



MASTERING LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN HIGHER EDUCATION: UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY CASE

Dr. Mustafa ER,
Turkish Air Force Academy
m.er@hho.edu.tr

Abstract

Since effective leadership is the core element on the survival of organizations, leadership development has been one of the major goals of 21st century higher education institutions. As future leaders, graduates of those institutions are supposed to deal with complex and novel problems constantly changing in challenging environments. In this respect, teaching leadership skills through university programs and finding the ways leading to the acquisition of leadership skills in higher education is one of the essential concerns of educators. Military academies are well known for preparing students for leadership positions. United States Air force Academy (USAFA) is a military higher education institution graduating leaders for the Air Force through a four-year program. In this paper USAFA's leadership development program will be examined and cadets' journey from personal leadership to organizational leadership will be discussed on the basis of class levels: freshman, sophomore, junior and senior.

Key words: Leadership development, higher education, USAFA