

Running Head: Ethics Paper

Ethical Problems Facing Senior Noncommissioned Officers in

Today's Army

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Senior Noncommissioned Officers in today's Army face many Ethical problems, orders, reasoning, and dilemmas in there operational and organizational climates daily. Army leaders must consistently stay focused and adhere to the essential principles that the Army values represent and uphold the standards of behavior to produce effective leaders with character. As a Senior Noncommissioned Officer in the United States Army, I see many ethical problems that leaders in today's Army faces and will continue to face when it come to ethics. The ethical dilemmas that I see the Army facing is how as a Senior Noncommissioned Officers can we continue to sustain and develop future ethical leaders as we battle the War on Terror and perform other military operations. As the Army is transforming and moving ahead, we as Senior Noncommissioned Officers will be the role models for the next generation of Soldiers. Our Ethical and moral values and beliefs, will shape the outcome of future generations of Soldiers to do what is ethically moral and legal. As Senior Noncommissioned Officers, we must evaluate and assess what makes us professional Soldiers, what we believe in, and what we stand for and the values and standards we uphold for the good of our Army. To do this, we have to know, define, and understand what ethics is morally and legally. Although we all have a general idea of what ethics is,

we must insure that all leaders have the correct definition of ethics and can clearly understand its meaning and purpose to make ethical decisions when called upon to do so.

Ethics is defined as, the study of the general nature of morals and the specific moral choices an individual makes in relating to others and also the rules or standards of conduct governing the members of a profession.

Moral choices are actions an individual makes in relating to others. As Senior Noncommissioned Officers, we have a duty to mentor our Soldiers in the ways of the Army Values and, to teach them to make the right choices even when it would be easier are unpopular to take short cuts are bend the rules. There are no shades of gray between right and wrong when it comes to making ethical decisions, enforcing standards and doing what is right all the time. Senior leader mentorship is vital to guide Soldiers to do the right thing and choose the harder right over the easy wrong. We must continue as leaders to stress doing the right thing even when know one is around to see your actions is what Ethics is all about; if no one is around watching are monitoring me will I do the right thing yes are no is the bottom line. We must set the example, live the Army values, and uphold the standards and rules stated in the NCO & Soldiers Creeds daily. These rules and regulations govern our conduct on and off duty as we go about our daily business as

leaders. All standards and rules are written down, while others are those traits that were inherited, the norms that we have embedded in our personalities and characters.

As Senior Noncommissioned Officers, we have all faced many ethical questions and dilemmas in our careers at one time or another, and have observed, witnessed, Noncommissioned Officers and Officers put into difficult situations in their careers where they have had to make many ethical choices and decisions. How they made a majority of their decisions is a direct reflection from past leadership, and mentors that they were assigned under.

Sometimes as Senior Noncommissioned Officers, we lose sight of the fact that being in the top enlisted grade in positions of leadership we must lead from the front. We must not be leaders that teach our subordinates to "do as I say not as I do" style leadership. We must always remember we are leaders and role models first, and that will make you a vital leader in any Army organization. We must lead by "Example" from the front and not use our position to deviate otherwise and never forget as Senior Noncommissioned Officers we are always under a microscope by those that we lead, mentor, and are surrounded by. Do not be deceived in believing that leaders and Soldiers do not observe our every action. The Army is on a fast pace moving forward with its transformation into the next century and it is critical

we judge our actions before we commit ourselves. There will always be someone watching to point out our mistakes and we must live with the outcome of those actions. As senior leader's we are not only judged by Soldiers in the military, but also the US public, and communities states side and abroad. Army Senior Noncommissioned Officer are expected to do the right things for the right reasons all the time, that is why followers count on their leaders to be more than just technically and tactically proficient. Leaders and Soldiers rely on Senior Noncommissioned Officers to make good decisions that are ethical and moral in determining right from wrong during difficult task. The future men and women leaders of the Army are in our hands to instill those key Army values in them that set the United States Army apart from other nations.

Senior Noncommissioned Officers face many difficult roads ahead with ethical situations especially now with the War on Terror and combat deployments by all the branches to Iraq and Afghanistan. In combat, ethical choices are not always easy, and the right thing may not only be unpopular, but also dangerous as well. Complex and dangerous situations will often reveal who is a leader of character and who is not. Leaders are charged to train and instill the Army values and morals in Soldiers and leaders under their watch at this most challenging time in the War on Terror to prevent some of the major ethical

problems. Allot of Soldiers are committing major ethical problems during their deployment to Iraq, and Afghanistan from rape, murder, theft, and many others ethical things that destroy morale, cohesion, and undermines the trust, confidence, essential to teamwork, and mission accomplishment.

In closing Senior Noncommissioned Officers in today,'s Army face many ethical dilemmas daily in their areas of operations, and have to make the right ethical decision when called upon to do so. Leading by Example and upholding the Army Values is vital to producing future leaders who can make good ethical decisions to solve are fix problems when they arise in their organizations. Senior NCOs will continue to shape the climate and behavior of Soldiers and leaders on how they develop ethically in the Army. Being a good ethical leader leaves a lasting impression and contributes allot to the success of your organizations that you lead, and as leaders it is very important that we continue to sustain, coach, teach and mentor Soldiers of today's Army and the future to be good ethical leaders.

