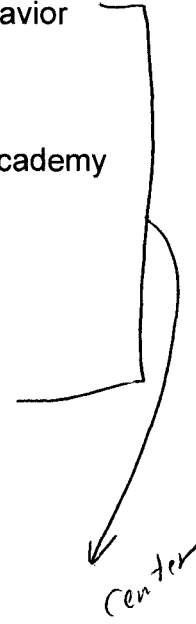


Running Head: ETHICS, LEADERSHIP, AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR

Ethics, Leadership, and Human Behavior
SGM Moises Martinez
United States Army Sergeants Major Academy
Class 57
SGM Del Hoyo
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center

Ethics, Leadership and Human Behavior

Ethics are individual beliefs, personal, social, and professional rules and guidelines that people live by. The environment, a person is raised in, will establish the ethical foundation of that person. Webster's dictionary defines ethics as "the whole field of morals, duties, values, and virtues – our attempts to order human conduct toward the right and the good." The dictionary also defines morals as "the rules and duties that govern our behavior as persons to person (gentleness, compassion, fidelity, fairness)," and values as "states of affairs that are desired by and for people and that we want to increase (health, wealth, freedom, happiness, human rights)."

Personal rules and guidelines that an individual establishes for themselves and lives by, will decide what is ethical and what is not ethical to that individual. People are different in many ways. No one person will have the same views on morality, values, or ethics.

What is morally and ethically correct for one person may not be for another. What is the right or wrong thing to do in any given situation for one person, once again may not be for another. Why is this? Individual beliefs are like all the other parts that make up one's character. Beliefs are developed throughout life and may change during certain times of the life cycle.

Social ethics is a general consequence of what is acceptable behavior and what is not, for a certain society. Societies and cultures vary in many ways, what is ethically correct in one culture, may get you put in jail or killed in another. Time also plays a major role in what is ethically correct and what is not. What was acceptable in the past may not be so today.

Professional ethics are rules, laws, regulations and guidelines established by an organization. Organizations establish what is ethical and what is not for the people within the organization. Organizations do this to set standards, build rapport, to make a profit, and to instill discipline.

The United States Army (USA) is an organization that has created a set of Army values that will inculcate a set of professional ethics in all soldiers. These values are: Loyalty – Bear true faith and allegiance to the United States (U.S.) Constitution, the Army, your unit, and other soldiers. Duty – Fulfill your obligations. Respect – Treat people as they should be treated. Selfless-Service – Put the welfare of the nation, the Army, and your subordinates before your own. Honor – Live up to all the Army values. Integrity – Do what’s right, legal and moral. Personal Courage – Face fear, danger, or adversity (physical or moral). As a professional soldier, I do my best to adhere to the Army values. Doing so strengthens my ethical foundation.

Environments and situations that an individual or a unit work in, may dictate a change in values or ethics. Special Forces (SF) is the USA’s primary unit for conducting Unconventional Warfare (UW). In these types of operations, SF soldiers conduct missions in isolated areas while immersed in the cultures of indigenous people who may not have the same values and ethics. This often presents unique and challenging ethical situations. SF soldiers must balance their ethics with those of the host forces while still focusing on mission accomplishment and battlefield success.

American ethics characterize the standards of behavior for American soldiers when deployed to host countries. In many parts of the world, the ethics of indigenous people are shaped by local factors such as tribal, religious, and historical influences. The United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (USAJFKSWCS) orients all SF soldiers by training them in the language and cultural aspects of specific regions of the world. This prepares SF soldiers to meet the challenge of maintaining American ethics while operating in foreign cultures.

During UW, one of the initial steps in operating with indigenous people is to build rapport. SF soldiers use a variety of principles and techniques to gain mutual respect and confidence between themselves and their indigenous counterparts. These principles and techniques establish a mutual understanding of each other's cultural and ethical differences. Both sides realize that they need each other and they must continue to work together to accomplish their operational and tactical objectives despite their differences. Establishing this climate makes it easier for SF soldiers to maintain their ethics regardless of the behavior of their indigenous counterparts. This climate also makes it easier for SF soldiers to influence indigenous forces to conform to American ethics and the international standards of conduct in war and conflict.

American soldiers must uphold their ethical standards at all times. This can be challenging when conducting operations with foreign indigenous forces that do not have the same values and ethics. SF soldiers' reputation of success, in the realm of UW and operating in foreign cultures, provides us with an excellent example of professional soldiers who maintain America's standards of ethics in challenging ethical situations.

With all this being said and done, I've not met one morally or ethically correct human being in my life. All we can do is the best we can in any given situation. Human nature is a beast, and you may fail yourself and others around you from time to time.

The Army as an Institution does a great job training its Soldier. From the minute they get to basic training and throughout their careers constantly infusing training and presenting this Soldiers different types of scenarios thru the different types of leadership roles. It does not matter what rank you hold, from private to senior leader you will constantly face different circumstances that will teach or challenge your ethical values thus creating ethical dilemmas

Convincing - who's correct?

We need to remember and understand that human behavior is a very complicated and difficult constant and that truly cannot be controlled creating ethical challenges or dilemmas.

Leadership plays a most important role while dealing with ethical dilemmas. Young Soldiers will always look up to it's leaders and see how they deal with this most complicated issues and draw their conclusions or actions from those leaders action or lack off.