

The Durable Performance System™

Resource Overview

Five Forces Overview

A concise explainer covering incentives, authority, information flow, accountability, and consequence.

Durable performance depends on alignment across five structural forces. This overview gives readers a compact map of the doctrine and a clearer way to see why recurring performance problems are usually structural before they are behavioral.

[View the Architecture Book](#)

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Best use

Use this overview when you need a shared language, a compact doctrine map, or a quick way to explain why performance weakens.

Deepen next

The full framework lives in The Architecture of Durable Performance.

The five forces

Incentives

What the system rewards determines direction. Watch for behavior the organization claims to dislike but still protects, rewards, or tolerates.

Authority

Where authority sits determines capability. Watch for decisions rising upward, ownership narrowing, and escalation turning into the safe default.

Information Flow

What leadership sees determines correction. Watch for reporting volume growing while signal quality gets worse or visibility expanding without better decisions.

Accountability

What accountability enforces determines expectation. Watch for standards applied unevenly, variance explained without corrective action, or reviews that create motion without change.

Consequence

What consequence applies determines trust. Watch for strong performers getting a pass, informal exceptions lingering, or influence altering enforcement.

How drift usually unfolds

These forces do not operate alone. When incentives tilt, authority migrates. When authority migrates, information compresses. When information compresses, accountability distorts. When accountability distorts, consequence weakens. That sequence is not philosophical. It is operational.

A leader may still see activity, effort, and polished reporting. Yet the system is already teaching people what really matters, who really decides, what really gets enforced, and which costs can be shifted quietly.

Quick use guide

Use it in a leadership meeting

Walk through each force and ask where current strain is most visible.

Use it with the diagnostic

Pair this overview with the Drift Diagnostic when the pattern feels real but still lacks clear language.

Use it as a map, not a manual

This overview is intentionally compact. The deeper logic and interaction live inside the architecture book.

When outcomes persist, structure permits them.

What to read next

Choose *The Architecture of Durable Performance* when you want the full framework and the broader logic tying these forces together.

Choose *Why Organizations Drift* when the urgent need is language for erosion, softened discipline, and tolerated exception.

Choose *The Durable Performance Field Guide* when the priority is applied action, structured prompts, and practical correction.

[View the Architecture Book](#)

[Get the Drift Diagnostic](#)