

3. Coast Guard Leadership (1:28)

You can tell people that you're in the business of being a Coast Guard officer. You are in a leadership position in the beginning - right from the very get go. Because you're helping people. You're leading people to do things right within the marine environment. And so therefore - hopefully they've been trained to be leaders automatically.

Their whole Coast Guard Academy career they're trained to be leaders so when an emergency comes up, that's what they do. They step forward. At the Academy there's a senior guy even a senior Cadet. If you're the senior Cadet in a group, you take charge and that's what you were taught to do and that's what you did. And so you got the practice at the Academy.

Everything's an emergency?

Well not all things are emergencies. But that's just about true when you are called on the gong. If somebody's boat is sinking or on fire or whatever - that is an emergency and that's what we went on the gong for.

Other things you routinely did like inspecting shipping and so forth - those are routine jobs to keep our ships safe but they're not emergencies. They're just part of making things work well in the marine environment and the Coast Guard did that mission very well.

Related Primary Leadership Principles

Authority of Position

Drive to Achieve

Effective Use of Resources

Mission

Team-Building

Training