

Running head: Having a Blind Eye

Having a Blind Eye

MSG Hanson Clark

United States Sergeants Major Academy

Class 58

SGM Del Hoyo

3 January 2008

This is my personal view point on some of the ethical dilemmas that I have seen during my time in the military. I have a few areas that I will address during my paper. The title of my paper is having a blind eye or accepting double standards within the military when only one regulation exists for all members of the service.

As a Soldier in the United States Military it is my responsibility to maintain my body within the army height and weight standards governed by AR 600-9. If a Soldier fails to maintain these standards certain action should take place. The action should be that the Soldier is flagged with no favorable action, the Soldier is entered into the army weight control program, the Soldier is sent to an nutrition for medical screening, the Soldier is placed in an special population physical fitness program, and the Soldier is weighed in once every month until I tape off of the program. These actions happen with an enlisted Soldier, but not with a Commissioned Officer. The enlisted Soldier will not get promoted, attend any type of schooling military or civilian until that flagged is lifted. The Officer will get promoted, attend school and any other favorable action that is initiated. Nothing is done about the double standard.

The dress uniform should only be worn during military functions. Once the function is over the Soldiers should not go out to the local bars with the dress uniform on. If by chance a junior Soldier was out at the local bar in Class A uniform drinking, dancing and having a great time. Some senior leader would walk up to that Soldier and address them. A senior leader informs that Soldier that it would be in their best interest to leave the area while in uniform. Just a few weeks ago these issues happen, but not junior leaders it was the senior leaders of the NCO Corps. Nothing was said to these NCOs.

The NCO Creed, Warrior Ethos, Soldiers Code, and the Army Values are great documents for army training, but in my opinion not the true attributes within the army leaders

which I have experience in my 18 years of service. Loyalty is a value that is over used in the military. Most of my leaders only talk about loyalty when you disagree with what they are saying. If I disagree with a view point of my superior that does not mean that I am not loyal. A Soldier gets in trouble for not making formation on time. My corrective action for that is ensuring that the team leader is more involved with getting that Soldier to work on time. The platoon sergeant and squad leader will assist in this process. The Soldier must report to formation 20 minutes prior instead of 10 minutes prior like everyone else. This will continue until the problem does not exist anymore. My superior gets an ear of the situation and states that the Soldier should receive an article 15. I hold to my belief and attempt to correct the problem. I explained my theory to my superior but he did not want to hear that. I still didn't change my action. Then I am target as an outcast not a team player. Respect is another term which is over used. Treat others as I would like to be treated. I have experienced senior NCOs talking to junior enlisted Soldiers about the incompetence of their leaders. When I say senior NCO I speak of CSM talking to junior enlisted Soldiers about his 1SG within the Brigade or Battalion. How can a young Soldier respect their leadership if the CSM is speaking negative about them. The CSM which I am referring to does not speak this way to the 1SG when they are in his meetings or even in his office. This type of behavior has to be stopped. The NCO Corps can not survive the entire cut throat that happens. Senior officers sit back and observe the NCOs putting each other down. This must stop in order to save our corps.

A junior single Soldier leaving in the barracks versus a junior married Soldier leaving in housing. Every morning prior to physical fitness training supervisors enter the single Soldier leaving in the barracks room. Supervisors are inspecting the Soldiers room, and waking the Soldier up. The Soldier has no privacy. On the other hand the married Soldier comes to physical

fitness formation and no one is inspecting their home. How do we know that his/her house is squared away or not? This is another blind eye that is taken.

Corrective Training is an area that I don't think is used the way it should be.

Corrective training is methods or techniques that are used to correct infraction not abuse or punishment. NCO does not have the authority to punish only the right to correct. If corrective training is used it should be in line with the infraction. It should not be used to degrade a Soldier. I have seen corrective training be used to the extreme. What makes this problem so bad it that senior leaders know what is going on? A Soldier shows up for work needing a haircut after a long weekend. The action taken was escort the Soldier to the barbershop. The Soldier gets a haircut. Once the Soldier returns to the company area he must cut grass with scissors in the hot sun. Leaders sit back and laugh at the Soldier. Soldier continues to fail the written part of the drivers test. As long as the Soldier fails the written part of the drivers test they are not allowed to drive or pull staff duty. Again, Soldier failed the written portion of the test. The Soldier was instructed to wear a sign around his neck explaining why he could not pass the written portion of the drivers test after three times. Senior leaders were aware of these methods and nothing was done. Soldier was more than an arm reach away from his weapon. The weapon was not taken by anyone. Once the training exercise was over the Soldier had to walk around with full LBE, Kevlar, Pro mask, and a broom as his weapon for one week. Nothing was done. I was not in any position to make changes but I voiced my opinions. The phrase that I received was when you are in charge take charge until than be quite.