from his followers unless he first treats them with respect. This point is critical to leadership. An officer who calls his junior officers "twits" or "dummies" or who treats them as inferiors rather than subordinates (not the different words) is not likely to get much respect from them. A considerate, firm but friendly officer, who never loses his/her temper, never humiliates, and who treats his/her juniors as intelligent and enthusiastic people (even when they are not), is likely to be remarkably successful.

AVOID FAMILIARITY

The other side of the coin of friendliness is familiarity. By all means be a friend to your cadets, but never a pal. You cannot be a leader and "one of the boys" at the same time. This may be one of the most difficult lessons to learn. It is essential not to let that fact breed undue familiarity or the taking of liberties. Avoid using first names or nicknames with your juniors, and do not permit their use with you. Remember, you cannot be one of the boys one minute and expect the same boys to obey you the next. The true leader will accept that temporary unpopularity and loneliness may be the price s/he pays for leadership.

SHOW INITIATIVE

One of the best examples you can give is that of initiative. Demonstrating to your cadets that their officer is a prime mover in corps affairs will give them a feeling of personal involvement in the organization, and a greater respect for you as a person.

Volunteer for special duties and work parties.

Put forward ideas for new divisional or corps activities.

Originate suggestions for recruiting or other efforts to improve the corps.

Encourage and pass on ideas and suggestions originating with your crew or division. Constantly make them feel that it is their corps and that they can make it better.

SELF- HELP TEST

COMPLETE THIS BEFORE ATTENDING THE OFFICER RANK QUALIFICATION COURSE AND BE PREPARED TO HAND IT IN.

1) What is the difference between deliberate and unconscious examples?

2) What is the price of loyalty?

3) How do you gain respect from your subordinates?

4) Should you use first names with your cadets? Why or why not?

5) What is one of the best examples of leadership?