

THE ETHICAL DILEMMA FACING ADULTEROUS AFFAIRS
DURING DEPLOYMENT

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Human beings are motivated by biological instincts toward the physical overthrow of perceived opposition. Is that statement true or is it an excuse for us as leaders and subordinates to commit an act that we know is ethically inappropriate such as adultery? When deploying to a combat zone we ask ourselves, am I going to live or die. We use that as an excuse to make us feel better about the unethical decisions that we make. You just do not partake regardless of your situation in some things. Ethics is the study of the general nature of morals and the specific moral choices an individual makes in relating to others. Adultery is voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a partner other than the lawful spouse. As leaders, we face ethical dilemmas daily. In conversations or actions with family, friends or co-workers we engage in ethical conflict. Is this the right thing to do? We must acquaint ourselves with two important distinguishing features in order to understand ethics. They are character and values. One's individual attitude about the worth of people, concepts, and other things equal values. Character describes who you are and contributes to how you act. Whatever the cost you know and do what is right. Even though that statement is true, we do not always do what is right. We learn our ethical values and character from childhood through experiences, reading, television, and colleagues.

Daily we face situations where our values and character comes into conflict, which is an ethical dilemma. During military deployments, we as leaders and subordinates face many ethical decisions. Such as: am I going to drink alcohol, report my sensitive items as green when they are black, are my vehicles fully mission capable when they are below 10/20 standard, am I going to have an affair even though I am married, am I going to drive this vehicle when I know that I am not license? Do we respond truthfully or not? Do we even consider the consequences

of our incorrect decisions? Are we concerned with our character and values? With those questions in mind, let us examine some situations where leaders and subordinates made the incorrect ethical decision concerning adultery during deployment. Adultery is clearly unacceptable conduct, and it reflects adversely on the service record of the military member. Adultery as a military offense is difficult to prosecute for several reasons. There are three "Elements of Proof" for the offense of adultery. First, that the accused wrongfully had sexual intercourse with a certain person. Second, that at the time, the accused, or the other person was married to someone else; and third, under the circumstances, the conduct of the accused was to the prejudice of good order and discipline in the armed forces or was of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces. Is adultery unacceptable conduct in the military? Personally I believe that it depends on who you are and the position that you hold. Situation 1: The 1SG of a Brigade HHC committed adultery with one of his female Soldiers. He is married she is not. This was brought to the attention of the CSM. His response was, "I know what is going on," and left it at that. Neither Soldier was punished. Situation 2: The Brigade SGM also married, had an affair with one of the two embedded reporters. The Brigade Commander knew of this relationship but did nothing because the SGM was a member of his personal force protection team. Situation 3: The Brigade Commander driver had an affair with reporter number two. The driver a SSG and married got the reporter pregnant. Again nothing, happen to the Soldier because he was the commander's driver. Situation 4: A married female SPC had an affair and became pregnant. The leadership harassed this Soldier because she refused to tell who got her pregnant. She received a counseling statement, and an Article 15. She finally return to Fort Bragg and received a discharged due to pregnancy. In all situations, the Soldiers and leadership made incorrect ethical decisions. Leadership condoned the male Soldiers' conduct but not the

female. If leadership is part of the problem what can one do. Another case of adultery comes to mind. This affair did not happen during deployment but it is very popular. The famous Lt Flynn the first female B-52 pilot was an unmarried officer who was having an affair with a civilian who was the husband of an active duty enlisted Air Force member. Lt Flynn was advised by a 1SG, and later ordered by her Commander, to terminate the affair. She ended the affair, but later they got back together. When questioned about the affair Lt Flynn lied. She was charged with the offenses of adultery, making a false official statement, conduct unbecoming of an officer, and disobeying an order of a superior commissioned officer. The Air Force member was stationed at the same base as Lt Flynn. Therefore, Lt Flynn's affair had a direct negative impact on the morale of that military service member. We as leaders and Soldiers cannot follow one value and ignore another. When we violate this rule, we have placed ourselves in an ethical dilemma. We as soldier-leaders ought to be held to a higher standard. Instead of being liable for our actions, we receive promotions.

As leaders we must ensure that, we conducted values training, similar to the required EO and POSH training, and emphasize the importance of integrity. Leaders must allow their subordinates to make mistakes. However, when mistakes if they really are, happen, leaders must assist them in overcoming those mistakes and not condone them. The army cannot afford leaders who compromise their integrity. Today's leaders are charged to take full responsibility for their actions as well as the actions of their subordinates. Leaders must set a positive example at all times and live, breath, eat and sleep the Army values. Human beings are motivated by biological instincts toward the physical overthrow of perceived oppositions because we want what we want regardless of the consequences. Ethics, character, and values are placed on the back burner if they get in the way of what we want. We all have our individual responsibility to do what is

ethically right regardless of the outcome. We should strive to attain that miraculous goal of becoming the ethically correct individual. We as humans may never attain this lofty goal completely. However, the practice of attempting to get there will make the people we encounter, our organizations, situations, and ourselves better.