

UNCLASSIFIED

ETHICAL DILEMMA

Ethics

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Fort Wainwright, Alaska, 2006

5 December 2006

United States Army Sergeants Major Academy

Class 57

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Ethical dilemmas are conflicts that pull between the right and the wrong of an action. It is said that when you are in an ethical dilemma the wrong choice usually have the better outcome and the right choice usually have the worst outcome. We sometimes want the better outcome to be the results of an action, however it isn't right. We don't typically enjoy seeing someone suffer or hurt because they failed to do something or when they are in an unfavorable situation. We base our ethics mainly on our principles and on what we believe and what we are taught. Our principle and beliefs often drive the direction we take. Although our intention maybe good our actions may not be.

ETHICS DEFINITION

Ethics is described in the dictionary as the value or quality. The Ancient Greek word (Ethikos) meaning, arising from habit. Ethics are rules that that are adopted from a group, a family, or organization.

DILEMMA I EXPERIENCED

While in a previous unit that I will not mention, I experienced a serious ethical dilemma which raised a lot of controversy between my self, a few senior NCOs, the Command, and the First Sergeant. I assisted in a height and weight measurement after a physical

standards. The individual used the system and the personal legal experience the individual had to try and circumvent the system and the regulation, never mentioning that a second chance was given to meet the standards. After a lengthy process, the individual was later pulled from the JAG office position for being in the Army Weight Control Program. The First Sergeant self-inflicted the embarrassment of explaining the actions to the command when this whole thing surfaced and the Officer put the First Sergeant in a bad position by trying to fight a battle that was clearly a losing one. This ethical dilemma backfired on the First Sergeant by allowing the individual to have a second chance of making the standards. The weight control and taping was carefully supervised and scrutinized by the command. The command directed that the S-3 be present and control all of the weigh-in for all Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). Sometimes we as leaders, pick and choose when we will follow the guidelines of the regulations to benefit the Soldier or situation or friends. As you see it sometimes ethical dilemmas can come back to haunt you and make you seem as though you do not uphold the standards. Enforcing the standards sometimes and for some people and not for all is an ethical dilemma. The First Sergeant and I had a conversation after it was all said and done and the First Sergeant recognized that this type of ethical dilemma would never happen again because sometimes it's not worth the embarrassment when it folds back on you like this situation did. Also, the Officer recognized taking care of this individual was not the right thing to do. We also discussed that the same individual may have the opportunity to monitor the Army Weight Control program in the future that is commanded by that individual and how, if at all, will this experience be replayed in the individual's mind when signing flags for actions for Soldiers in the unit they command.

References

AR 6000-9 The Army Weight Control Program, 2006

DA PAM 600-8-2 Suspension of Favorable Personnel Actions (Flags), 2004

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus, 2006