

~~Running head:~~ Ethical problem facing the Army today

Gangs in the Military

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*Final topic
great paper
elaborate on
gangs, not
on values, not*

Abstract

The United States Armed Forces face one of many dilemmas with a variety of well-known gang organizations in our society, encouraging their young gang members to enlist and acquire knowledge, develop strong leadership skills, gain self-discipline, receive specialized weapons training, military explosives, defensive tactics, pay and allowances and all other incentives our Armed Forces have to offer to our Soldier's.

As senior leaders we represent a great organization and are future role models for generations of Soldiers to come.

Soldier's ethical behavior is a wide lane to supervise. Assets to positive ethical behavior for our Armed Forces, our Nation, subordinates and their families require senior Noncommissioned to exemplify effective leadership, effective communications, education, motivation, and instill Army values.

Gangs in the Military

My requirement is to write a thought paper that is entirely my thoughts or opinion to identify an ethical problem facing the Army today, that required no additional research. I found it essential to accomplish my own research about young Gang members currently serving in our Armed Forces.

Today the Military is facing an ethical dilemma with a variety of well-known gang organizations in our society, encouraging enlistment of their members in our 4 branches of Services. The Army, Navy, Air Force and the Marines.

Numerous identified gangs such as Neo-Nazis, Gangster Disciple Nation (GDN), Latin Kings, Vice Lords, Bloods, Crips, National Alliance, White Aryan Resistance, Circle of Truth and Chicago's Folk Gangsters are recruiting their young men to enlist in our Armed Forces to acquire knowledge, develop strong leadership skills, gain self-discipline, receive specialized weapons training, military explosives training, defensive tactics, combat training, demolitions demolitions training, pay and allowances, and all other incentives our Armed Forces have to offer to our Soldiers.

According to (Main, 2006, Gangs claim their turf in Iraq, para 1), "graffiti is showing up 6,400 miles away in one the world's most dangerous neighborhoods – Iraq."

"Armored vehicles, concrete barricades and bathroom walls all have served as canvasses for their spray-painted gang art. At Camp Cedar II, about 185 miles southeast of Baghdad, a guard shack was recently defaced with "GDN" for Gangster Disciple Nation, along with the gang's six-pointed star and the word "Chitown", a Soldier who photographed it said." (Main, 2006, Gangs claim their turf in Iraq, para 2).

“Jeffrey Stoleson, an Army Reserve Sergeant in Iraq for almost a year, said he has taken hundreds of photos of gang graffiti there.” (Main, 2006, Gangs claim their turf in Iraq, para 7).

“The graffiti captured on film by an Army Reservist provided to the Chicago Sun-Times, highlights increasing gang activity in the Army in the United States and overseas, some experts say.” (Main, 2006, Gangs claim their turf in Iraq, para 3).

“In a storage yard in Taji, about 18 miles north of Baghdad, dozens of tanks were vandalized with painted gang symbols, Stoleson said in a phone interview from Iraq. He said he also took pictures of graffiti at Camp Scania, about 108 miles southeast of Baghdad, and Camp Anaconda, about 40 miles north of Baghdad. Much of the graffiti was a Chicago-based gang, he said.” (Main, 2006, Gangs claim their turf in Iraq, para 8).

“In civilian life, Stoleson is a correctional officer and co-founder of the gang interdiction team at a Wisconsin maximum-security prison. Now he is a truck commander for security escorts in Iraq.” (Main, 2006, Gangs claim their turf in Iraq, para 9).

“Because of the extreme danger of his mission in Iraq, Stoleson said he does not relish the idea of working alongside gang members, whom he does not trust. Stoleson said he once reported to a supervisor that he suspected a company of Soldiers in Iraq was rife with gang members.” (Main, 2006, Gangs claim their turf in Iraq, para 11).

“My E-8 [supervising sergeant] told me not to ruffle their feathers because they were doing a good job, he said.” (Main, 2006, Gangs claim their turf in Iraq, para 12).

Senior Noncommissioned Officers represent a great organization and are current role models for our Soldiers and future role models for generations of Soldiers to come.

Sergeants Major “are we prepared to face the challenge of dealing with Soldiers that belong to a diverse gang organization”? Perhaps by mere membership, attends a meeting while on duty and in uniform, receives or distributes literature, presence at public demonstration or rally, fund raising, or recruiting our other Soldier’s to join their diverse organization which entirely is prohibited by Army Policy. This manner of disruptive behavior presents a clear threat to our Armed Forces and our Nation. Also displays danger to a Soldier’s loyalty, discipline, military values, morals, effects morale of the unit and interferes with accomplishment of the unit’s mission.

A Soldier’s ethical behavior is a wide lane to supervise. Effective Leadership, effective communication, and the Army values is an overall asset to positive ethical behavior, our Army, our Nation, subordinates and their families.

The United States Army recognizes seven Army values that all Soldier’s must develop and maintain during duty hours and off duty hours. Those values spell the acronym “LDRSHIP” and as Senior Noncommissioned Officers need to consistently set the example and remain consistent with the Army Values and those values will remain instilled in our subordinates.

The first value is loyalty. Leaders must be faithful and consistent and always remain loyal to your unit, mission, Soldier’s and their families.

The second value is duty. Leaders must ensure to teach our subordinates too consistently perform with excellence to meet the Army standard or exceed the standard to accomplish a specific mission.

The third value is respect. Leaders must have respect for our Peers, subordinates and subordinates will respect our leaders. Treat others the way you would expect to be treated.

The fourth value is Selfless Service. Leaders must instill to our subordinates to give all of yourself to your unit, the mission, and our great Nation with little regard for your own self needs. We as Senior Noncommissioned Officers must always put our Soldier's and mission first and be willing to sacrifice our own interests above theirs and be available to them at all times.

The fifth value is Honor. The most important value of a Leader and subordinates is Honor. Leaders must remain to be consistent when providing information to our subordinates and the most significant of all is giving them the correct information and not false information. Remember subordinate's are always evaluating and watching their leaders at all times.

The sixth value is Integrity. Leaders need to ensure to do what is right, morally and legally at all times. Leaders that display high moral standards, honesty and conduct consistent principles exhibit integrity to all peers and subordinates a like.

The seventh value is Personal Courage. One is physical courage by exhibiting to our peers and subordinates that we must overcome our fears of bodily harm to successfully accomplish our mission and take care of our subordinates that as Senior Noncommissioned Officers may experience sometime during our career. The second is moral courage and as leaders need to stay firm in our morals, beliefs, and make certain to be consistent with the Army values and principles and implant into our subordinates.

Senior Noncommissioned Officers must ensure that we are totally involved with our subordinates providing effective leadership, effective communications, motivating, educating, promoting and reward incentives to our subordinates. Leaders we will be rewarded with a positive ethical unit with good order, discipline, moral with no disruptive behavior.

Senior Leader's must place strong emphasis to our subordinates that gang membership or

Subordinates involved gang activities will not be tolerated in our Armed Forces and by Army policy.

Always, remember as Senior Noncommissioned Officer's to conduct ourselves in the most ethical professional manner everyday, we cannot present any type of double standard as leaders, subordinates are evaluating and watching.

References

Main, F. (2006, May). Gangs claim their turn in Iraq. Retrieved November 11, 2006 from <http://www.gangwar.com>