



Power and Character (Term Limits)

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Abraham Lincoln once said, “If you want to know the true character of a man, give him power.”

Bad governors, members of Congress, mayors, judges, policemen, etc. were not bad because they were appointed or elected to a position or given more power/authority - they were bad already.

In the movie Captain America, an almost identical potion turned one young man into a hero and the other into a villain (remember the red skull, Nazi, Hydra guy?). Each of them was given something that took what was already inside and amplified, magnified, and expanded it...Their character. It made good great and bad evil. That’s how power and authority work also.



In today’s world, look at what power does. Even some folks who seem to be ok when they are first appointed or elected, given enough power and influence, began to morph into the depths of their character, already present at the onset. Even good people, when given enough power and authority for long enough, often expose the deeper flaws and darker side of their character.



While the military has a lot of issues, one thing they do well is limit the amount of time Commanders are allowed to serve in that capacity. Similar to term limits, this can limit both the good that can be done, and the damage incurred over the same allotted time. Yes, it would be nice if great Commanders hung around a little longer...But, it would also be nice if bad Commanders didn't hang around as long. The solution = balance.

In the US, we have elections, and this CAN change the landscape, but most often, it does not. In the end remember this, a particular profession is not the problem - look at the character of the people giving that profession a bad name...And you'll be closer to a solution.

Strength and Honor - Lance

