

A Quantitative Analysis of Leadership Styles and Organisational Culture: A Data-Driven Study of the South Carolina Army National Guard

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The National Guard in South Carolina has a rich culture of organised militiamen, with leadership playing a crucial role in shaping organisational culture. The study investigates the relationship between leadership styles (transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire) and organisational culture within the SCARNG, using the Competing Values Framework to identify dominant cultural dimensions. The study found a significant negative correlation between transformational and Clan culture, a positive correlation between transformational and Adhocracy culture, and a positive correlation between transactional and Adhocracy culture. Transformational leadership style predicted Clan, Market, and Hierarchy culture, while transactional leadership positively impacted market and hierarchy cultures. Laissez-faire leadership did not significantly affect any of the organisational cultures examined. The findings suggest that leadership styles play a crucial role in shaping organisational culture, with transformational and transactional leadership being more effective than laissez-faire leadership in fostering desired cultural outcomes.

Keywords: transformational leadership, transactional leadership, laissez-faire leadership, organisational culture, military culture, subordinates, SCARING

INTRODUCTION

The military is a diverse group of organised personnel protecting a nation (Young-Gon Kim & Shin, 2021). The U.S. military is viewed as the U.S. Department of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and its subcomponents (Reinhard, 2021). The commander-in-chief determines the need for the existence of the military and, in this context, the Army National Guard (Reinhard, 2021). The U.S. Army National Guard is highly trained, military-ready, and equipped to respond to natural disasters and assist internationally (Shane, 2017). The National Guard has a versatile and versatile culture of organised militiamen that can react to combat situations in hours (National Guard, 2023). The legitimacy of the chain of command is an essential characteristic of the military culture (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA], 2010).

Leadership within military organisations, especially in reserve and National Guard units, plays a pivotal role in shaping the organisational culture and determining the overall effectiveness of the force. As part of the larger National Guard framework, the South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG) is tasked with domestic and international responsibilities, ranging from disaster response to combat operations. The success of these multifaceted missions hinges on the interplay between leadership styles and the organisational culture that underpins them.

Organisational culture, often described as the shared values, beliefs, and norms within a group, is a fundamental aspect that influences how individuals interact, work together, and perform tasks. A strong organisational culture in the military is essential for maintaining morale, enhancing communication, and fostering resilience in high-pressure situations. However, the culture within military units is not static—leadership behaviours and decisions continuously shape it. Leadership, in turn, can directly influence critical aspects of organisational culture, such as trust, cohesion, and adaptability. Despite the crucial role that leadership and culture play in military settings, there has been limited quantitative research specifically focused on the South Carolina Army National Guard. Most existing studies have either concentrated on active-duty forces or have been qualitative, leaving a gap in data-driven analysis. This study seeks to address that gap by conducting a quantitative analysis of the leadership styles prevalent within the SCARNG and their effect on the organisational culture of the unit.

The research will focus on identifying the types of leadership behaviours exhibited by officers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs) within the SCARNG, including transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire leadership styles. Furthermore, the study will explore how these leadership styles influence key elements of the organisational culture, such as communication, morale, trust, and operational effectiveness. By understanding the dynamics between leadership styles and organisational culture, this study aims to offer actionable insights that can be used to enhance leadership development programs and improve the cultural environment within SCARNG. Ultimately, this study will contribute to the growing knowledge of military leadership and organisational culture, providing a model for future research in other National Guard units and military branches. Through this research, SCARNG leadership can better understand the organisation's strengths and areas for improvement, leading to more effective leadership strategies, improved cultural alignment, and better overall performance.

Background of the Problem

Leadership is a central element in shaping the culture and effectiveness of organisations, and its influence is particularly profound in military contexts. In military units, effective leadership is crucial for fostering an environment that supports operational success, unit cohesion, and high morale. The relationship between leadership styles and organisational culture in the military has been widely acknowledged, but exploring this dynamic within specific branches like the National Guard is underexplored. Leadership in this context is defined by the behaviours and actions that guide and influence followers to achieve organisational goals. In contrast, organisational culture refers to the shared values, beliefs, and practices that shape how members interact and perform.

In the broader context of leadership theories, transformational leadership has significantly influenced organisational culture by enhancing morale, communication, and trust (Bass, 1985). Transformational

leaders inspire their followers by creating a vision, fostering innovation, and motivating others to exceed their expectations (Northouse, 2018). In contrast, transactional leadership, which focuses on routine tasks and reward-based motivation, has been linked to stable but sometimes less dynamic organisational cultures (Bass, 1985). Moreover, laissez-faire leadership, which avoids active leadership, can lack clear direction and an undefined organisational culture (Avolio & Bass, 2004).

The Competing Values Framework (Cameron & Quinn, 2011) offers a valuable lens for understanding organisational culture. This model categorises culture into four types: Adhocracy, market, and Hierarchy—that vary in focus on internal versus external dynamics, as well as flexibility versus control. Military organisations like the South Carolina Army National Guard often exhibit a mixture of hierarchical and Clan cultures, emphasising order, discipline, and teamwork (Cameron & Quinn, 2011). However, cultural shifts and leadership transformations within such organisations have not been sufficiently studied through a data-driven approach, particularly for state-based National Guard units.

Statement of the Problem

In the military, particularly within National Guard units, leadership is essential in shaping the organisational culture, influencing mission success, unit cohesion, and overall effectiveness. The South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG), a critical component of state and National Defence, faces unique challenges due to its dual mission of responding to domestic emergencies and engaging in overseas deployments. Despite the importance of leadership in fostering a strong organisational culture, a limited body of research quantitatively investigates the specific relationship between leadership styles and organisational culture in the SCARNG.

While existing studies on military leadership primarily focus on active-duty forces or large federal organisations, research explicitly addressing the SCARNG is sparse. The leadership styles prevalent in the SCARNG, whether transformational, transactional, or laissez-faire, may significantly influence the unit's culture—affecting communication, trust, morale, and the ability to carry out missions effectively. Furthermore, there is limited insight into how leadership behaviours reinforce or disrupt cultural norms within this state-based reserve unit, which is essential for its success. Moreover, **Social Learning Theory** proposes that individuals learn behaviours and values through observation, imitation, and modelling, particularly in a social context (Bandura, 1977). According to this theory, leaders serve as role models, influencing followers' attitudes, behaviours, and values by demonstrating specific actions, ethical standards, and leadership styles.

Organisational culture frameworks, such as the **Competing Values Framework** (Cameron & Quinn, 2011), offer valuable models for analysing the alignment between leadership and cultural outcomes within organisations. However, these frameworks have not been applied comprehensively within National Guard units, mainly focusing on the South Carolina Army National Guard. Understanding the interaction between leadership styles and organisational culture in this unique military setting could lead to actionable insights for improving leadership strategies and enhancing the cultural environment of SCARNG.

This gap in research presents a critical need for a quantitative study that explores how different leadership styles within the SCARNG influence key cultural dimensions such as trust, communication, and operational effectiveness. Identifying these dynamics could lead to more informed decisions regarding leadership development programs, improve organisational health, and ensure higher readiness levels for domestic and international missions. This problem is significant because, without a clear understanding of these dynamics, the SCARNG may miss opportunities for leadership improvement, cultural alignment, and enhanced overall performance.

Purpose of the Study

This quantitative analysis investigated the intricate relationship between leadership styles and organisational culture within the South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG). Leadership is critical in shaping organisational culture, particularly within military units, where cohesion, trust, and effective communication are essential to mission success. The SCARNG, as a part of the broader military structure,

faces unique challenges that influence leadership dynamics and the organisational culture that supports its operations.

By utilising a quantitative approach, this study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of how various leadership styles are practised within the SCARNG and how these styles correlate with the prevailing culture in the organisation. Specifically, the study seeks to determine how transformational, transactional, or laissez-faire leadership behaviours influences critical cultural elements such as morale, teamwork, and overall effectiveness.

Additionally, the study explores whether the prevailing organisational culture fosters or hinders leadership success and the performance of SCARNG members. It is essential to understand how organisational culture, influenced by leadership, affects outcomes such as personnel retention, satisfaction, and the efficiency of military operations. This research is crucial for enhancing leadership development within the SCARNG and identifying strategies to improve organisational culture to support the Guard's mission in peacetime and combat scenarios. Ultimately, the study aims to provide actionable recommendations for SCARNG leadership and policymakers to foster a more effective, cohesive, and adaptive organisational culture. By gaining a deeper comprehension of the relationship between leadership and culture, this research hopes to contribute valuable insights to the field of military leadership, with broader implications for other branches of the armed forces and similar institutions.

The Rationale of the Study

The rationale for conducting a quantitative analysis on the relationship between leadership styles and organisational culture within the South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG) is rooted in the critical need to understand how leadership influences organisational dynamics and effectiveness in military settings. Military organisations, especially National Guard units like the SCARNG, are unique because they are part-time reserve forces, often balancing domestic emergency responsibilities with federal missions. This unique structure can present challenges in maintaining organisational coherence and leadership effectiveness. It is imperative to explore how leadership practices and organisational culture align to enhance mission success and unit readiness.

Research on leadership in military organisations has primarily focused on active-duty units and general theoretical leadership models. However, a significant gap in research addressing the South Carolina Army National Guard remains. While leadership styles such as transformational leadership (Bass, 1985), transactional leadership (Burns, 1978), and laissez-faire leadership (Avolio & Bass, 2004) have been explored in various organisational contexts, limited studies have quantitatively examined their impact on the organisational culture of National Guard units. National Guard units like the SCARNG often face distinct challenges, such as maintaining cohesion and discipline during irregular and usually sporadic training schedules and responding to high-stakes state and federal missions.

Organisational Culture is key in determining how well a unit can function under pressure, how leadership is perceived, and how effective communication flows among unit members. Complete comprehension of the culture within SCARNG and how leadership styles shape it is crucial for several reasons:

1. **Morale and Retention:** Effective leadership contributes to a positive organisational culture, increasing morale and retention rates. According to Schein (2010), leadership shapes culture through behaviours that set organisational norms, values, and expectations. In the context of SCARNG, fostering a positive culture through strong leadership could lead to higher commitment and retention among service members.
2. **Unit Cohesion and Readiness:** Military readiness and cohesion are strongly tied to leadership and organisational culture (Cameron & Quinn, 2011). By studying how different leadership styles affect organisational culture within the SCARNG, it becomes possible to identify specific leadership behaviours that improve or undermine unit cohesion, which is essential for mission success.
3. **Leadership Development:** The findings from this study could inform leadership development programs within the SCARNG. Leadership styles that foster a positive organisational culture

can be targeted for replication, while those that create barriers to communication or morale can be addressed through training programs (Bass, 1985; Northouse, 2018). This study has the potential to directly influence how leadership training is structured within the SCARNG, ensuring that leaders are well-equipped to shape the desired culture.

4. **Implications for Policy and Practice:** The research could also influence policy decisions within the SCARNG related to leadership selection and training, organisational development, and personnel management. By understanding the interplay between leadership and culture, military leaders and policymakers can make informed decisions on improving leadership practices and fostering a more effective organisational culture.

Existing studies on leadership and organisational culture in military organisations underscore the need for a quantitative approach. These studies often rely on qualitative methods, which may not provide the objective, generalisable data necessary to assess broad trends within the SCARNG. A data-driven study can offer a clear picture of the relationship between leadership styles and organisational culture, allowing for actionable insights to be applied across various National Guard units.

This quantitative approach, therefore, is timely and necessary for addressing these gaps and improving leadership effectiveness within the SCARNG. The findings will contribute to the broader field of military leadership studies by providing evidence-based recommendations on aligning leadership behaviours with the desired organisational culture to enhance operational effectiveness, readiness, and morale.

Objectives of the Study

These objectives align with the study's theoretical foundation: Social Learning Theory (SLT) and Competing Values Framework (CVF). The SLT helps explore how subordinates observe, learn, and model leadership behaviours, influencing organisational values and culture. The CVF classifies organisational culture types and their connection to leadership styles. These objectives ensure that the study addressed leadership styles and organisational culture, with practical implications for improving leadership practices in military organisations.

1. This study investigates the relationship between leadership styles (transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire) and organisational culture within the SCARNG. The Competing Values Framework will identify the dominant cultural dimensions (Clan, Adhocracy, Market, and Hierarchy).
2. *The social learning theory* will predict practical strategies for enhancing leadership practices aligned with organisational culture, improving unit cohesion, morale, and operational readiness within the SCARNG.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The study will investigate how leadership styles influence organisational culture in the South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG), drawing from Social Learning Theory (Bandura, 1977) and the Competing Values Framework (Cameron & Quinn, 2011). These theories offer complementary insights into the role of leadership in shaping the culture of military organisations and provide a conceptual basis for understanding how leadership behaviours influences organisational dynamics and readiness.

Competing Values Framework

Competing Values Framework (CVF) Cameron and Quinn (2011) provide a model to evaluate organisational culture based on competing priorities, such as flexibility vs. stability and internal vs. external focus. CVF is a reliable, valid, well-established instrument showing constructive outcomes at different leadership levels. The Competing Values Framework CVF, developed by Cameron and Quinn (2011), is an organisational culture model that identifies four key cultural types: Clan, Adhocracy, market, and Hierarchy. These cultural types represent different approaches to managing internal dynamics and aligning the organisation with external demands. The CVF is particularly useful for understanding the organisational culture within the SCARNG, as it allows for identifying specific cultural dimensions influenced by

leadership styles. These four cultural types are **Clan**, **Adhocracy**, **Market**, and **Hierarchy** (Cameron & Quinn, 2011).

- **Clan Culture** focuses on internal cohesion, collaboration, and people-oriented values. It emphasises loyalty, trust, and strong interpersonal relationships. In a military context, this culture might be associated with transformational leadership, where leaders prioritise developing close relationships with subordinates, encouraging teamwork, and fostering community within the unit (Cameron & Quinn, 2011).
- **Adhocracy Culture**: Emphasizes innovation, flexibility, and a focus on change and adaptability. This type of culture is suited to high-risk, dynamic environments that require leaders to be forward-thinking and open to new ideas. Leaders who encourage creativity and innovation would be associated with this culture (Cameron & Quinn, 2011).
- **Market Culture**: Focuses on results, competitiveness, and external orientation. It emphasises achieving specific goals and outcomes, often linked to transactional leadership. Leaders who value performance, accountability, and rewards would encourage a market-driven culture (Cameron & Quinn, 2011).
- **Hierarchy Culture**: Emphasizes structure, control, and stability. It values efficiency, consistency, and adherence to procedures. In the military context, this may align with transactional leadership, where rules, procedures, and authority are stressed (Cameron & Quinn, 2011).

Using the CVF, this study investigates how different leadership styles (transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire) influence SCARNG's organisational culture and how the culture, in turn, affects performance, morale, and readiness.

The theoretical framework for this study integrates insights from leadership theory and organisational culture theory, providing a robust lens through which to analyse the relationship between leadership and culture in SCARNG. This framework will guide the formulation of hypotheses, research design, and data analysis, helping to uncover how transformational and transactional leadership styles influences various dimensions of organisational culture as identified by the Competing Values Framework.

Using the **Competing Values Framework**, this study will explore how different leadership styles shape the cultural dimensions within the SCARNG. Specifically, the research investigated:

- How transformational leadership foster a clan culture with a focus on collaboration, trust, and shared values.
- How transactional leadership may align with a hierarchy culture, reinforcing control, procedures, and strict compliance.
- Whether elements of ad theocracy or market cultures emerge in specific subunits of the SCARNG depends on leadership behaviours and situational demands.
- Whether elements of laissez-faire are embraced within the SCARNG, especially within the context of leadership styles.

Social Learning Theory

Social Learning Theory (SLT) proposes that individuals learn behaviours and values through observation, imitation, and modelling, particularly in a social context (Bandura, 1977). According to this theory, leaders are role models, influencing followers' attitudes, behaviours, and values by demonstrating specific actions, ethical standards, and communication styles. Social learning occurs when individuals observe leaders' behaviour, internalise it, and replicate it in their actions.

In the context of the SCARNG, leadership behaviours significantly influence soldiers' understanding of unit norms, values, and expectations. Leaders who exhibit transformational leadership behaviours—inspirational motivation, fostering individual development, and encouraging intellectual stimulation—can cultivate a culture of empowerment, trust, and collaboration within the unit. Conversely, transactional leadership behaviours, which emphasise rewards and penalties, might reinforce a more hierarchical and compliance-based culture. Laissez-faire leaders may not actively model behaviours as transformational or

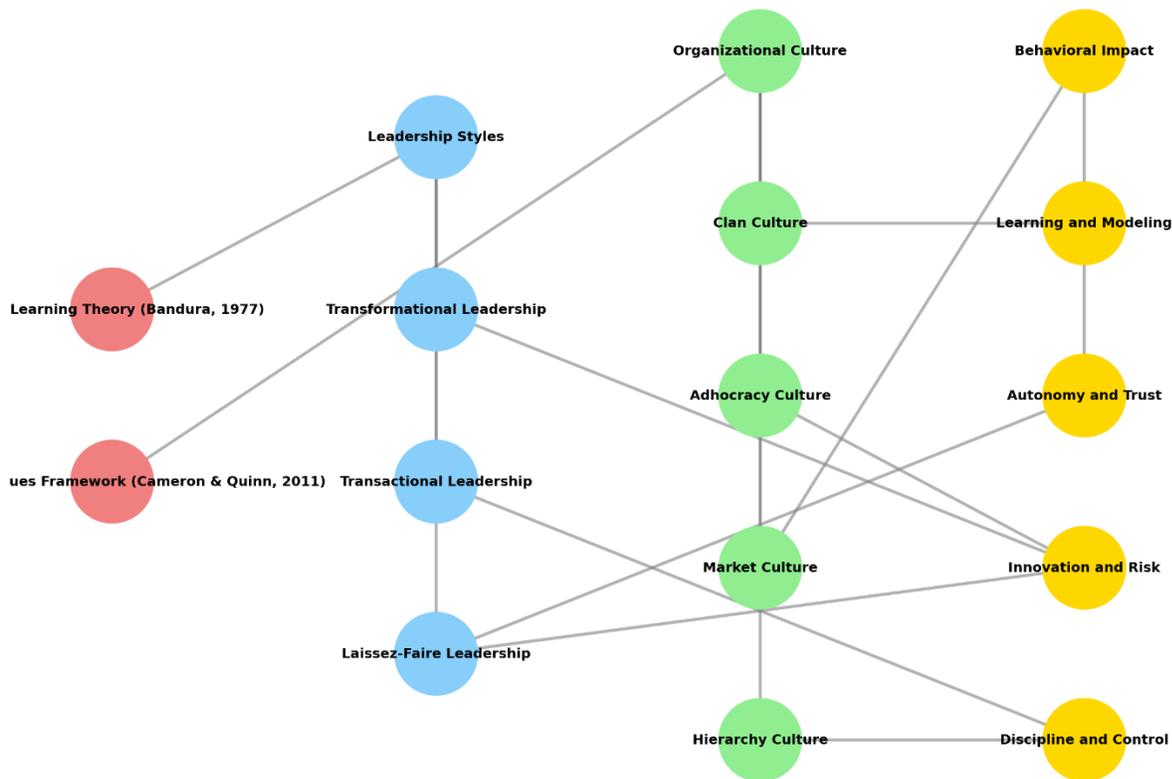
transactional leaders do. Instead, they allow followers to learn independently by trial and error or by observing peers and other leaders. The STL underscores how leadership, through modelling, becomes a key determinant in developing the organisation’s culture.

The social modelling process can take many forms:

- **Observational Learning:** Soldiers learn leadership behaviors by observing their superiors.
- **Reinforcement:** Leaders provide positive reinforcement for behaviours that align with organisational goals.
- **Behavioral Consistency:** Leaders maintain consistency in their actions, allowing followers to internalise desired behaviours.

The CVF and SLT guided the study in investigating how different leadership styles influence organisational culture within the SCARNG. Figure 1 represents the social learning theory and the competing values framework concept map.

FIGURE 1
SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY & COMPETING VALUES FRAMEWORK CONCEPT MAP



Note. This framework depicts a broad range of leadership styles described by Cameron, K. S., & Quinn, R. E. (2011). Diagnosing and changing organisational culture: Based on the Competing Values Framework (3rd ed.). doi:10.1002/9781118256177 and Bandura, A. (1977). Social learning theory. doi: 10.1016/0022-4405(93)90023-N

Definitions of Terms

Defined terms are explained in different areas not understood within an organisational or cultural context. Leadership and leadership styles are also explored. The concepts of culture and organisational culture are clearly defined. Military culture, levels of culture, and cultural competence were examined within the context of military leadership and organisational culture. The following definition terms guided this study:

- *Culture*: Culture is viewed as an abstract that is described and designated by a leader’s informal flexibility and Adhocracy with a degree of structure and shared collective meaning characteristics by a relatively stable set of beliefs (Byrd, 2019; Coufal, 2010; Lim, 1995; Maran et al., 2021; Schein, 2017).
- *Competence*: Cultural competence is a set of congruent behaviours, attitudes, and policies that work together effectively at the organisational level and in cross-cultural situations (Abu-Shawish, 2021; Cross et al., 1989).
- *Leader*: A person who inspires and influences others to achieve a common goal is commonly called a leader (Byrd, 2019; Devi & Narayanamma, 2016; Northouse, 2021; SAMHSA, 2010).
- *Leadership*: Leadership is a set of goals that inspire and influence others to agree to tasks to facilitate a collective effort to get other individuals to do something significant to achieve a common goal (Byrd, 2019; Devi & Narayanamma, 2016; Northouse, 2021; Sivaruban, 2021; Yukl, 2013).
- *Levels of culture*: Levels of culture is a concept developed through the lens of leadership styles exploring artefacts as organisational structure, values as cultural awareness, and assumption as thoughts subjectively perceived (Byrd, 2019; Faupel & Süß, 2019; Mohsin et al., 2020; Sefidan et al., 2021; Stewart, 2006).
- *Leadership style*: Leadership style is viewed as a two-dimensional and direction-implemented plan, which provides a structure of considerations within an organisation (Byrd, 2019; Halpin, 1957; Newstrom, 1993; Tinsulanonda, 1997).
- *Loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honesty, integrity, and personal courage (LDRSHIP)*: LDRSHIP is defined as leadership in a military context, viewed as loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honour, integrity, and personal courage (SAMHSA, 2010).
- *Military*: The military is a diverse group of organised personnel protecting a nation (Young-Gon Kim & Shin, 2021).
- *Military culture*: Military culture is defined as a unique combination of values, attitudes, and beliefs focused on creating a mission-ready force through socialisation, structure, discipline, and constant training (Luning et al., 2021; Redmond et al., 2015; Trenhan & Soni, 2021).
- *Military leadership*: Military leadership provides a purpose, motivation, and direction to improve organisational culture and leadership while completing the mission (Teasley et al., 2021).
- *Organisational culture*: Organisational culture is defined as shared beliefs, attitudes, and values held by individuals within the organisation (Byrd, 2019; Hatch & Cunliffe, 2013; Morgan, 2006; Robbins & Coulter, 2007; Saeed & Mughal, 2019).
- *Subordinates*: Subordinates are defined as those who are lower in position, and *rank subordinates* are used interchangeably in the relationship, which allows for interaction between the leader and follower (Siew & Koh, 2022).

LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature addressed the aspects of the research essential to achieving the study objectives: the background, the literature review, and the theoretical framework of the variables. The literature review draws extensively on seminal works and scholarly peer-reviewed academic journals to address the variables under study: organisational culture and the different leadership styles. This research study uses a total of 219 references, of which 87% ($n = 190$) are journal articles, 9% ($n = 20$) are books, and 4% ($n = 9$) are dissertations. Of the references used in this dissertation, 76% ($n = 167$) have a publication date within the past 5 years (2018–2023). This research investigates the intricate relationship between leadership styles and organisational culture within the South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG).

Additionally, as theoretical frameworks previously discussed leadership styles and organisational culture, the rich history expands on previous seminal work investigating the relationship between leadership

styles and organisational culture guided by the *Social Learning Theory* (Bandura, 1977) and *Competing Values Framework* (Cameron & Quinn, 2011).

Leadership

Leadership is a set of goals that encourage and impact others to fulfil a task and collectively enable people to do something significant to achieve a common goal (Byrd, 2019; Devi & Narayanamma, 2016; Northouse, 2021; Sivaruban, 2021; Yukl, 2013). Over the years, researchers have delved into leadership and debated what constitutes leadership and what it takes to become a successful leader (Ott et al., 2008). According to Ott et al. (2008), many researchers have produced different answers, but none with ease of simplification. Lombard and McCall (1978) described leadership as “one of the most magnetic words that can influence others to achieve goals” (p. 3).

Hughes et al. (1993) explained leadership as the ability to influence individuals to achieve goals; Ott et al. (2008) expressed leadership as an interpersonal process influencing a person’s attitude, beliefs, and behaviour. Burns (2012) described leadership as one of the many considerable phenomena. Silva (2016) stated that leadership requires subordinates to accept an individual as a leader. Bennis and Thomas (2020) associated leadership with self-awareness, motivation, and social skills. Leadership is integrally linked to various factors in an individual’s leadership perspective (Hunt, 2004).

Leadership Styles and the South Carolina Army National Guard

In reviewing the literature, it is apparent that theories of leadership styles have been developed and redesigned to reflect effective leadership styles, including transformational leadership, transactional leadership, and laissez-faire leadership, to improve organisational development and cultural competence in diverse cultural contexts (Castillo, 2020; Edward et al., 2015; Kellerman, 2018). The concept of leadership development and growth of leadership personnel describes military leadership as a dynamic interplay of diverse elements and facets leading to a multilevel methodological approach to leadership (Castillo, 2020; Day & Dragoni, 2015; Zheng & Muir, 2015). Considering how leaders become successful and maintain leadership positions in organisations is essential, with certain innate qualities such as emotional intelligence, excellent work ethics, and the ability to resolve conflict among diverse groups (Castillo, 2020).

According to Kayaalp (2018), military leadership is comparable to cultural competence, where behaviours and attitudes work together at the organisational level and cross-culturally. Military culture is hierarchically structured, leadership-bound, and aimed at transforming subordinates into leaders (Bishop & Ross, 2018; Bryan & Polden, 2021; Chiorcea & Cioranu, 2021; Johnson, 2019). Transformational leadership and subordinate relationships are recognised throughout commanding officers’ leadership styles in the military organisational culture as inclusive leadership (Belanger, 2018; Castillo, 2020). Saeed and Mughal (2019) argued that culture intervenes in the relationship between transactional leadership styles and organisational culture. As in every profession, the military needs leaders to effectively employ skills, education, and training (Mele, 2020). The literature presented is in a military organisational and cultural context and is perceived as helpful for this research study under the current leadership continuum of the SCARNG (Clinton, 2018).

The military has core values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honour, integrity, and personal courage. It is also indicated as LDRSHIP (Clinton, 2018; Kirchner, 2018). Military narratives and past discourse do not guarantee that leadership should be transformational, transactional, or laissez-faire but acknowledge that leaders face challenges ranging from mild to complex (Eagly et al., 2003; Margiotta, 2019; Woods, 2019). The research on leadership style remains a phenomenon that has yet to unveil its true nature and definition, especially from an organisational cultural perspective (Castillo, 2020; Clinton, 2018; Northouse, 2018). Leadership styles involve many concepts, elements, facets, and multidisciplinary leadership engagements (Margiotta, 2019; Philippson, 2018). As a result, researchers have not specified definitive findings on what impacts leadership, what makes a person a leader, and how many behavioural traits are involved (Clinton, 2018; Kellerman, 2018; Puni et al., 2020; Taylor, 2018).

Transformational Leadership in the South Carolina Army National Guard

Military leadership is imperative because of the diverse professionals of leadership that mould the military culture (Hamad, 2015). The SCARNG transformational leadership approach caused a change in individual subordinates and officers at the social level (Hamad, 2015). The leadership approach in this organisational culture reflects leaders who follow and lead as a representation of the nature of leadership (Hamad, 2015). Nevertheless, leaders who follow self-serving attributes may not be able to transform other subordinates into leaders through a positive relationship (William, 2012). Evidence has shown that few leaders often give subordinates flawed arguments, persuading subordinates away from core leadership prospects (Ferreira et al., 2020; Holt & Davis, 2022). For example, the impaired bias that clouds officers' judgment and the inability to enforce talent management reduces subordinates' career progression (Holt & Davis, 2022). From a leadership perspective, talent management should include an innovative, transparent leadership environment geared toward diversifying the armed forces with no exclusion to improve the total force (Holt & Davis, 2022).

Military leaders must enrich talent management and develop a total force (Ferreira et al., 2020). The scope of diversity should be improved to eliminate career bias that may degrade Army culture and deflate organisational structure (Ferreira et al., 2020; Holt & Davis, 2022). Leaders within organisations who transmit flawed arguments to subordinates may inspire vision in subordinates (Ferreira et al., 2022; Spicer, 2020). Ferreira et al. (2022) argued that leaders make declarations to subordinates without regard for the truth, but it can also be effective. McCarthy et al. (2020) argued that though a flawed argument can be positive, it may disrupt subordinates' performance. Leadership should be truthful in distributing information to subordinates to get results (McCarthy et al., 2020). The truth gives freedom of approach to leadership, and subordinates accept the truth as trust from leaders (Ferreira et al., 2022). Spicer (2020) deliberated that the flawed argument concept may be misperceived as a profound yet condescending argument limiting subordinates' development.

Castillo (2020) found that trust must be revealed to gain truth, but Ferreira et al., 2020 found that ethical assumptions are always necessary to change leaders' attitudes and perceptions toward trust. Insight from a body of knowledge supports an ethical foundation where subordinates adhere to transformational leadership based on trust and acknowledging the truth (Castillo, 2020; Ferreira et al., 2020; McCarthy et al., 2020; Spicer, 2020). Transformational leadership allows for a more social and voluntary approach to communication and an open, coordinated experience (Arham et al., 2017; Castillo, 2020). In the military and the SCARNG, transformational leadership provides more significant focus and is more ethically bound and effective than transactional and laissez-faire leadership (Arham et al., 2017; Castillo, 2020). According to Castillo (2020), leadership must be ethical and efficient because it provides direction and moral truth to the people.

Transactional Leadership in the South Carolina Army National Guard

In the confines of the military, rewards and punishment follow suit (Young-Gon Kim & Shin, 2021). Rewards should be given for good behaviour, but punishment is the consequence when military policies and regulations are broken (Saeed & Mughal, 2019). Military rewards are contingent on officers' and subordinates' growth and expansion within the SCARNG organisational culture, spanning the increase of victories and mission manoeuvres (Toney, 2021). The rewards are present, but most National Guard personnel would agree that it is not for some officers or subordinates to receive them (Newton, 1964; Saeed & Mughal, 2019; Toney, 2021). Young-Gon Kim and Shin (2021) suggested that transformational action is achieved by price, hence, the rewarding nature of the armed forces to embrace performance by reward. The SCARNG repetitively provides rewards by performance, embracing the old forge's organisational and cultural diversity, signalling the existence of control (Young-Gon Kim & Shin, 2021). The transactional leadership style is influenced by exertion executed by commanding officers connected deeply by self-determination and organisational satisfaction (Young-Gon Kim & Shin, 2021).

While the literature on transactional leadership focuses on the performance of subordinates, leadership within the SCARNG is boosted by directives, goal setting and the establishment of routine activities endorsed by feedback mechanisms based on decision-making and regulation (Puni et al., 2020). A

transactional leader is an individual who appreciates ranking structure and command leadership (Toney, 2021). Transactional leadership is similar to laissez-faire leadership because it rewards achieving specific goals and accomplishing milestones (Puni et al., 2020). The literature suggests transactional leadership recognises subordinates' rewards for work completed under the status quo (Puni et al., 2020).

Laissez-Faire Leadership in the South Carolina Army National Guard

Leaders within the SCARNG organisational culture have methods and resources to evade responsibility (Batista-Foguet et al., 2021; Briding, 2021; Dague, 2021). Leaders who are part of laissez-faire, passive avoidant leadership run afoul of the fallacies created by flawed arguments, which undermine the validity of the arguments (Ferreira et al., 2022), encouraging subordinates to act by themselves instead of reassuring command leadership. A laissez-faire leadership style explores and encourages risk-taking unsuitable for military leadership (Briding, 2021; Dague, 2021; Ferreira et al., 2022). This leadership style leads subordinates to become tomorrow's leaders by encouraging self-development, training, and support (Eagly et al., 2003). When this leadership approach is reckoned with in a military context, leaders embrace subordinated decision-making and laud the work accomplished (Eagly et al., 2003). Some leadership styles uncovered in organisations align more with transformational than laissez-faire leadership styles (Eagly et al., 2003).

Nevertheless, the implications of other leadership styles may encourage military subordinates to move away from motivation and inspiration not beneficial to growth and development and submerge in laissez-faire leadership because of the contingent reward accompanying this leadership style (Eagly et al., 2003). Although transformational leaders in the SCARNG have a more encouraging leadership style, persuading subordinates to become more enthusiastic and energetic about mission objectives is critical (Eagly et al., 2003). The laissez-faire leadership style is popular in the military because it offers rewards such as medals, promotions, and endorsements while holding soldiers accountable for their performance and conduct (Eagly et al., 2003). Although transactional and transformational leadership are widely accepted in many organisations (Newton, 1964), laissez-faire leadership is poised to lead in the strategic decision-making process derived from military leadership (Saeed & Mughal, 2019). Although the literature has suggested that laissez-faire leaders are limited in leadership responsibility (Eagly et al., 2003), laissez-faire leadership remains a leadership style by exception, granting rewards contingent on performance measure styles (Toney, 2021).

Culture, Military Culture & Organisational Culture

Culture is a product of a military social environment that includes norms and values governed by regulations (Redmond et al., 2015). If culture is added to leadership styles, it is posited that it can become effective (Khan et al., 2018; Rasool et al., 2019; Saeed & Mughal, 2019). Cultural relationships are imperative for organisational development (Khan et al., 2018; Rasool et al., 2019). Due to cultural impedance in the military, an organisational cultural mismatch occurs, and officers and subordinates become divided (Melo, 2020). Though culture is seen as abstract, the degree and structure may become shared, collective meaning that explains biological and cultural factors (Byrd, 2019; Credé, 2018; Luning et al., 2021). Military culture is embedded in socialization and integration (Redmond et al., 2015). Though defined as a unique combination of values, attitudes, and beliefs focused on creating a mission-ready force through socialization, structure, discipline, and constant training (Luning et al., 2021; Redmond et al., 2015; Trehan & Soni, 2021), military culture is hierarchical and structured in nature (Redmond et al., 2015).

Organisational culture originated in the organisation's history, which deals with different organisations' heroes and role models (Akpamah et al., 2021; Carter, 2021; Mash et al., 2018; Nam & Park, 2019; Sutter, 2020). Organisational culture is more than a group of individuals that comprise an organisation (Luning et al., 2021; Schein, 2017). Organisational culture is a shared belief characterized by an integrated norm and values unified in human resources and organisational identity (Dewi & Sukarno, 2021; Imran et al., 2021; Rahmatullah et al., 2022). Saptia et al. (2021) described organisational culture as situational factors with groups engaging in personal behaviors with separate identities. Rahmatullah et al. (2022) described organisational culture as a prevailing culture where people gather and work as a group. Emita et al. (2021)

described organisational culture as members united as a family. The descriptions symbolize the armed forces (Emita et al., 2021).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The current research focused on a quantitative cross-sectional research design coupled with a correlational and simple linear regression analysis, which was used to investigate the intricate relationship between leadership styles and organisational culture within the South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG). The Competing Values Framework (Cameron & Quinn, 2011) guided this research study.

Research Design

Researchers use a cross-sectional design to test for a relationship between two or more variables (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). Research designs help ensure that questions are answered and valid discoveries are made to find appropriate solutions for scientific research problems (Mello, 2022). Cooper and Schindler (2003) suggested that a research study conducted between two or more variables is correlational, which justifies using the chosen research design. Neuman (2003) concurred with Cooper and Schindler's justification of correlational designs. The following summarizes each method and provides a description reinforced by the literature.

Participants

The participants were selected from the general population of the Army National Guard. The Army National Guard has 336,000 members, and the Air National Guard has 108,300 members (Duffin, 2022). There are over 11,500 Air National Guard and Army National Guard members in the State of South Carolina (SC; McEntire Joint National Guard [MJNG], 2012). The unit Squadron Airmen, located at the McEntire Airbase, comprises approximately 1,500 Air National Guardsmen (MJNG, 2012). The study sample was drawn from the SCARNG domain in South Carolina. The study included purposive (judgmental) sampling, a nonprobability sampling technique that does not randomly choose participants (Nurlitasari et al., 2022). The sample size needed for the target population was 219 (Raosoft, 2004). A 95% confidence level was used for this study, with a 5% margin of error and a population size of 503 because the total population was known. Laguilles et al. (2011), the average response rate for an online survey is 20%; thus, the survey may be delivered to more than 1,860 potential participants to obtain the required sample size.

Operationalised Instrumentation

Participants in this research study completed a self-administered survey compiled by Mind Garden, which offers an integrated data-processing survey system. The Competing Values Framework (CVF) and Social Learning Theory (SLT) instruments have been tested for reliability and validity in prior research, often reporting acceptable Cronbach's alpha and other consistency measures. Respondents typically rate the CVF item scale agreement on a Likert scale ranging from 1 = "Strongly Disagree" to 5 = "Strongly Agree" for each statement. To score the items, respondents distributed 100 points across the four cultural types (Clan, Adhocracy, market, and Hierarchy) to reflect the extent to which each type describes their organisation—the aggregate scores for each cultural type to identify dominant cultural dimensions. Studies utilizing the CVF consistently report Cronbach's alpha values ranging from 0.70 to 0.90, which indicates good internal consistency. Studies using instruments aligned with SLT report high reliability between 0.70–0.95.

Validity of the Instruments

Competing Values Framework (CVF) has been validated through confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) and construct validity tests in multiple studies. Quinn and Rohrbaugh (1983) established the conceptual validity of the CVF, demonstrating that the four cultural types align with real-world organisational behaviors. Denison et al. (1995) further confirmed the framework's validity by correlating cultural dimensions with organisational effectiveness metrics (e.g., performance, innovation). The CVF and its

associated tools (like the OCAI) are reliable and valid for measuring organisational culture across industries, including military settings, with strong construct and convergent validity.

Multiple studies have validated the social learning theory (SLT), which was confirmed through CFA. There is a clear differentiation between transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire leadership. Construct validity was established by correlating leadership behaviors with organisational outcomes, such as follower satisfaction, trust, and performance. Instruments measuring observational learning and behavioural modelling (core SLT principles) often demonstrate strong construct and predictive validity.

Reliability of the Instruments

Reliability is taken for granted as an essential but inadequate condition for validity in assessment use (Moss, 1994). Reliability is the extent to which an instrument is measured consistently and repeatedly in similar situations (Heale & Twycross, 2015). The measure of reliability is the estimated evaluation of measurement stability; it is also the measure of internal consistency and interrater reliability (Kimberlin & Winterstein, 2008; Sürücü & Maslakçi, 2020). Reliability has been operationalised in academic literature as a standard of assessment for measure (Moss, 1994). According to Zhao et al. (2022), reliability consistently evaluates the measure to ensure solid results in the analysis. In reliability, procedures, especially accounting for research biases, may be achieved through true values and comparable findings (Noble & Smith, 2015). The overall reliability of CVF measuring organisational culture across industries, including military settings, Cronbach's alpha is .0.70–0.90. The overall reliability for SLT Cronbach's alpha is 0.70–0.95, validating strong construct and predictive validity evidence.

Research Procedures

In October 2021, the researcher made contact via email, requesting to use the CVF instrument at the graduate level. The office of Kim Cameron, the owner of the copyright instrument, responded favorably, stating that there is no charge to students for research purposes to use the CVF. Permission was granted in October 2021. The Adjutant General's Office in South Carolina was contacted via email for permission to conduct research; additional information about the research study was presented to the Adjutant General's Office. Permission was granted in February 2022, with directives to follow Department of Defense (DOD) policy 5500.07-R, section 3-300b ethical guidelines. Email correspondence must not be generated via military email addresses to conduct this research. Civilian email addresses were allowed. Because of the nature of participating in military members' drill attendance schedule (one weekend per month), participants were asked to complete the survey during weekend drills. A reminder email was sent until the minimum sample size was reached ($n = 248$). Participants were recruited via flyer to participate in the survey voluntarily.

Data Analysis Strategy

This quantitative research study investigated the intricate relationship between leadership styles and organisational culture within the South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG). The data collection and analysis strategy heeded the overarching research objectives:

1. The purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between leadership styles (transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire) and organisational culture within the SCARNG, using the *Competing Values Framework* to identify the dominant cultural dimensions (Clan, Adhocracy, Market, and Hierarchy).
2. The *social learning theory* will be used to predict practical strategies for enhancing leadership practices that are aligned with organisational culture, improving unit cohesion, morale, and operational readiness within the SCARNG.

The research study tested the current objectives by investigating the relationship between transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire leadership styles and organisational culture.

Ethical Consideration

All obtained information regarding data collection was critically observed for data replication and was cleaned. Participant information was collected, secured on a disk, and locked in a secured military vault. Data compiled would remain confidential and anonymous for privacy from leadership without repercussion, coercion, or conflict of interest. The data has been electronically stored and kept for 5 years in a vaulted area and will be destroyed by the researcher.

ANALYSIS & RESULTS

This quantitative analysis investigates the intricate relationship between leadership styles and organisational culture within the South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG). The broader concept of this study was designed to provide empirical data to assist the SCARNG leadership in emphasizing relationship development and building a robust organisational culture where leaders and subordinates can coexist.

Three broad research objectives guided the investigation between variables (Creswell, 2014).

1. To analyze how leadership styles (transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire) influence the development of organisational culture within the SCARNG, using the *Competing Values Framework* to identify the dominant cultural dimensions (Clan, Adhocracy, Market, and Hierarchy).
2. To evaluate the role of *Social Learning Theory* in understanding how leadership behaviors are observed, modelled, and reinforced within the SCARNG, shaping the values, norms, and behaviors that define its organisational culture.
3. To identify practical strategies for enhancing leadership practices and aligning organisational culture to improve unit cohesion, morale, and operational readiness within the SCARNG.

The objectives were reviewed, and voluntary participants were selected from the SCARNG population of 503 members (McEntire Joint National Guard [MJNG], 2012). A nonprobability purposive (judgmental) sampling (Nonliterary et al., 2022) was performed, and a sample size of 248 was used to assess the population (Raosoft, 2004). The exclusion was participants under 18 and from different components of the Army and other Army National Guard units outside the parameters of the SCARNG. The inclusion criteria were participants 18 years and older, part-time and full-time, in the SCARNG (Creswell, 2014; Fogg & Yerby, 2020; Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense Force Management Policy, n.d.).

Descriptive Data

A flyer was created to ask participants to participate in the study voluntarily. A total of 503 licenses were purchased from Mind Garden to conduct the survey (Bass & Avolio, 2004). SPSS was used to analyze descriptive statistics. Of the 503 respondents, only 49.3% ($n = 248$) completed the survey, and 50.7% ($n = 255$) did not attempt or complete the survey (Raosoft, 2004). The completed responses were within the acceptable 95% confidence level (Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

Data Analysis

A Pearson product-moment correlation and simple linear regression analysis were conducted to assess the relationship between leadership styles and organisational culture. According to Conover and Iman (1981), the Pearson correlation coefficient (ρ) measures the strength of the linear association between two continuous variables. The Pearson correlation assumes the variables are linearly related (Conover & Iman, 1981). The linearity assumption was assessed graphically using a scatterplot. A Pearson r correlation is the appropriate bivariate statistic when both input variables are continuous and are linearly related (Conover & Iman, 1981). The Pearson correlation coefficient ranges from -1 to $+1$.

A simple linear regression analysis was a suitable statistical method for investigating the relationship between leadership styles and organisational culture within the South Carolina Army National Guard. This approach is convenient for examining how a single independent variable, such as leadership style, predicts an outcome variable, such as the dimension of organisational culture. This study employs simple linear

regression to analyze the direct relationship between transformational leadership and organisational culture. Transformational leadership, characterized by inspiring and motivating team members (Bass, 1990), is hypothesized to influence an organisation's ability to adapt to change positively.

The simplicity of the linear regression model ensures clarity in understanding how changes in transformational leadership scores directly influence scores in organisational adaptability. The model produces a regression coefficient (β), which quantifies the strength and direction of this relationship. For instance, a significant positive β would confirm that higher levels of transformational leadership are associated with increased adaptability, aligning with existing literature (Avolio & Bass, 2004). Additionally, the R^2 statistic provides insight into the proportion of variability in organisational adaptability explained by transformational leadership. This matter aligns with recommendations from Field (2013), who emphasizes the utility of simple linear regression in isolating single-variable effects in organisational research (Field, 2013).

Focusing on a straightforward, one-to-one relationship allows for a clear interpretation of results, which can be valuable in communicating findings to stakeholders within the South Carolina Army National Guard. For example, if the analysis reveals a strong positive relationship, this evidence could support leadership development initiatives emphasizing transformational practices to enhance organisational adaptability. Simple linear regression served as an effective tool for assessing the direct impact of leadership styles on specific dimensions of organisational culture. This approach provides actionable insights and contributes to a growing knowledge of leadership and organisational effectiveness. Furthermore, the dependent variable in this study is organisational culture, measured across its key dimensions (Clan, Adhocracy, Market, and Hierarchy). The independent variables include distinct leadership styles, such as transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire leadership.

RESULTS

This study used Pearson's product-moment correlation and simple linear regression analysis to investigate the intricate relationship between leadership styles and organisational culture within the South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG). The objectives review the correlation and regression analysis.

Correlation Analysis

Cohen's standard was used to evaluate the strength of the relationships, where coefficients between .10 and .29 represent a small effect size, coefficients between .30 and .49 represent a moderate effect size, and coefficients above .50 indicate a large effect size (Cohen, 1988). A Pearson correlation analysis was conducted between leadership styles (Transformational, Transactional, and Laissez-faire) and organisational cultural dimensions (Clan, Adhocracy, Market, and Hierarchy).

1. This study aims to investigate the relationship between leadership styles (transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire) and organisational culture within the SCARNG. It will use the *Competing Values Framework* to identify the dominant cultural dimensions (Clan, Adhocracy, Market, and Hierarchy).

The result of the correlations was examined using the Bonferroni correction to adjust for multiple comparisons based on an alpha value of .05. A significant negative correlation was observed between transformational and Clan culture, with a correlation of -.24, indicating a small effect size ($p < .001$, 95.00% CI = [-.35, -.12]). This matter suggests that as transformation increases, Clan culture tends to decrease. A significant negative correlation was observed between transactional and Clan culture, with a correlation of -.19, indicating a small effect size ($p = .019$, 95.00% CI = [-.30, -.06]). This suggests that as transactions increase, Clan culture tends to decrease. No significant correlation was found between laissez-faire and clan culture. Table 1 represents the results of the correlations.

TABLE 1
PEARSON CORRELATION RESULTS BETWEEN LEADERSHIP STYLES
(TRANSFORMATIONAL, TRANSACTIONAL, LAISSEZ-FAIRE) AND CLAN CULTURE

Combination	<i>r</i>	95.00% CI	<i>n</i>	<i>p</i>
Transformational-Clan culture	-.24	[-.35, -.12]	248	< .001
Transactional-Clan culture	-.19	[-.30, -.06]	248	.019
Laissez-Faire-Clan culture	.11	[-.02, .23]	248	.587

Note. P-values adjusted using the Bonferroni correction

A Pearson correlation analysis was conducted among transformational, transactional, laissez-faire, and Adhocracy cultures.

A significant positive correlation was observed between transformational and Adhocracy culture, with a correlation of .19, indicating a small effect size ($p = .020$, 95.00% CI = [.06, .30]). This suggests that as transformation increases, adhocracy culture tends to increase. A significant positive correlation was observed between transactional and Adhocracy culture, with a correlation of .19, indicating a small effect size ($p = .018$, 95.00% CI = [.06, .31]). This suggests that as transactions increase, Adhocracy culture tends to increase. No significant correlation was found between laissez-faire and Adhocracy culture. Table 2 represents the results of the correlations.

TABLE 2
PEARSON CORRELATION RESULTS BETWEEN LEADERSHIP STYLES
(TRANSFORMATIONAL, TRANSACTIONAL, LAISSEZ-FAIRE) AND
ADHOCRACY CULTURE

Combination	<i>r</i>	95.00% CI	<i>n</i>	<i>p</i>
Transformational-Adhocracy culture	.19	[.06, .30]	248	.020
Transactional-Adhocracy culture	.19	[.06, .31]	248	.018
Laissez-faire-Adhocracy culture	.07	[-.05, .19]	248	1.000

Note. P-values adjusted using the Bonferroni correction

A Pearson correlation analysis was conducted on transformational, transactional, laissez-faire, and market culture.

A significant positive correlation was observed between transformational and Market culture, with a correlation of .26, indicating a small effect size ($p < .001$, 95.00% CI = [.14, .37]). This suggests that as transformational increases, Market culture tends to increase. A significant positive correlation was observed between transactional and Market culture, with a correlation of .25, indicating a small effect size ($p < .001$, 95.00% CI = [.13, .36]). This suggests that as transactions increase, Market culture tends to increase. No significant correlation was found between laissez-faire and Market culture. Table 3 represents the results of the correlations.

TABLE 3
PEARSON CORRELATION RESULTS BETWEEN LEADERSHIP STYLES
(TRANSFORMATIONAL, TRANSACTIONAL, LAISSEZ-FAIRE, AND MARKET CULTURE)

Combination	<i>r</i>	95.00% CI	<i>n</i>	<i>p</i>
Transformational-Market culture	.26	[.14, .37]	248	< .001
Transactional-Market culture	.25	[.13, .36]	248	< .001
Laissez-Faire-Market culture	.04	[-.08, .17]	248	1.000

Note. P-values adjusted using the Bonferroni correction

A Pearson correlation analysis was conducted among transformational, transactional, laissez-faire, and Hierarchy cultures.

A significant positive correlation was observed between transformational and Hierarchy, with a correlation of .32, indicating a moderate effect size ($p < .001$, 95.00% CI = [.20, .43]). This suggests that as transformation increases, Hierarchical culture tends to increase. A significant positive correlation was observed between transactional and Hierarchy culture, with a correlation of .29, indicating a small effect size ($p < .001$, 95.00% CI = [.18, .40]). This suggests that as transactional culture increases, so does hierarchy culture. No significant correlation was found between laissez-faire and Hierarchy culture. Table 4 represents the results of the correlations.

TABLE 4
PEARSON CORRELATION RESULTS BETWEEN LEADERSHIP STYLES
(TRANSFORMATIONAL, TRANSACTIONAL, LAISSEZ-FAIRE, AND
HIERARCHY CULTURE)

Combination	<i>r</i>	95.00% CI	<i>n</i>	<i>p</i>
Transformational-Hierarchy culture	.32	[.20, .43]	248	< .001
Transactional-Hierarchy culture	.29	[.18, .40]	248	< .001
Laissez-Faire-Hierarchy culture	.06	[-.06, .18]	248	1.000

Note. P-values adjusted using the Bonferroni correction

Regression Analysis

A linear regression analysis was conducted to assess whether leadership styles (transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire) significantly predict organisational cultural dimensions (Clan, Adhocracy, Market, and Hierarchy).

1. The *social learning* theory will predict practical strategies for enhancing leadership practices aligned with organisational culture, improving unit cohesion, morale, and operational readiness within the SCARNG.

The linear regression model results were significant, $F(3,244) = 6.01$, $p < .001$, $R^2 = .07$, indicating that approximately 6.88% of the variance in Clan culture is explainable by transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire. Transformational significantly predicted Clan culture, $B = -5.11$, $t(244) = -2.57$, $p = .011$. This indicates that, on average, a one-unit increase in Transformational will decrease the value of Clan culture by 5.11 units. Transactional did not significantly predict Clan culture, $B = -1.29$, $t(244) = -0.64$, $p = .526$. Based on this sample, a one-unit increase in transactional does not significantly affect Clan culture. Laissez-faire did not significantly predict Clan culture, $B = 2.91$, $t(244) = 1.54$, $p = .124$. Based on this sample, a one-unit increase in laissez-faire does not significantly affect Clan culture. Table 5 summarizes the results of the regression model. **Autocorrelation.** A Durbin-Watson test was conducted to assess the degree of autocorrelation among the residuals. The result was not significant, $DW = 1.93$, $p = .275$, suggesting there was little to no autocorrelation among the residuals.

TABLE 5
RESULTS FOR LINEAR REGRESSION WITH LEADERSHIP STYLES
(TRANSFORMATIONAL, TRANSACTIONAL, AND LAISSEZ-FAIRE)
PREDICTING CLAN CULTURE

Variable	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	95.00% CI	β	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
(Intercept)	56.90	4.18	[48.67, 65.12]	0.00	13.62	< .001
Transformational	-5.11	1.99	[-9.02, -1.20]	-0.21	-2.57	.011
Transactional	-1.29	2.02	[-5.27, 2.70]	-0.05	-0.64	.526
Laissez-Faire	2.91	1.89	[-0.80, 6.63]	0.10	1.54	.124

Note. Results: $F(3,244) = 6.01, p < .001, R^2 = .07$

Unstandardized Regression Equation: Clan Culture = 56.90 – 5.11*Transformational – 1.29*Transactional + 2.91*Laissez-Faire

A linear regression analysis assessed whether transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire significantly predicted Adhocracy culture.

The linear regression model results were significant, $F(3,244) = 4.22, p = .006, R^2 = .05$, indicating that approximately 4.93% of the variance in Adhocracy culture is explainable by transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire. Transformational did not significantly predict Adhocracy culture, $B = 2.65, t(244) = 1.37, p = .173$. Based on this sample, a one-unit increase in Transformational does not significantly affect Adhocracy culture. Transactional did not significantly predict Adhocracy culture, $B = 3.01, t(244) = 1.53, p = .128$. Based on this sample, a one-unit increase in Transactional does not significantly affect Adhocracy culture. Laissez-faire did not significantly predict Adhocracy culture, $B = 2.41, t(244) = 1.31, p = .191$. Based on this sample, a one-unit increase in laissez-faire does not significantly affect ad-hocracy and adhocracy culture. Table 6 summarizes the results of the regression model. A Durbin-Watson test was conducted to assess the degree of autocorrelation among the residuals. The result was significant, $DW = 1.60, p < .001$, suggesting the results may be influenced by autocorrelation among residuals.

TABLE 6
RESULTS FOR LINEAR REGRESSION WITH LEADERSHIP STYLE
(TRANSFORMATIONAL, TRANSACTIONAL, AND LAISSEZ-FAIRE)
PREDICTING ADHOCRACY CULTURE

Variable	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	95.00% CI	β	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
(Intercept)	10.95	4.07	[2.94, 18.96]	0.00	2.69	.008
Transformational	2.65	1.93	[-1.16, 6.45]	0.11	1.37	.173
Transactional	3.01	1.97	[-0.88, 6.89]	0.12	1.53	.128
Laissez-Faire	2.41	1.84	[-1.21, 6.02]	0.08	1.31	.191

Note. Results: $F(3,244) = 4.22, p = .006, R^2 = .05$

Unstandardized Regression Equation: Adhocracy Culture = 10.95 + 2.65*Transformational + 3.01*Transactional + 2.41*Laissez-faire

A linear regression analysis assessed whether transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire significantly predicted Market culture.

The linear regression model results were significant, $F(3,244) = 7.47, p < .001, R^2 = .08$, indicating that approximately 8.41% of the variance in Market culture is explainable by transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire. Transformational significantly predicted Market culture, $B = 4.36, t(244) = 2.19, p = .030$. This indicates that, on average, a one-unit transformational increase will increase the value of Market

culture by 4.36 units. Transactional did not significantly predict Market culture, $B = 3.71$, $t(244) = 1.83$, $p = .069$. Based on this sample, a one-unit increase in Transactional does not significantly affect Market culture. Laissez-faire did not significantly predict Market culture, $B = 1.78$, $t(244) = 0.94$, $p = .347$. Based on this sample, a one-unit increase in Laissez-faire does not significantly affect Market culture. Table 7 summarizes the results of the regression model. A Durbin-Watson test was conducted to assess the degree of autocorrelation among the residuals. The result was significant, $DW = 1.60$, $p < .001$, suggesting the results may be influenced by autocorrelation among residuals.

TABLE 7
RESULTS FOR LINEAR REGRESSION WITH LEADERSHIP STYLES
(TRANSFORMATIONAL, TRANSACTIONAL, AND LAISSEZ-FAIRE)
PREDICTING MARKET CULTURE

Variable	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	95.00% CI	β	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
(Intercept)	5.73	4.19	[-2.53, 13.99]	0.00	1.37	.173
Transformational	4.36	1.99	[0.43, 8.28]	0.17	2.19	.030
Transactional	3.71	2.03	[-0.29, 7.71]	0.14	1.83	.069
Laissez-Faire	1.78	1.89	[-1.95, 5.51]	0.06	0.94	.347

Note. Results: $F(3,244) = 7.47$, $p < .001$, $R^2 = .08$

Unstandardized Regression Equation: Market Culture = 5.73 + 4.36*Transformational + 3.71*Transactional + 1.78*Laissez-Faire

A linear regression analysis assessed whether transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire significantly predicted Hierarchy culture.

The linear regression model results were significant, $F(3,244) = 11.32$, $p < .001$, $R^2 = .12$, indicating that approximately 12.22% of the variance in Hierarchy culture is explainable by transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire. Transformational significantly predicted Hierarchy culture, $B = 5.77$, $t(244) = 2.87$, $p = .004$. This indicates that, on average, a one-unit transformational increase will increase the value of Hierarchy culture by 5.77 units. Transactional significantly predicted Hierarchy culture, $B = 4.19$, $t(244) = 2.04$, $p = .042$. This indicates that, on average, a one-unit increase in transactional will increase the value of Hierarchy culture by 4.19 units. Laissez-faire did not significantly predict Hierarchy culture, $B = 2.46$, $t(244) = 1.29$, $p = .198$. Based on this sample, a one-unit increase in laissez-faire does not significantly affect Hierarchy culture. Table 8 summarizes the results of the regression model. A Durbin-Watson test was conducted to assess the degree of autocorrelation among the residuals. The result was significant, $DW = 1.57$, $p < .001$, suggesting the results may be influenced by autocorrelation among residuals.

TABLE 8
RESULTS FOR LINEAR REGRESSION WITH LEADERSHIP STYLES
(TRANSFORMATIONAL, TRANSACTIONAL, AND LAISSEZ-FAIRE)
PREDICTING HIERARCHY CULTURE

Variable	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	95.00% CI	β	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
(Intercept)	1.97	4.23	[-6.36, 10.30]	0.00	0.47	.641
Transformational	5.77	2.01	[1.81, 9.73]	0.22	2.87	.004
Transactional	4.19	2.05	[0.15, 8.22]	0.16	2.04	.042
Laissez-Faire	2.46	1.91	[-1.30, 6.22]	0.08	1.29	.198

Note. Results: $F(3,244) = 11.32$, $p < .001$, $R^2 = .12$

Unstandardized Regression Equation: Hierarchy Culture = 1.97 + 5.77*Transformational + 4.19*Transactional + 2.46*Laissez-Faire

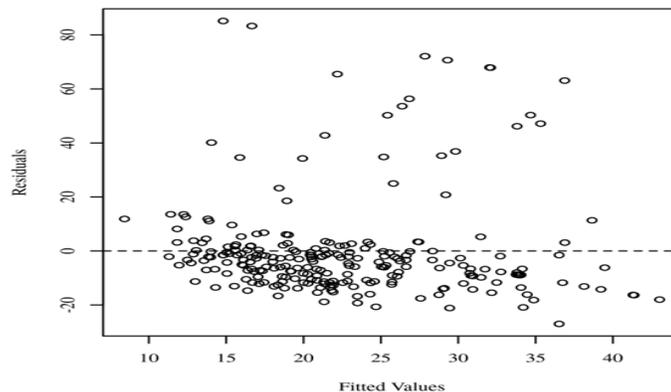
Multicollinearity. Variance Inflation Factors (VIF) were calculated to detect multicollinearity between predictor variables. All predictors in the regression model have VIFs less than 10, indicating that the predictor variables were not highly correlated (Table 9).

TABLE 9
VARIANCE INFLATION FACTORS FOR LEADERSHIP STYLES
(TRANSFORMATIONAL, TRANSACTIONAL, AND LAISSEZ-FAIRE)

Variable	VIF
Transformational	1.67
Transactional	1.67
Laissez-Faire	1.00

Homoscedasticity. Homoscedasticity was also evaluated by plotting the residuals against the predicted values (Bates et al., 2014; Field, 2017; Osborne & Walters, 2002). The assumption of homoscedasticity appeared randomly distributed with a mean of zero and no apparent curvature. Figure 2 presents a scatterplot of predicted values and model residuals.

FIGURE 2
RESIDUALS SCATTERPLOT TESTING HOMOSCEDASTICITY



CONCLUSION & DISCUSSION

The study aimed to investigate the intricate relationship between leadership styles and organisational culture within the South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG). Organisational culture evolved by forming groups with the expertise to address internal and external environmental factors (Theofanidis & Fountouki, 2018). The SCARNG organisational culture has been shaped, nurtured, and sustained through socialization (Galioto, 1988; Reinhard, 2015). The analysis results provide valuable insights into the relationships between leadership styles and organisational cultures. The study examined three leadership styles—transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire—and their correlations with four distinct organisational cultures: Clan, Adhocracy, Market, and Hierarchy.

Transformational leadership showed a significant negative correlation with Clan culture, suggesting that as transformational leadership increases, Clan culture tends to decrease. This implies that transformational leadership may prioritize more individualistic or performance-driven environments, which can undermine the collaborative and people-focused nature typical of Clan cultures. However, transformational leadership positively correlates with adhocracy, market, and Hierarchical cultures,

indicating that leaders who adopt a transformational style tend to foster more innovative, competitive, and structured organisational environments. This suggests that transformational leaders may be effective in organisations that aim for innovation, competitiveness, and clear structure.

Transactional leadership also demonstrated significant negative correlations with Clan culture, similar to transformational leadership, highlighting that transactional leadership may not align well with collaborative or people-centered cultures. On the other hand, transactional leadership showed positive correlations with adhocracy, market, and hierarchy cultures, suggesting that this leadership style fosters more structured, competitive, and performance-oriented environments that align well with these cultures.

Laissez-faire leadership, in contrast, did not show significant correlations with any organisational cultures examined. This lack of impact suggests that laissez-faire leadership may be less effective in shaping organisational culture, as it is characterized by a hands-off approach that fails to provide the necessary direction or influence to foster any particular culture.

Regression analyses further supported these findings. Leadership styles accounted for a modest portion of the variance in organisational cultures. Specifically, transformational leadership significantly predicted Clan, Market, and Hierarchy cultures, with a negative impact on Clan culture and a positive influence on Market and Hierarchy cultures. Transactional leadership significantly predicted market and hierarchical cultures but not clan or adhocracy cultures. Laissez-faire leadership did not significantly predict organisational cultures, emphasizing its minimal effect on organisational culture.

Furthermore, the findings underscore the importance of leadership styles in shaping organisational culture. By strategically focusing on transformational and transactional leadership, organisations can cultivate environments that align with their goals and values while minimizing the influence of laissez-faire leadership to avoid cultural stagnation. Additionally, addressing statistical issues like autocorrelation will enhance the reliability of future research and contribute to a deeper understanding of these complex relationships.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Based on this study's findings, several recommendations can be made to help organisations better align their leadership styles with the desired organisational cultures. Primarily, organisations should prioritize the development of transformational leadership. The results indicate that transformational leadership positively influences the fostering of innovative, competitive, and structured cultures, specifically adhocracy, market, and hierarchy cultures. This suggests that transformational leaders who emphasize vision, inspiration, and innovation will likely drive the cultural changes needed in organisations that aspire to thrive in competitive and dynamic environments. However, caution should be exercised as transformational leadership was found to negatively correlate with Clan culture, which emphasizes collaboration and shared values. Thus, while transformational leadership benefits certain cultures, organisations should also ensure that its focus on performance and change does not undermine existing collaborative efforts.

Additionally, transactional leadership should be embraced in environments that require structure and performance orientation. The study showed that transactional leadership positively correlates with market and hierarchical cultures grounded in efficiency, competitiveness, and clear hierarchical structures. Therefore, organisations in sectors where performance metrics, rules, and established processes are critical might find transactional leadership particularly valuable. Transactional leadership provides the clarity and control needed in such environments to ensure that goals are met and standards are maintained.

On the other hand, organisations should reconsider using laissez-faire leadership, as the study found no significant correlation between laissez-faire leadership and organisational culture. The lack of impact suggests that laissez-faire leadership, characterized by a hands-off approach, does not contribute to shaping or maintaining any specific organisational culture. It may lead to a lack of direction and engagement, hindering organisational growth and cohesion. Leaders who adopt a laissez-faire style may inadvertently create a vacuum regarding leadership influence, resulting in a less cohesive and dynamic organisational

culture. Given these findings, it is also important for organisations to address the issue of autocorrelation in future research.

Lastly, while this study focused on three leadership styles, organisations may benefit from exploring additional leadership models. Future research could examine how other leadership styles, such as servant or authentic leadership, influence organisational cultures differently. A more diverse understanding of leadership approaches would allow organisations to tailor their leadership development programs more effectively to the specific cultural needs they wish to cultivate. Organisations can better shape their desired cultures by prioritizing transformational leadership for innovation and competitiveness, leveraging transactional leadership for structure and performance, and minimizing laissez-faire leadership to avoid stagnation. Furthermore, addressing statistical issues and exploring various leadership styles will strengthen the foundation for understanding and implementing effective leadership strategies that align with organisational goals.

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