

The Piece of the Puzzle (Leadership) Part 2 By KI5LNM

We will continue with last weeks training on leadership. These points are based on *Get it On! What it Means to Lead the Way* by Keni Thomas. Keni Thomas was one of the rangers involved in the Battle of Mogadishu that is better known as Black Hawk Down. Based on his experiences, he has written a book weaving the events of those hours with what it means to be a leader of yourself and others.

So tonight we will start with point 7 and continue. The previous six may be found on the LeeCARES website.

1. **You train as you fight so you will fight as you train.** (p. 34)
2. **Don't forget nothing. It is better to have and not need, than to need and not have.** (p.17)
3. **You don't have to like everyone you are with. You just have to count on them.** (p.9)
4. **If you are going to be the best you can be, which is what your team expects of you, then you have to do the hard work in advance.** (p.40)
5. **If you start taking routine for granted, it leads to something called complacency.** (p.15)
6. **And just like that everything changed.** (p.82)
7. **Resources is an important word when it comes to training and preparing for your mission.** (p.132)
Sometimes we aren't given everything we need to accomplish a task. But that task must be completed anyway. There are many jobs and positions in this world where people are not provided with what they need and yet they still accomplish the task at hand. This needs to be a goal for us as well. We may walk into a situation and not have what we need to accomplish the mission on the surface, but with the training we do, we can be better prepared. We can understand what needs to be done and then be able to find a way to make it happen, because we have the knowledge and have prepared for the inevitable. Then we become "the one piece of the puzzle that made everything work."
8. **If it's stupid but works, it isn't stupid.** (p.98) This is related to the above point. It really doesn't matter how you come up with a way to make something work. Or what you do to make it work. If it works then - it isn't stupid. It may make a good laugh for later, but in the moment if you can drill something in your brain that makes an idea stick, or a principle to hang on, or just how to keep your wits about you when the world is falling apart. Or if you use fingernail clippers to fix an expensive piece of equipment. If it works, it is not stupid and you are the "one piece of the puzzle that made everything work."
9. **It's ok to be afraid.** (p.112) We can all pray that we do not meet with that event that is going to scare the socks off us. But if it does come about - it is ok to be afraid. There is a big difference between being afraid and a liability in an event, and handling fear and being an asset in the event. These times show our real character. What only God and the angels know about us. But we must train and prepare for the fight we may find ourselves in so that we can do the job needed. When we push through the fear and accomplish that job, we just may be "the one piece of the puzzle that made everything work."
10. **You are going to get knocked down. You are going to take a hit. Do not let it discourage you.** (p. 140) As a leader (of one or of many) you will be making decisions. You make the best ones you can. Sometimes you will get knocked down for it. The best thing - is to learn from it and get back on the horse. Get back in the fight. No matter what happens there is a lesson for the next time. Learn it! Don't dwell on. Remember others are depending on you. You are "the one piece of the puzzle that makes everything work."
11. **To lead is to serve.** (p.156) The greatest leaders in history were also people who were some of the greatest servants in history. To lead is to serve. How can you serve those around you that would result in the greatest good? We can continually ask, "Who needs us the most? and then do what they need done. Whether a simple event or a major disaster. Serving others is a major part of leadership and becoming "the one piece of the puzzle that made everything work."
12. **Lead. Follow. Or get out of the way.** (p.183) A good leader is also a good follower. There is a time when you may be called to do one or the other. It should not matter if you lead or you asked to follow another's lead. Both positions are necessary for success. If you aren't willing to do what is needed whether leading or following, then the best thing to do is get out of the way of those who are going to get the job done whatever it takes. But - wouldn't you rather be "the one piece of the puzzle that made everything work?"

- 13. Never sell yourself short and think you are just an “ordinary” individual.** (p.199) It isn't a matter of how “ordinary” or “extraordinary” you are. It is a matter of dedication to excellence in what you do and that character is a life choice that you have made. The illustration here in the book is that of Sergeant Gary Gordon and Sergeant First Class Randy Shughart. They each received the Congressional Medal of Honor for what they did that day in Mogadishu. They both lost their lives doing it. They decided before hand that other lives were more important than their own and so did what they could to help save them. Each of us may never have to choose to do anything near what they did that day, a world away. But we will be called upon to do things that are out of our comfort zones. Don't sell yourself short. Be extraordinary. You may be “the one piece of the puzzle that made everything work.”

Remember. You, me, our team can be, must be, “the one piece of the puzzle that makes everything work.”