Abstract

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Character is generally being highlighted as a key aspect of military leadership, but there has been only marginal attention given to it in the research yet. This thesis deals with the concept of leadership based on leader's character in the context of the land forces. The literature review part summarizes the previous findings on this topic, the research part describes the qualitative-quantitative study which aims to map the commander's character strengths important for his perceived efficiency. The sample consists of the students in the 1st year (N = 81) and the 5th year (N = 80) of the University of Defence and the soldiers of the 102nd Reconnaissance Battalion and the 533rd Battalion of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (N = 38). The data collection tools are the open questionnaire, *VIA Inventory of Strengths Revised* (Peterson & Seligman, 2004), *Czech Leadership Questionnaire* (Procházka, Vaculík, & Smutný, 2016) and author's *Character Strengths Leadership Inventory*. The results show that the most frequently mentioned identifying features, best traits, and examples of the commander's character are *Fairness*, *Honesty*, *Empathy*, *Decisiveness*, *Helpfulness*, and *Reliability*. The main perceived character strengths of the commanders considered the best are *Honesty*, *Leadership*, *Judgment*, *Fairness*, *Creativity,* and *Love of Learning*. In the regression models of the character-based leadership most frequently figured *Fairness*, *Honesty*, *Kindness*, *Social Intelligence*, *Humor*, and *Forgiveness* with the negative parameter. The contribution of the paper is the practical impact on the area of commanders' development and obtainment of the materials for further research.

Keywords: character, leadership, leader, leading, command, commander, soldier, army