

Professional Perspectives for Christian Senior Officers

Introduction

Who would you consider to be a senior officer?

For the purpose of this study, “senior officer” is defined as starting at the rank of lieutenant colonel because of the command opportunities and decision-making positions available to officers of such rank.

What would you consider to be some professional perspectives for senior Christian officers?

Senior officers in the United States military services are given the responsibility for vision, leadership, and decision making. You will be an example both professionally and spiritually. The quality of your example in each area will be determined by your attitudes and actions. I believe you have the opportunity to bring some special qualities to your command, the local OCF (if you’re a member) and the expanded Christian community that more junior officers cannot bring.

What might some of these qualities be?

- A model of the relevance of faith to life at the level of rank to which many junior officers aspire
- Elimination of the perception that a committed Christian cannot be successful at senior levels
- Serving as “salt” among senior peers and within decisions affecting the organization
- Wisdom of years of experience in the military
- A model of a marriage and family that demonstrates these characteristics (married officers)
- Integrating (not compartmentalizing) professional leadership with spiritual leadership

What obstacles might you experience in accomplishing these goals? What helps are available?

Your senior position will place increased demands upon you professionally, and upon your family—perhaps at a time when your children may be experiencing critical transition points in life. Setting priorities for your time and attention will often be difficult.

View new circumstances as opportunities for ministry to individuals and families who share the military profession with you. God is sovereign. He knows the intimate details of your situation and has specific growth and ministry purposes for all aspects of it.

You have many choices before you. Don’t be controlled by your circumstances, but maintain the focus of your life on the Lord Jesus Christ. He will enable you to make choices that fulfill His purposes for your life and will give you confidence as you seek your own unique application of His Word in your personal walk with Him, your family, your profession and your and ministry.

In this study, we will address the topics of **priorities, position, attitude, vision, role, and integrating faith and profession**. Prayerful study and reflection upon them will help you determine godly responses to your rank and responsibilities.