

SO, YOU WANT TO BE AN OFFICER?

BECOMING AN EFFECTIVE OFFICER

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OBJECTIVES

Participants should be able to:

- Understand what it take to become an officer.
- Identify the roles and expectations of an officer.
- Appreciate the challenges of going from a crew member to an officer.
- Discuss how to be successful as a new or existing officer
- Understand common pitfalls of new officers.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BECOME AN OFFICER?



WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT OFFICERS?

- In charge
- Position of authority
- Issue orders
- Experience and Training
- Military vs. Civilian (Para-Military)

AN OFFICER IS KNOWN FOR -

- Control/Command
- Power
- Persuades change
- In charge
- Orders others
- Command Presence
- Empowers
- Ability to influence
- Responsible
- Delegates

WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

- Training and Experience
- Willingness to learn
- Willing to make a decision
- Defend your position
- Open minded
- Empower
- Communicate
- Respect
- Recognize limitations
- Support others
- Teach others
- Humble

ROLES AND EXPECTATIONS

- Take on responsibility
- Accountable
- Provide direction
- Communicate effectively
- Respect others
- Evaluate success
- Willing to do what it takes to get the job done

HOW DID YOU MAKE IT TO OFFICER

- You have taken the classes, you passed the promotional test, congratulations!
- You are now in charge!
- Thank you for volunteering
- I got this... I'm in charge

MAKING THE TRANSITION

- From buddy to boss
- Acceptance
- One of them now
- You will be watched
- Easiest decisions are made on the scene/during calls
- Hardest decisions at the station/dealing with people

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL

- Understand your role and expectations
- Be willing to ask for help
- Be willing to say you were wrong
- Don't be afraid to make decisions
- Accept responsibility
- Avoid tunnel vision
- Surround yourself with good people

AVOIDING PITFALLS

- Tradition – “That is what others have done”
- “Under the carpet” - Failing to act when needed
- “Doing the right thing” trap
- “We stick together, my friends will support me”
- “We should all have input”
- Plausible deniability

CHALLENGES IN 2015 AND BEYOND

- High Tech/Digital society
- Social media
- Generational challenges
- Too highly educated

LOOKING BACK 25 YEARS

- Made mistakes
- Asked many questions
- Learned the good, the bad, and the ugly
- The hardest, most uncomfortable decisions, are usually correct
- You wear a badge, you earn respect
- Gets lonely at the top
- If you can sleep at night, you have done the right thing



STUMP THE CHIEF?

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

RECAP

- Reviewed what does it take to become an officer.
- Identified the roles and expectations of an officer.
- Discussed the challenges of going from a crew member to an officer.
- Discussed how to be successful as a new or existing officer
- Shared common errors and pitfalls of new officers.