

leading from the front

There are many different power undermine people who use these bases that a leader can develop and use. However there are three types of

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use. These include problematic ones These include problematic ones such as the power of position, the power to give rewards, the power to punish and the power to control information. While these types of power do have some strength, they put the person being led in an unhealthy position of weakness, and can leave leaders using these nome bases looking autocrutic and power bases looking autocratic and out of touch.

ut of touch. More than this, society has changed hugely over the last 50 years. Citizens are individually more powerful, and employees are more able to shift jobs. Few of us enjoy having power exerted over us, and many will do what they can to

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positive power that effective leaders positive power that effective leaders use: charismatic power, expert power and referent power. This article teaches you how to build expert power: Expert power is essential because as a leader, your team looks to you for direction and guidance. Team members need to believe in your ability to set a worthwhile direc-tion give sound guidance and co-. Team

ability to set a worthwhile direc-tion, give sound guidances and co-nordinate agood result. If your team perceives you as a true expert, they will be much more receptive when you try to service experise, they'll know that you can influence tactics such as rational show them how to work effectively. persuasion and inspirational functional function of the service they the service they present the service they are the service they the service they the service they are the service they the service they the service the service the service they the service the show them how to work effectively. Service the service

If they can see your expertise, team members are more likely to believe that you have the wisdom to direct their efforts towards a goal that is genuinely worthwhile. Taken together, if your team sees you as an expert, you will find it much easier to motivate team mem-bers to perform at their best. So how do you build expert power?

guide their good efforts in such way that you'll make the most of their hard work; and

If they can see your expertise

So how do you build expert power? But just being an expert isn't enough, it is also necessary for your team members to recognize your expertise and see you to be a credi-ble source of information and advice. Gary A. Yukl, in his book Teadership in Organizations." details some steps to build expert power A summary of these stans power. A summary of these steps follows:

Promote an image or expertase. Since perceived expertise in many occupations is associated with a person's education and experience, a leader should - in a low key way-make sure that subordinates, peers, make sure that subordinates, peers, "When I was chief engineer at GE, and superiors are aware of his or we had a problem similar to this her formal education, relevant one"). Beware, however, this tactic work experience, and significant can easily be overdone. accomplishments. Keep informed: Expert power is



a firm grasp of up-to-date facts. It is therefore essential for a leader to keep well-informed of developments within the team, within the organization, and in the outside world.

organization, and m the second world. Recognize subordinate concerns: Use of rational persuasion should not be seen as a form of one-way communication from the leader to subordinates. Effective leaders lis-ten carefully to the concerns and uncertainties of their team mem-bers, and make sure that they address these in making a persua-sive appeal. Avoid threatening the self-estement of subordinates: Expert power is

Avoid threatening the self-esteem of subordinates: Expert power is based on a knowledge differential between leader and team members. Unfortunately, the very existence of such a differential can cause prob-lems if the leader is not careful about the way he exercises expert

Team members can dislike unfa-

rguments. some leaders lecture their team members in a

team members in a condescending man-ner and convey the impression that the other team members are "ignorant." Guard against this -it can make you look very arrogant. Act confidently and decisively in a crisis: In a crisis or emergency, subordi-nates prefer a "take charge" leader who appears to know how to direct the group in coping with the problem. In this kind of situation, suborcoping with the problem. In this kind of situation, subor-clate confident, firm leadership with expert knowledge. Even if the leader is not sure of the best with eader is not sure of the best with or appear confused risks the loss of influence over subordinates. Maintain credibil-ty: Once established, one's image of expertise should be carefully protected. The leader should avoid making care-less comments about subjects on which he should avoid being associated with pro-cets with a low likeliects with a low likelihood of success. -mindtools.com

# What's more, if members of vo team see you as an expert, you will

Promote an image of expertise:



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Asia

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diplomas, licenses, awards, and other evidence of expertise in a prominent location in one's office -after all, if you've worked hard to gain knowledge, it's fair that you get credit for it. Another tactic is to make subtle references to prior edu-cation or experience (for example, "When I was chief engineer at GE, we had a problem similar to this to rac." Barware however this tactic



Team members can dislike unfa-vorable status comparisons where the gap is very large and obvious. They are likely to be upset by a leader who acts in a superi-

or way, and arrogant-ly flaunts his greater expertise. In the process of presenting rational