Introduction
At each point in our career, we embark on an endeavor toward mastery through professional development. You will find that with each promotion, we take on new responsibilities that will require us to master new skills. With this new requirement will come a new assessment in the hierarchy of skills. Based loosely on the Maslow’s “Hierarchy of Needs”, the hierarchy of skills states that we all begin as students. As we progress throughout our journey, we will transition to apprentice, specialist, expert, and eventually craftsman. These points are defined in the image below:

While practical experience, realistic training, and formal education are indispensable for the development of first-class leaders, so too is independent study. A program of independent reading keeps the mind fresh and enhances professionalism. The Instructors from the Leadership Development and Decision Making (LDDM) Program have compiled their suggested reading list, which is designed to assist you in the development of your leadership and critical decision making skills. These texts are listed in a manner to help guide you along this journey but are not listed in order of importance.
Leadership Development and Decision Making

Chief Officer

Suggested Reading List

Student:
1. “Firefighter Emotional Wellness – How to Reconnect with Yourself and with Others” – Jada Hudson
2. “Start with Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action” – Simon Sinek
3. “Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know” – Adam Grant
4. “It’s Your Ship: Management Techniques from the Best Damn Ship in the Navy” – Captain D. Michael Abrash
5. “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People” – Stephen R. Covey
7. “Lessons from the Mouse” – Dennis Snow
9. “Good to Great” – Jim Collins

Apprentice:
1. “San Francisco is Burning: The Untold Story of the 1906 and Fires” – Dennis Smith
3. “Killer Show” – John Barylick
4. “Leaders Eat Last” – Simon Sinek
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Specialist:
2. “Why Everyone (Else) is a Hypocrite: Evolution and the Modular Mind” – Robert Kurzban
3. “Endurance: A Year in Space, A Lifetime of Discovery” – Scott Kelly
4. “Leaders Eat Last” – Simon Sinek
9. “Greedy Bastards” - Sherly Sculley
10. “Own Your Past, Change Your Future” – Dr. John Delony

Expert:
1. “Thinking, Fast and Slow” – Daniel Kahneman
2. “Why Leaders Fail and the 7 Prescriptions for Success” – Peter Stark & Mary Kelly
3. “Don’t Bullsh*t Yourself! Crush the Excuses that are Holding You Back” – Jon Taffer
4. “The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business” – Charles Dunhigg
5. Don’t Leave Your Mind Behind: The Mental Side of Performance – Keith Henschen & Nichole Detling
6. “Switch: How to Change Things When Change Is Hard” – Chip Heath & Dan Heath
8. “The Impulse Factor: Why Some of Us Play It Safe and Others Risk It All” – Nick Tasler
Craftsman:
2. “Man’s Search for Meaning” – Viktor Frankl
5. “The Leader Habit” – Martin Lanik
6. “The Trust Edge: How Top Leaders Gain Faster Results, Deeper Relationships, and a Stronger Bottom Line” – David Horsager
7. “Checklist Manifesto” – Atul Gawande
8. “The Talent War” – Mike Sarraille and George Randle