

STANDARDS, ARE NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS

LIVING THE ARMY VALUES

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I. INTRODUCTION:

Army standards and living the Army Values are the foundations that Noncommissioned Officers live by on a daily basis. Values are ideas about the worth or importance of things, concepts, and people (Soldiers). They come from beliefs and influence priorities. Professional beliefs, values, and ethics are the foundation of a leader's character, which enables him or her to withstand great pressures. Good Noncommissioned Officers use the four C's to instill standards, values, ethics and beliefs in their Soldiers; courage, candor, competence, and commitment.

II. PROBLEM:

Noncommissioned Officers failed to remember the importance of good moral character, ethics and values. They failed to maintain those intangibles required to do what is right. We have Noncommissioned Officers violating their obligations on a regular basis, regardless if their involvement with the Soldier is direct or indirect; some of their activities are criminal and immoral. Noncommissioned Officers use their positions to violate those we have been charged to protect, our soldiers. The Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer states, "No one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of Soldiers. It also states that I am proud of the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the military service, and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit, or personal safety. These words are what every Noncommissioned Officer should stand for. Instead, we have Noncommissioned Officers using their rank and positions to abuse Soldiers and other Noncommissioned Officers. The Creed of the Noncommissioned

Officers is a standard that all Noncommissioned Officers need to know and use the words of the creed to lead and train their soldiers.

III. RELEVANT RULES:

Soldiers come into the army today from a thousand different backgrounds and they do not know much about ethics except for what is mentioned to them in basic training. However, many Soldiers have never been in a situation where ethics is a problem to them. It is our job as leaders to groom, teach and train these soldiers. Our ethics and moral values will influence those of future generations. We must re-evaluate what makes us professionals, what we believe in. To do that, we have to go to the dictionary, for although we all have an idea what ethics are, we want to ensure that we have the correct idea. Webster's states, "Ethics. 1. The study of the general nature of morals and the specific moral choices an individual makes in relating to others. 2. The rules or standards of conduct governing the members of a profession."

Now that we have an idea of the meaning of the word ethics, Noncommissioned Officers still have the responsibility of teaching Soldiers the difference between right and wrong and leading by example.

IV. COURSES OF ACTIONS:

Setting the standard for Soldiers to emulate is very important in the Army today. Standards are formal, detailed instructions that can be stated, measured, and achieved. They provide a performance baseline to evaluate how well a specific task is executed. Leaders must know, communicate and enforce standards. (FM 22-100, pg 5-11) Soldiers have to be taught Army values, Ethics and know the standards of the unit to be held accountable for their actions. The Army core values tell us how we should act as a

professional every day and give us examples in every action we take as leaders. The Army core values are solid rocks that we can depend on to guide us in the right direction. Knowing the Army Values is important but we must know what they mean and instill the meaning in our Soldiers on a daily basis. As Noncommissioned Officers, we must teach our soldiers to live by the seven Army values. Living the seven Army values will help any soldier having to make a decision on or off the battlefield. Leaders as well as Soldiers must understand what it means to display loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. Leaders and Soldiers must understand that they represent themselves, their families, their units and the United States of America. In Today's world, we are looked upon as the ambassadors of freedom. The acronym for the seven Army values is LDRSHIP means:

loyalty, bear true faith and allegiance to the US Constitution, the Army, your unit, and other soldiers;

Duty, fulfill your obligations; respect, treat people as they should be treated;

Selfless service put the welfare of the nation, the Army and subordinates before your own;

Honor, live up to all the Army values;

Integrity, do what is right, legally and morally;

Personal courage, face fear, danger, or adversity (physical or moral) (FM 22-100, pg 2-3 – 2-9).

V. CONCLUSION:

These values establish standards in the Army today and they uphold traditions from the past. As Noncommissioned Officers, we must remember to set and enforce standards and uphold the traditions of the Noncommissioned Officer Corps. We must remember to keep an open mind and remember that young Soldiers have a lot to teach us. Noncommissioned Officers feel that they cannot learn from Soldiers, but speaking from

experience one can say that soldiers have taught me a lot. They (Soldiers) have a wealth of knowledge.