

ETHICS DEFINED IN EVERYDAY SITUATIONS

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Abstract

The primary role of Army leaders is to promote good order and discipline within their organizations, units, section, teams, and squads. Leaders must be able to develop strategies, establish problem solving principles and techniques. Leaders must prevent, control and eradicate violations of ethical problems and reasoning. What is ethics? Why ethics are important in the military and our society today? Webster clearly defines ethics as a principle of right or good behavior. Ethics is a system of moral principles or values. Ethics is the rule of the general nature of morals and specific moral choices an individual makes in relating to others. Ethics are the rules or standards of conduct governing the members of a profession

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Everyone deserves the very best leadership qualities, traits and guidance that the military and its leaders has to offer, superimposed and provided to them regardless of the situation in which they find themselves. Question.....Should ethics be any different in peacetime, then in wartime, on the P.T. field or on the battlefield? Ethics and Ethos, is there a difference? What are the commonalities? Ethics are that moral fiber that wove leaders together under the same umbrella. Ethics are the rules or standards of conduct governing the members of a profession. Our profession is the most diverse and most trained in the world. Ethos is the character, disposition, or basic values peculiar to a specific people, culture, or movement.

Resolving ethical issues and dilemmas involving a series of choices as leaders we must be able to jump in quickly and stomp out the cause as well as the negative effects that seriously impact moral, discipline, and spirit de corp of a unit. Making bad decisions or choices to properly engage the proper control measures could prove catastrophic to the individual and the organization as a whole. Poor decisions could be just as damaging and may also any future ethic issues that develops within the organization. Subordinates loose faith and confidence within their leadership quickly, especially during the point of impact of ethical violations or when they are aware that ethnics has been violated and not enforced. Trying to resolve ethical issues and dilemmas are challenging and demanding when properly navigated. Timing is the key; leaders must swiftly interject problem techniques by any available tools, knowledge, and abilities they have in their kit bag. Soldiers realize that most problems cannot be solved overnight, however they do expect their leadership to be decisive engaged in the problem solving process before the sunsets for the evening.

Treat everyone with the utmost dignity and respect. Leaders must use critical thinking skills to better enable themselves to quickly resolve ethnic's violations. These important thinking strategies and skills when applied quickly with greatly assist leaders to resolve ethical topics and problems. We've all been taught these important basic fundamentals of the "golden rule"; treat others as you wish to be treated; do unto others as you want others to do unto you. These true American values were taught and instilled us by our parents, church, community, and schools. These values have been around for generations, and will continue to be around for many more. In today's military, things shouldn't be any different. Leaders should continue to teach and enforce those "golden rules" to those young war fighters; the American Soldier. Training and educating today's war fighter is the most important and rewarding job a leader can possible have. Properly instilling these American morals, values, and ethics are just as important as battle drills. Both of these will determine whether a unit will win or fail in combat. Soldiers will be the most determine factor, because when they look deep inside themselves during time of despair in combat operations, intestinal fortitude will prevail. The entire individual Soldiers' ethic training, warrior ethos, values, and beliefs are what will keep our Soldiers alive on today's battlefield.

Honor is the highest value; honor everyone well before and above self. Duty, honor, country has been then watch word of American society since the birth of the nation. Core values are the bedrock of the Armed Services. Happy Soldiers are productive Soldiers. Soldiers and leaders make their decision and choices based on their beliefs, values, and ethics. When these culturally diverse decisions, choices, and norms, clash with one another or with someone else beliefs system, this will cause ethnical dilemmas. Soldiers demands that leaders conducts ethic training and perform azimuth checks to keep them battle focused. Leaders must have and display the personal courage to make things happen in order to resolve ethnical dilemmas without hesitation or mitigation. This is the charge of the leadership's duty and obligation.

Life is full of choices and decisions; it is incumbent upon all leaders to make the right ethnical choices at the right time, at the right place, regardless of the situation in which they find themselves. Too often leaders want to choose the easy wrong over the hard right. Some leaders make decisions and choices for their own selfish reasons and personal gain. Soldiers expect their leaders to promote the general welfare within their organization and unit. This is why the American Soldier serves their country so proudly still today.

Implement the total person concept and improve the organization. Every leader should strictly instill those fundamental values, ethics, beliefs, and morals within your Soldiers.

I am an American Soldier. I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I serve people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

Change with the times. As leaders of the most valuable and precious resources of the United States, the American Soldier, we owe the utmost gratitude, loyalty, and respect towards them at all times. Leaders does what's right based on common fabrics sewn tightly within the American culture through a magnitude of creeds; the American Creed; Soldier Creed; Ranger Creed; Noncommissioned Officer Creed; Officer Creed; The military decision making process sets establishes solution preambles for properly engaging problem solving techniques. Leaders must ensure all Soldiers do what's right, both morally and ethnically.

Ethnics are as finite to ones behaviorism as DNA is to genetic makeup of life. Everyone has their own individual unique way of dealing with or not dealing with. Not dealing with ethnical problems quickly as they arise will cause unnecessary evil for an organization. The important fact to remember is the cause and effect factors associated with those decisions. It's also important to remember that everyone in America has civil rights and liberal rights; no one has the right to arbitrarily violate those rights. My philosophy is simple and could be a solution to remedy any ethnical dilemmas, issues, or problems; your rights stop where my rights began, my rights stop where your rights began. If leaders where to incorporate this analogy into the everyday business of the Army, it would perhaps elevate many of the causes and effects of ethnical violations that arise.

Size up the situation. Every situation is as different as ones personality.

Issue: As the battalion was beginning to gear up for deployment to Afghanistan with one of the master sergeants filling in as the battalion Command Sergeant Major for six months until the new command sergeant major arrived. Once the CSM arrived on station, now only five months prior to deployment, the BC had the entire battalion command team meet and greet the new CSM at the airport to welcome him into the battalion. The CSM arrived at the airport with several sub par factors already against him. First, the CSM was extremely overweight, or overly fat, not meeting the Army's weight program in accordance with standards of AR 600-9. Secondly, the CSM did not appear to set the standards already established by the 25th Infantry Division; setting a personal appearance for his Soldiers. The CSM also arrived with a permanent P2 profile for a numerous of reasons that limited him from performing physical training and certain warrior tasks and drills. As the battalion was steadily operating at about one hundred and fifty miles an hour operation tempo, during pre-deployment training and operations it was pretty obvious that the new BN CSM was not up to the challenge. Situation: Within this particular command structure was total chaos and confusion that severely caused catastrophic events throughout the command during combat operations. Lack of command relationship severed the professionalism of Soldiers, unit, motivation, discipline, and moral of the organization. The inappropriate relationship between the Command Sergeant Major (CSM, and the Battalion Commander (BC) proved to be deadly for a well trained, combat effective battalion. The BC and CSM did not get along in peace time or during wartime operations as the battalion was continuing to ramp up for the upcoming deployment to Afghanistan, for Operation Enduring Freedom IV. Rumors began to fester and run rapid throughout the battalion that the BC and CSM had some personality issues. For months the BC drilled to the battalion his strong beliefs and standards of the leadership within the organization.

The BC often spoke to all Soldiers after a battalion run about individual responsibilities' being and remaining disciplined, setting the right example, being morally fit, physically fit, and most importantly spiritually fit. The Battalion Commander established policy letters and memorandums set forth his command guidance and reinforcing the 25th Infantry Division, 350-1 training guidance. For example, every Soldier must complete a four mile run within 36 minutes; complete a 12 mile road march while carrying 35 pounds within 4 hours. Needless to say, from the BC's perspective, his new CSM represented everything except those well defined standards, qualities, and traits. The CSM never led or participated in a battalion cohesive run or a unit team building event, he would always select one of his first sergeants, which was always myself to take the battalion through it all prior to deployment. This continued on even throughout the deployment phase of operations.

The CSM efforts or a lack thereof drove a stake through the BC's entire concept of operation both prior to deployment and upon arrival into theater of operations. Once the battalion set foot in Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, all hell broke loose. The BC lost all focus of commanding the battalion; he concentrated all his time and energy one and twenty percent effort the entire one year deployment trying to rid the CSM. The unprofessional actions, words, and deeds of the BC and CSM proved to cause more collateral damage amongst the unit, organization, and Soldiers more then the bodily injuries from bullets or improvised explosive devises (IED).