

Six Principles of Mission Command

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Six Principles of Mission Command and Operation Nashville

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Six Principles of Mission Command

The main objective of this essay is to identify the six principles of mission command and give an appraisal and comparison in the Nashville operation. The commander's use of mission directives to ² enable disciplined initiative within the leader's intention to support flexible and adaptable ¹ leaders in executing unified ground operations is known as mission command. This article examines how the commanders applied the principles of mission command at the Nashville operation in Afghanistan in 2010. The six principles of command discussed in this article are ¹ mutual trust, understanding, clear commander's intent, exercising disciplined initiative, the use of mission orders, and accepting prudent risk. Effective commanding takes into account these principles to maintain and increase team cohesion.

Build cohesive teams through mutual trust.

Mutual trust is key to forming trusting relationships between teammates. Mutual trust is the consequence of effective collaboration among our people and teams, founded on their ability to accomplish their given jobs reliably and competently (Rauniar et al., 2019). There are no quick fixes when it comes to obtaining the trust of the people. It takes time to build trust among teammates and their leaders. We all build trust through time and on values, helping people, continuously leading, dedication, multiple conversations, individual models, and commonly lived history. When individuals accept their leaders and teammates trust them and embrace and support the implications of their decisions, they are more likely to take the initiative. The principle of building team cohesion through mutual trust is well applied in Operation Nashville. The soldiers of the teams who arrived in Afghanistan practiced together for many months. Since the beginning of the shift, the platoon commander and squadron commander had led their respective units. All the soldiers also knew each other as the team was small.

Creating Shared Understanding

The foundation of unity of effort, which enables people's professional judgment, is a shared knowledge of an operational environment, job, goal, and solving difficulties. Without first having a shared understanding, effective decentralized job execution is impossible. There are two interdependent factors, knowledge generation and connected actions, which allow for shared understanding. The collective knowledge and linked behaviors are brief, mainly because people and groups are under duress in an unstable, unpredictable, complicated, and difficult situation. And not under duress, people and teams must continue training, learning, and acquiring knowledge to test and maintain our capabilities in sharing and developing collective knowledge and related activities. In the sixteen cases of mission command, the Ranch House Unit conducted several counterinsurgency operations that needed the team to work in a well-known perimeter for insurgent actions. All the team members knew the mission, defense strategies, and plans for a QRF if the COP was attacked. In addition, the team also managed to react according to guidelines when the secured section of the Afghan perimeter was destroyed. Before the situation, the unit was trained on how to respond in secondary and supplemental positions quickly.

Providing a Clear Commander's Intent

The leader aims for a clear and concise statement of the operation's mission, objective, constraints, circumstances, and result (Shamir, 2020). Even if the operation does not go as anticipated, the commander's intent, which is individually prepared and submitted, offers concentration to our individuals and units to achieve the commander's desired results without further directives. Maintaining the unity of effort requires a concise and unambiguous general's goal that team members can recall and comprehend even without an order. The command themes

enable our troops to take action to constantly better themselves, our groups, the soldiers, and our allies, not just on the battle, but in all areas, at all times. At the Ranch House, the troops continued with their operations as usual. The commander's intent was obvious and ensured that the outpost could independently sustain itself to carry out counterinsurgency activities in the Aranas.

Exercise Disciplined Initiative

People and teams engage in disciplined initiative whenever they try to follow their orders and stay the course until they understand their instructions and strategy are no longer appropriate for the scenario. The condition may be altered through; hostile or ally activity, climate, topography or infrastructural changes, gear or logistics availability, or grabbing, holding, and utilizing an advantage with a higher chance of success than the initial. Once the circumstances change, our individuals and groups respond to the new circumstances and use professional judgment to fulfill their commander's goal. Furthermore, they notify their leader of the new circumstance as soon as possible. A leadership environment of trust and respect shared knowledge, and learning must enable disciplined initiative. Commanders rehearse and begin to appreciate the danger and cover their people's good-faith blunders in training before committing to conflict. The platoon and squad leader levels showed the most initiative. The company commander allowed the team leader to direct indirect fires and air support based on his knowledge of the issue. At the same time, he focused on making sure those assets were available and reinforcements were being marshaled.

Use of Mission Order

An order is an oral, writing, or non-verbal communication that conveys instructions from superiors to their subordinates and groups (Tchouta, 2020). Instructions serve as a guide, assigning duties, allocation of resources, and transferring power. Circumstances, objectives, implementation, administrative & logistic, control, and communications are all included in most orders. The emphasis in mission instructions is on achieving success rather than how they are achieved. They aren't too specific to restrict effort, nor are they too broad to provide inadequate guidance. Commanders are wholly liable and accountable for executing legal power via persons and squads when they use mission orders. As a result, our individuals and teams can organize, develop, and implement their activities to achieve their objectives thanks to disciplined initiative and cooperation. The platoon commander did not give his junior leaders explicit instructions, instead of giving them generic directions while focusing on providing required external support. Similarly, during the operation, the battalion and company-level leaders did not offer explicit instructions. Instead, they turned their attention on assuring that fire support resources remained ready and delivered as quickly as possible.

Accept Prudent Risk

The exposure of someone or something valuable to danger, harm, or loss is known as risk (Frechette, 2020). Commanders assess risk in partnership with people and teams to determine the acceptable amount of risk and whether the mission should be tolerated, treated, transferred, or terminated. Because of the large area their units had to cover, and the need to station men among the local populace in tough terrain, the battalion and company commanders at the Ranch House had to accept a certain amount of danger. Because the fire support assets could reach the outpost and a quick reaction force system had been put in place to deliver timely reinforcements to the outpost, the risk was manageable.

In conclusion, all the six principles of mission command stated in the thesis have been identified in this essay. Operation Nashville in Afghanistan ² was able to employ all the six principles of mission command, as illustrated above. All the platoon commanders and their juniors displayed all the features of the principle of command.

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