

ETHICS PAPER

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Noncommissioned Officers are charged with being role models for our future forces. Our ethics and moral values will be the example for leaders of future generations. Drill Sergeants face many challenging task daily, balancing personal values with Army Values. One subject of concern that really hits home for me is the problem with Drill Sergeant sexual misconduct towards our future force. This sexual misconduct demands the attention of leaders at every level. Sexual misconduct is a potentially explosive mixture of supervisor power, sex, as well as unethical behavior, which can breed unethical leaders in the future. Their lack of judgement can not only result in the loss of respect, of their seniors, peers, and subordinates alike, but also the loss of trust and faith. This is a serious issue that should not go unnoticed. Sexual misconduct destroys morale and defies the very standards of ethical behavior outlined in our Army Values.

**L**eadership is the ability to influence people or soldiers to accomplish the mission or task. This can only be done by providing purpose, motivation, and direction. Drill Sergeants have the demanding task of transforming civilians into warriors to fight the war on terror. Their actions have a direct and indirect influence over these people. Soldiers move when a Drill Sergeant says move. They also act accordingly when their Drill Sergeant is absent. Drill Sergeants who engage in sexual relations with these Soldiers violate our Army's code of ethics and set poor standards that lead Soldiers down the wrong road. This type of inappropriate conduct does not display allegiance to our Army Values. Every Drill Sergeant has the responsibility to be **LOYAL** to his/her Soldiers - to lead, not mislead Soldiers.

**D**uty is the second Army Value. This value requires every Soldier, Noncommissioned Officer, and Officer to fulfill their obligations. All noncommissioned officers are obligated by duty description for the morale, welfare, training, and discipline of Soldiers under their charge.

Drill Sergeants who engage in sexual activities with Soldiers are in direct violation of this obligation for failing to resist temptation and thereby enter into a forbidden zone from which they can never recover neither professionally or morally.

**Respect** is the third Army Value and is most certainly one of the most important values. This value charges all to treat people as they should be treated. Drill Sergeants are not only leaders, but ethical standard bearers. They are responsible for treating everyone with utmost dignity and respect. One day, Soldiers under their tutelage will undoubtedly be a leader themselves. No one should be abused or treated with lack of respect. Everyone deserves professional, unselfish and unconditional leadership.

**Selfless Service** is the fourth Army Value. This particular value directs Soldiers to place the welfare of our Nation, the Army, and subordinates before our own. In serving the country, we perform the mission of the Nation and not for personal gain.

Drill Sergeants who selfishly engage in sexual activities with Soldiers violate the very essence of this value and the NCO Creed. Selfless service is much larger than any one Soldier. It encompasses the entire Nation which includes our fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters. The basic building block of selfless service is to go the distance for our Soldiers in honor of our Nation.

**Honor** is the fifth Army Value. It is overall foundation of these values. Honor directs us to live up to all Army Values. Drill Sergeants who violate any of the seven Army values by encouraging Soldiers to engage in sexual misconduct cannot escape violation of this value. Honor is an all encompassing value. Those who are in violation of this value will undoubtedly also destroy their power base and violate the overall integrity of the Noncommissioned Officer Corps.

**Integrity** is the sixth Army Value. Integrity is without a doubt a quality that Soldiers develop by adhering to moral principles. Simply put, it is doing what is right, legally and morally.

According to the Manual of Courts Martial and other doctrine, it is illegal to engage in sexual activity with a subordinate. Additionally, this type of misconduct sabotages order and discipline and is morally wrong and illegal. Sexual misconduct destroys the trust that others have placed in a leader. Drill Sergeants are faced with the moral obligation to do what is right even if the action is not popular with others. This requires an extreme amount of personal and professional courage to accomplish.

**Personal Courage** is the seventh and final Army Value. This is one of the Army's oldest values. Soldiers are required to endure physical and mental stress. At times, this sometimes requires Soldiers to risk personal safety. Facing moral adversity can possibly be one of the most difficult tasks to accomplish, however, it is achievable. Drill Sergeants can build moral courage by standing up for what is right and acting in its capacity.

Sexual misconduct destroys morale and defies the very standards of ethical behavior outlined in the Army Values. All Soldiers know our Army Values. Our values are more than just an acronym; they are our way of life. We must instill our way of life into our future generation of leaders. When standards are met, we are living the essence of the Army values and are thereby better instill them and lead our future leaders of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.