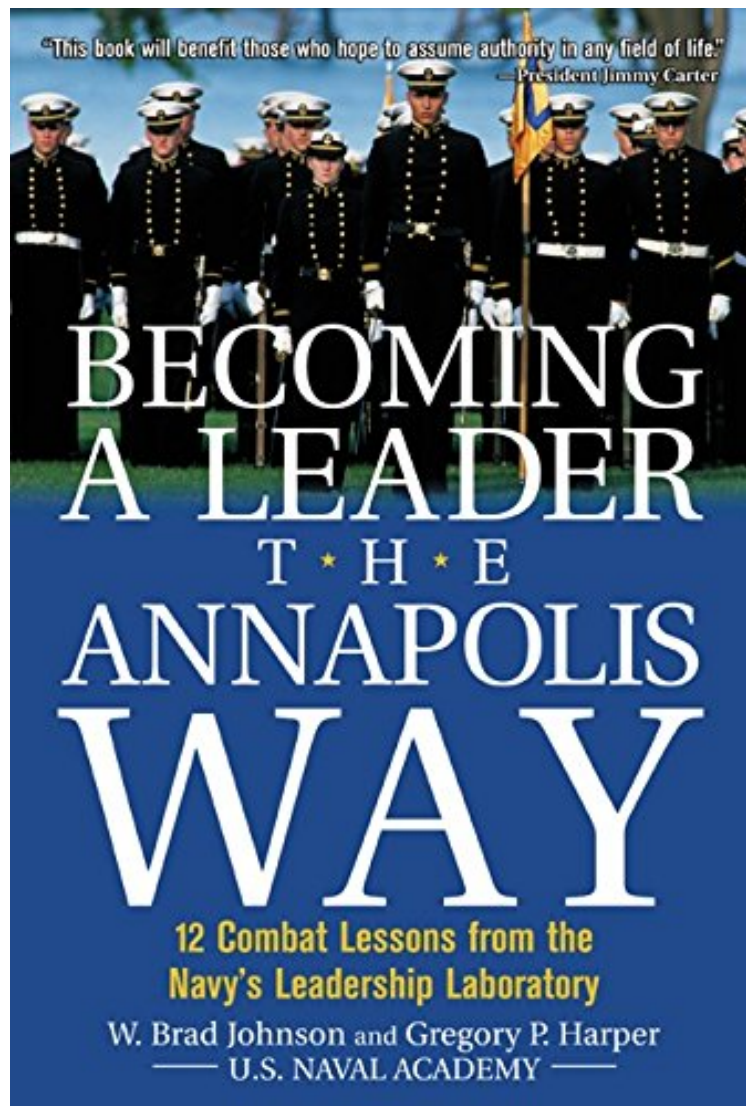


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## **Becoming a Leader the Annapolis Way: 12 Combat Lessons from the Navy's Leadership Laboratory**

*W. Brad Johnson*

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**W. Brad Johnson : Becoming a Leader the Annapolis Way: 12 Combat Lessons from the Navy's Leadership Laboratory** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Becoming a Leader the Annapolis Way: 12 Combat Lessons from the Navy's Leadership Laboratory*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... book is a guideline about how to become the best person you can possibly beBy CustomerThis book is a guideline about how to become the best person you can possibly be. It will

teach you how to inspire others and lead others. People will start to respect and admire you and you will gain tremendous faith in yourself. What I really enjoy about this book is it recognizes that most people won't have the ability to attend the school at Annapolis so it shows you how to be a leader in your everyday life such as being a successful business leader and giving jobs to those in need. Also the book gives real life examples about how these leadership strategies work. An example of this is in the introduction of the book when the author speaks about the experience of some soldiers in a Vietnamese prison camp where graduates of the naval academy used their leadership skills to survive while in the camp. My only complaint with the book is that the book give more business analogies then everyday life analogies.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. goodBy M. Murphyvery topical... good read1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Lead by exampleBy ProntoThe book offers an excellent guide for prospective leaders and whom to train them in both theory and practice. "The gouge" sections are great!

Battle-proven, step-by-step guidelines for instilling leadership in anyone, in any businessToday, more than ever, businesses need leaders with a rare blend of strength, capability, and integrity. Unfortunately, they're not always easy to come by. *Becoming a Leader the Annapolis Way* details how the U.S. Naval Academy builds quality leaders from the ground up, instilling in them the habits and tools required for outstanding leadership in any pursuit. Using real-life vignettes and examples of USNA graduates who experienced breakthrough success in combat, government, and business, this timely book looks beyond just the military aspects to explore: Techniques for teaching honor, duty, and commitmentEmpowerment strategies proven to work over centuries of useInsights for overcoming the perils of blind obedience

From Publishers WeeklyThe military takes leadership very seriously, and this stolid but readable primer offers an unusually coherent view of the subject. Harper, a USNA alum, and Johnson, a psychologist and USNA Leadership professor, discuss such time-honored leadership topics as delegating, vision and servant-leadership, but their focus remains on the distinctive leadership approach preferred at the Annapolis Naval Academy. The hazing, constant drill and crushing workload at Annapolis, they feel, prepare students for the stress of combat command while inculcating obedience, teamwork and unit solidarity. Upperclassmen learn to take progressively greater responsibility for the performance of their comrades. Throughout, students are steeped in devotion to the Navy's storied past and uncompromising code of honor. The authors argue that this regimen tends to produce paragons of integrity, grace under pressure, emotional sensitivity and deep regard for the welfare of subordinates. Harper recounts lots of leadership incidents from his years of command, while Johnson gives the material a psychotherapeutic gloss. They include reminiscences from Jimmy Carter, John McCain and other illustrious USNA grads, along with many stories of heroic (and less than heroic) military leaders. Their account of USNA leadership doctrine and praxis is lucid and engaging, if slightly idealized and stentorian, but it is not clear that it translates well, as they contend, into the civilian economy. The average Taco Bell, for instance, lacks the institutional mystique, compelling purpose and total control over employees' lives that the military enjoys; unlike the Naval Academy, it can't afford to let incessant drill, leadership exercises and sado-masochistic bonding rituals take time away from selling burritos. The book offers an illuminating look at the ideological foundations of military life, but does not seem a cure-all for the ills of the business world. Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From the Back Cover "The school of hard knocks has proven inadequate as a leadership laboratory. More than 230 years of American naval experience has taught us this lesson: if you want great leaders, prepare them to lead. The remainder of this book is dedicated to highlighting the range of leadership lessons inculcated at USNA."--From Chapter 1 The ability to lead others is a learned skill. And like any learned skill, its traits and tenets can be acquired through study and honed through practice before they are tested in the field. *Becoming a Leader the Annapolis Way* is a hands-on account of how a number of today's most accomplished global leaders--not just in the military but in business, politics, and virtually every walk of life--were trained in effective leadership at the United States Naval Academy, and how the skills and tools they learned can be taught to anyone. This step-by-step book removes the veil of mystery by breaking leadership down into its identifiable, educable components, then discussing how each can be acquired through education, drilling, and the acceptance of nothing less than true mastery. Whether you are looking to unravel the "secrets" of leadership for your personal development, or have been given the responsibility of developing leaders in your company or organization, this straightforward and plain-spoken book details: Six common personality traits that inhibit the ability to lead effectively--and how each can be overcome The tenets of practicing great followership--more than any other anything else the key to becoming a great leader Techniques for inoculating future leaders against the stress they will experience tomorrow by exposing them to brief but intense doses today The secrets to emotional intelligence--becoming self-aware, self-regulated, self-motivated, and socially skilled Strategies for developing the three D's of empowerment--Decide, Delegate, and Disappear Exceptional leadership skills can be taught. Furthermore, they must be taught if the business world is to bring itself out of its current global leadership malaise. Let *Becoming a Leader the Annapolis Way* provide you with the knowledge and tools you need to train and develop leaders with integrity, vision, and drive--who consistently do the right thing if for no other reason than it is the right thing to do--

and stock your organization with trained leaders who exhibit character and commitment. The battle-proven program for teaching anyone how to take initiative, triumph over adversity, and become a leader. Each day's business news seems to bring a new tale of questionable corporate ethics and decision-making leading to financial disaster. In virtually every case, the roots of the problem can be traced to weak, ineffective, and incompetent leadership. But one organization--the United States Naval Academy--is unprecedented in its ability to turn out consistently well-trained, capable, and successful leaders. *Becoming a Leader the Annapolis Way* takes you inside the classrooms and corridors of USNA. This illuminating book reveals the secrets of the Navy's documented successes and provides you with: Twelve timeless leadership principles, with a full chapter devoted to each; Techniques for training emotionally intelligent leaders, as opposed to teaching "book smarts"; Fascinating real-life examples of USNA grads who succeeded in combat, government, and business. Today more than ever, business needs leaders who possess frontline knowledge on everything from supervision and communication to teaching and team building. USNA has been shaping such battle-prepared young leaders since 1845. *Becoming a Leader the Annapolis Way* will show you how to bring USNA techniques and practices to your own business, and construct your own stable of young, competent, leadership-trained professionals.

**About the Author** W. Brad Johnson is an associate professor of psychology in the department of leadership, ethics, and law at the United States Naval Academy. A faculty associate at Johns Hopkins University, Johnson's work has appeared in numerous journals and professional publications including *Consulting Psychology Journal*, *Military Medicine*, and *The Journal of Psychology*. Gregory P. Harper is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and a retired Navy captain and aviator. Captain Harper is a national security fellow at Harvard University, and is a former instructor at the U.S. Naval War College, as well as a former director of the National Joint Military Intelligence Center.