

Unit 1, Chapter 1, Lesson 9

Basic Command & Staff Principles

Supplemental Information

NCO – Non-commissioned officer. Enlisted personnel in ranks CPL-CSM, assigned to a leadership position with authority or supervision over other subordinate personnel.

Command Responsibility – A moral and legal obligation. Commanders are ultimately responsible for their unit, its actions and the welfare of each soldier assigned. This *cannot be delegated* to staff or subordinates. Delegation of authority is a necessary piece of effective leadership for many reasons; however, the responsibility always rests with the commander.

Delegation of Authority - The act of authorizing another to act on the behalf of or as a representative of another. Often, a commander will delegate authority to his/her staff to ensure mission accomplishment, promote teamwork, and to allow tasks to be handled at the most appropriate level and by those best suited for specific tasks.

Subordinate – Assigned or belonging to a class or rank lower than another. Subject to the control or authority of another. Squad members are subordinates of the squad leader.

Element – One of the individual entities contributing to a whole or a member of a set. As elements of the Army's organizational structure become larger, they contain more and more subordinate elements. For example, individual cadets are elements of a squad while squads are subordinate elements of a platoon.

Hierarchy – A group of persons organized or classified according to authority or rank. Also referred to as a chain of command.

The Corps of Cadets

Review the Organization Chart provided within STA MD 10-1 or published on www.cadets.com for a model of the structure used within Saint Thomas Academy. The Corps of Cadets is organized as a brigade, utilizing a staff and 3 subordinate battalions. Each battalion has subordinate companies assigned. In November of each school year, following the first quarter promotions, a student is selected as the Brigade Commander and is promoted to the cadet rank of Colonel. At this time, the Brigade Executive Officer or Deputy Commander is also selected along with the Chief of Staff and three Battalion Commanders. The incumbents of these positions are promoted to the cadet rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Review the duties and responsibilities of the command, staff, and members of the corps of cadets as described in the aforementioned regulation. Whether or not you choose to compete for a position at the highest levels within the corps, it is important for each cadet to understand the organizational structure of the corps and its intended overall operation. A complete understanding of your current position and how it fits in to the total picture is critical to your success. A review of the entire organization and the role each position plays in all operations will not only improve your overall understanding of the corps of cadets but also assist you with your individual cadet career planning process.