



## **Responsibility, Authority, and Accountability**

Referencing a student document that was provided to Marine Second Lieutenants at The Basic School (back in the 1980's), the following thoughts provide deep insight into cornerstone concepts on leadership.

The article provided the reader an explanation of responsibility, authority, and accountability. What is compelling about the message is the fact that it translates to all facets of a person's life, personal and professional. To summarize, responsibility is about trust. It is about making decisions to do what is right. Keep in mind that responsibility cannot be delegated, because responsibility is about your decisions. With that said, authority can be delegated. In this case, one is given the authority to make decisions and get the job done. Obviously, this person is now entrusted to lead, so they have responsibility for their decisions. Now for the most powerful part of the message that brings it all together: Accountability. Accountability means that one must give account for their actions. The actions, of course, are the result of the individual's decisions. It is being held accountable for the end product.

Take a moment to reflect, and draw from the message. Leadership is the most critical element for an organization's success. It is about people. Translate that to the roles and responsibilities of your job. The necessity for leadership can never be underestimated; and embracing the concepts outlined above are foundational for an effective leader.