



Washington Signing the Constitution

Chapter One – Leadership At Every Level

The effective leader is a skillful communicator. General Washington wrote one of the finest documents ever produced on leadership. It was in response to a request from Colonel William Woodford at the beginning of the Revolutionary War. Woodford had asked his commander's advice on the proper conduct necessary to be the most effective leader of men. Washington advised him:

“The best general advice I can give is to be strict in your discipline, that is, to require nothing unreasonable of your officers and men, but see that whatever is required be punctually complied with. Reward and punish every man according to his merit, without partiality or prejudice; hear his complaints, if well founded, redress them, if otherwise, discourage them in order to prevent frivolous ones. Discourage vice in every shape, and impress upon the mind of every man from the first to the lowest, of the importance of our cause, and