

**“PUSH, CHALLENGE, AND DISCIPLINE  
OR BABY-SIT?”**



**“P.C.D is for ME”**

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## P.C.D vs. Baby-sitting

The first thing you must understand that the armed forces was built by Pushing, Challenging and Discipline soldiers since the late 1700s and the leaders of the past have instilled these principles and through various documents such as the blue book and NCO guides of the Past and the Army Times and NCO Journals of today. Everyday we must re-evaluate what makes us soldiers and why we fight for the ultimate reward of freedom and peace in the world. We must set the example and ensure that we preach, teach and mentor our soldiers and not “baby-sit” them and provide them with a false sense of security.

Let's break this definition down into parts so we can look at and study it. Webster states that to push is a vigorous effort to attain the end or a military assault or attack; to move or endeavor to move away or ahead by steady pressure without striking. The next word is Challenge which means to demand as due or deserved; to order or halt and prove identify; a summons that is often threatening, provocative, stimulating, or inciting; a summons to a duel to answer affront; arousing competitive interest. The final word is Discipline, which contest for instruction; a field of study; training to correct, molds, or perfects the mental facilities or moral character; to punish or penalize for the sake of discipline. These words put together provide a trinity for soldiers and subordinates to follow to attain a common goal for Army harmony.

The reason a chose to talk about this trinity of foundation is to show you if you have these things then babysitting soldiers does make sense. I tried to find a more elaborate word than babysitting but this word is straight to the point and direct/. Let's look at babysitting as stated in Webster, states that baby-sit to care for children during a short absent from parents; to give care for in absence of. The army has never insisted of babysitting soldiers in order to raise them as babies or children but everyday the older soldier has to provide these services. The newer

generation soldier 25 and younger, in my mind, doesn't have the discipline of which the older soldier 34 years and older has in today's Army. I have been in the Army for almost 19 years and I have seen the changes come about and how the trinity will play part in the development and growth of "army of one" soldier.

Now, I don't mean to belittle any person or deface one's character but we need to ensure that all soldiers have the trinity instilled in them from basic to their first duty station. How do we infect the trinity into these soldiers and the answer would be the NCO Corps. The Army NCO Corp is one of the strongest in the armed forces today and the structure it provides starts from PLDC or Warriors leader course unto the Sergeants Majors Course. As leaders, we must ensure this NCO Corps stay alive and continues to instill into every private to staff sergeant until the end of time. We have Webster's definition of what each part of the trinity means but let's put it into context so that the basic NCO and soldier could understand.

The first part of the trinity is initial push, which we all must ensure happens early enough so that the base or foundation is established. Like a good house, you need strong foundation for a house to rest on for many years to come. Push soldiers during basic and AIT to achieve excellence that will transpire into greatness later on in their careers in the army or civilian endeavors. I have encounter a lot of soldiers who just need a push to get over an obstacle or issue because they just don't know what to do to complete that task or mission. We as leaders must take the personal time to make theses things happen without remorse.

Today's society doesn't exist based on community or social interaction of that of early 70's and 80's. Just look at how most house are being built without porches or anything that would allow for any social integration but the garages are being built larger so that when you come home from work or school you just pull in the garage and go inside the house with no link

to any neighbors or friends that may be out in the neighborhood. Let's talk about challenge and why it's important to Soldiers development and growth. In the early years when I was a squad leader, I talked to my Soldiers and told them I have to challenge them to ensure they pushed themselves to excellence. I told them I wouldn't baby-sit them because it does nothing for them and it creates dependent soldiers who can't do things for themselves.

Soldiers need strong leadership and strong leaders to implement principles of warrior ethos into their every move. How does a Soldier become great? I feel it's through the development and growth instilled in them as squad leaders, platoon sergeants, and first sergeants. Now, the key ingredient to ensure the trinity stays intact is discipline and this is the roof for the house that been built. Let's recap before we get into the aspects of discipline, the first was the push which is the foundation of the house being built then you must add the bricks and walls which are the challenges and the discipline is the roof that tops the house off and keeps the rain I call problems from coming in.

Discipline is the key in anything you do because discipline is doing the right thing in the absent of orders. That sound like a easy thing to do but it is very challenging just because it so easy to do wrong and I have heard one of my mentors state that "no one wakes up to do wrong" and that really has stuck with me.

Inclosing, we must not baby-sit Soldiers, we have to Push, Challenge and Discipline soldiers to the right thing in the absent of orders and ensure they build a house that will stand up to the test of time. What legacy will you leave for Soldiers to follow? If you're in the Army for you and you're a NCO then you need to re-look this and focus on the progress of growth in Soldiers and not the process.