



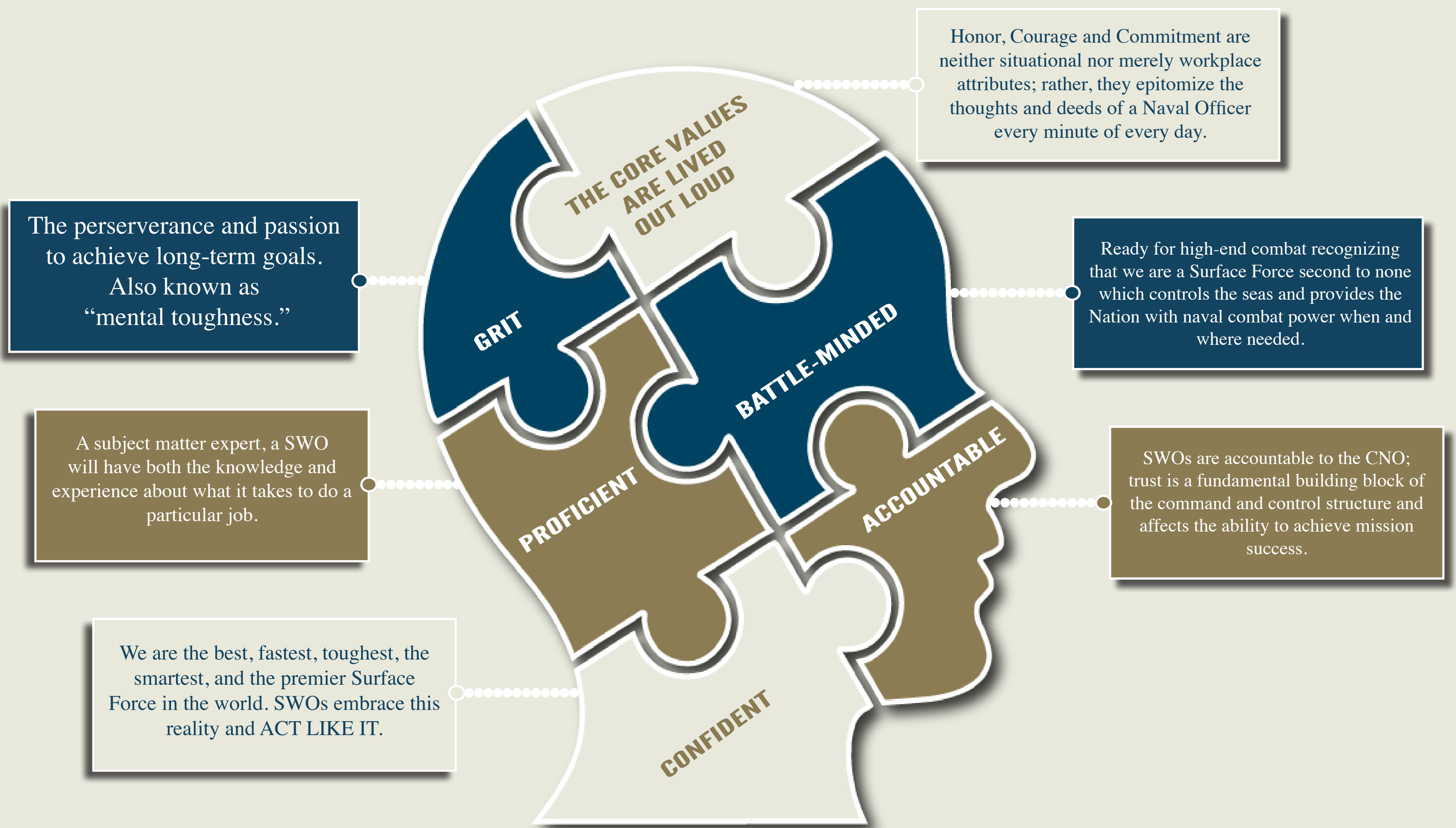
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SWO TOUGH



*Owning Tomorrow's
Fight Today*

A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE



A LOOK INTO THE MIND OF THE SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER

Commander Ernest E. Evans



Born of Native American descent, Ernest beat what seemed impossible odds. Amid intense prejudice against Native Americans, Evans exhibited grit as he graduated from a nearly all-white high school, enlisted in the Navy, and after a year of service, was accepted into the Naval Academy's Class of 1931.



The day USS Johnston (DD 557) commissioned, Evans made his mission clear to the crew: “This ship is going to be a fighting ship. I intend to go in harm's way and anyone who doesn't want to go along had better get off now.”



As part of task unit Taffy 3, Evans' core values were evident when he charged into battle with Japanese vessels during the Battle off Samar.



Seriously wounded early in the engagement, Commander Evans, by his indomitable courage, and brilliant professional skill, aided materially in turning back the enemy one by one.



For his “valiant fighting spirit” while commanding USS Johnston, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, “For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. Johnston in action against major units of the enemy Japanese fleet during the battle off Samar on 25 October 1944.”

