

Abel's Book Provides 'Checklist' For All: CEO's To Boy Scouts To Parents

Among the many things AFPAAA's Dick Abel has been during his lifetime are football player, coach, foundation executive, general, SAF/PA director, husband, and father. But, when Dick started his Air Force career he was a pilot . . . and pilots use checklists.

His book, *The DNA of Leadership*, published by Tate Publishing & Enterprises, is a checklist anyone can use to guide their lives. Reading it can be a real thought provoker about who you think you are.

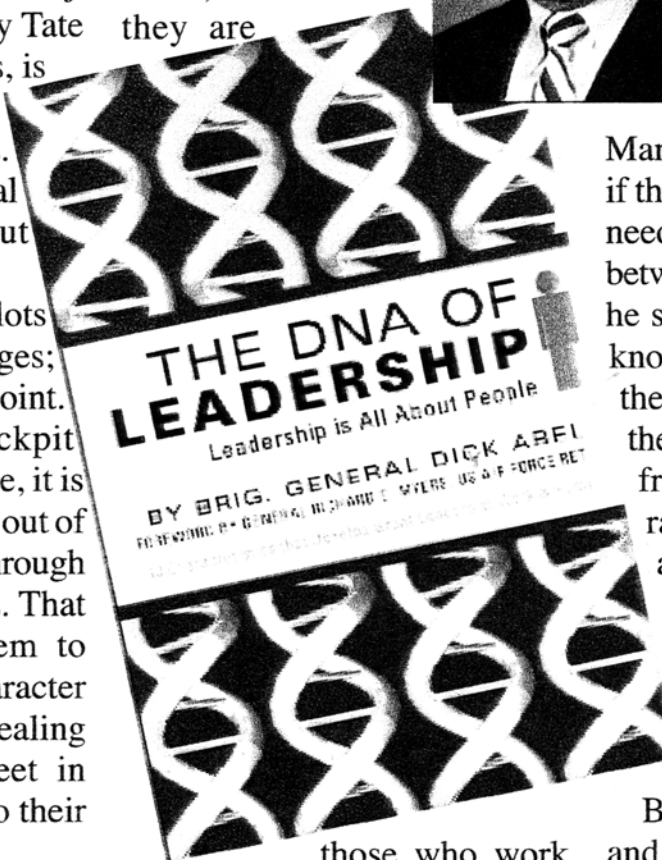
Like the checklists pilots use, it is concise - 115 pages; easy to read, and to the point. And, just like the cockpit checklists all aircraft have, it is aimed at keeping readers out of trouble by guiding them through a self-evaluation process. That process encourages them to develop the traits of character needed to be honest in dealing with everyone they meet in life from their families to their business associates.

Dick points out that our character is the DNA of who we are in our relationships and dealings with other.

"Leadership is the outward expression of who we are," he states. "Your image is who you want people to think you are; your reputation is who

people think you are; and your character is who you really are."

He posits the key to effective leadership is knowing who you really are and being the same person to all you come in contact with, whether they are



those who work for you - your subordinates; those you work for - your superiors; your friends, or your family. You can't be a Chameleon.

Too many people look at themselves as 'managers,' equating management with leadership. "We lead people

and manage resources. There is a very clear distinction between the two, Dick points out."

We have to serve and respect all the people we come in contact with. "When we try to manage people, we ultimately fail. You've seen it happen. When you come upon a leader interested in his people, that's when positive changes occur.

Managers must also be leaders if they are to be successful and need to realize the difference between managing and leading," he states. "Our challenge is to know the right thing to do, do the right thing, and do it for the right reason . . . We suffer from the pursuit of comfort rather than conviction - of accommodation rather than truth - of a pleasant life rather than a meaningful life. To lead and serve, one must be trustworthy and committed to the truth."

Being a person of conviction and good character is the key to effective leadership. Check yourself out against the 18 characteristics needed to be a leader that are outlined in Dick's book. Get it by going to the bookstore at: afpaaa.org and linking to amazon, part of the price will be returned to AFPAAA.