

Running Head: Ethics of our Enemy and the Changing Ethics of America

Ethic of our Enemies and the Changing Ethics of America

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Today the United States and the free world are at war with Islamic Fundamentalist. Islamic Fundamentalist is just another word for terrorist. I think it is important to understand the Ethics of our enemy. Since my assignment at the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy is to write a paper on Ethics, I figured I would bring to light some of the ethics of Al Qaeda and the other terrorist groups roaming the world. Also, I want to explore the changing ethics of the United States and the American people as a whole. I want to ask the question, *Are the current Ethics of Americans tying the hands of our Soldiers, Marines Sailors, and Airmen fighting everyday in the ongoing Global War on Terrorism.* How many lives have been lost because we are fighting a war with ethics against an enemy that has none?

First in order to understand the Ethics of our enemy, we must understand a couple of definitions. These are definitions out of my dictionary:

- Morals are rules or habits of conduct with regard to standards of right or wrong.
- Ethics are the study of the general nature of morals and the specific moral choices an individual makes in relating to others. 2. The rules or standards of conduct governing the members of a profession.

What is Terrorism? Joint Publication 1.02 defines terrorism as “the calculated use of unlawful violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological.” The important words here “unlawful and intimidate.”

Now let’s examine some of the ethics of our enemy. How do they wage war? Strategically, our enemy blows up U.S. Embassies in Africa, they attack the USS Cole, they blow up night clubs in Bali, they try to simultaneously blow up 10 airlines full of civilians over

the Atlantic ocean and, course we, will never forget the attack on our country on September 11, 2001. Those are just a few examples of our enemies strategic TTPs. They use terror as their weapon of choice. Tactically, or enemy uses suicide bombers to attack civilian and military targets. They encourage secretarian violence. They kidnap and execute not only military targets but also civilians. How do these victims get executed? The lucky ones get shot. The unlucky ones get beheaded. Remember Daniel Pearl in 2002, Nicholas Berg and Paul Johnson in 2004, just to name a few of the unfortunates. These men had their hands tied behind their back and were beheaded. After being beheaded the there heads were place on their backs, so the camera could get a better shot. Those are just a few examples of our enemies TTPs. I wish I could show the American people some of the war crimes and atrocities that I have witnessed. Unfortunately, now I can be charged under UCMJ for showing these images. Not only can I be charged under UCMJ for showing these images, I can be charged for just having them in my possession. I'm sure Al Ajazera doesn't have the same restrictions. Not only am I sure they don't have the same restrictions; I know they don't have the same restrictions. In the Global War on Terrorism we are losing the media (information) war. In my opinion, our media is our own worst enemy.

Suleiman Abu Ghaith, an al Qaeda spokesman, said "*We have the right to kill four million Americans – two million of them children.*" I bet the media didn't report that statement. Two million children!!!!!! Not military targets, civilian targets to include two million American children. Now there are some ethics.

President Bush said in a speech after the September 9, 2001 attacks on our country, "*The battle is now joined on many fronts. We will not waver, we will not tire, we will not falter and we will not fail. Peace and Freedom will prevail...To all the men and women in our military, every Sailor, every Soldier, every Airman, and every Marine, I say this: your mission is defined.*"

The objectives are clear. Your goal is just. You have my full confidence, and you will have every tool you need to carry out your duty.”

As a soldier I have had the opportunity to see the Global War on Terrorism first hand. President Bush was correct in most, maybe all, of his remarks. Our mission is defined, our objectives are clear and our goal is just, at least at the tactical level. The only question I have is the, “you will have every tool you need to carry out your duty,” part. Please don’t get me wrong. I am not complaining about the support I have while engaged in combat operations. I’m just writing a “Thought Paper” on ethics. I am just throwing this out there....why do we send our Soldier, Marines and Airmen into buildings where some will get killed when we could use our field artillery and air power to level the building? I think I know why...there might be civilian casualties. We did not start this war, but we have to finish it. Our freedom, our way of life, and at least two million of our children depend on it.

During a may 1998 interview by ABC News’ John Miller, Osama bin Laden said, *“We have seen in the last decade the decline of the American government and the weakness of the American Soldier who is ready to wage a Cold Wars but unprepared to fight long wars. This was proven. In Beirut when the Marines fled after two explosions. It also proves they can run in less than 24 hours, and this was also repeated in Somalia.”* Has it only been a decade, or has it been six decades? I wonder if it is weakness in the American people, as he said, or is it a change in the ethics of our country. Do our ethics not allow us to win a war? Do our ethics contribute to the number of casualties and deaths in our armed forces? Does that in turn affect how the American people and congress view the war?”

America’s freedom and our way of life were challenged before – about 65 years ago. On December 7, 1941 the Empire of Japan launched a “sneak” attack against United States military

targets in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. I want to stress that the attacks were against “Military” targets. So what was the America’s response to the attack on freedom and our way of life in 1941? We declared war on Japan and Germany. This war spawned America’s “Greatest Generation.” This where we get into the changing Ethics in America. In 1941, the “Greatest Generation” took off the gloves and fought a World War on their terms. Field Artillery was used against buildings and cities. Dresden was fire bombed. What is fire bombing? Fire bombing is the use of high explosive bombs to blow wooden homes and buildings apart, followed by the use of incendiary bombs to set the city on fire. Between February 13th and February 15th of 1945 four raids were launched against the city of Dresden. A total of 3900 tons of bombs were dropped. In those four days, between 25,000 and 35,000 men, women and children were killed.

In the summer of 1941, two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan. About 150,000 Japanese civilians lost their lives. In these three case studies the “Greatest Generation” killed between 175,000 and 185,000 civilians. Why did we the allies intentionally kill so many? To win a war we didn’t start, and save allied lives. Have our ethics changed that much in 65 years. Are we a nation so cocky to believe that we can win this Global War on Terrorism without civilian casualties?

An Al Qaeda article in January 2003 said, and I quote, “*Deterrence is completely eliminated when dealing with people who do not care about living but thirst for martyrdom. While the principle of deterrence works well in warfare between countries, it does not at all for an organization with no permanent base and with no capital in Western banks... How can such people, who strive for death more than anything else, be deterred?*” I’ll tell you how – you turn the people against them.

President Bush said in his 19 September 2001 speech, “we will make no distinction between the terrorist and those who harbor them.” That is from memory so my not be an exact quote. Anyway, the question is if the house or city is harboring our enemy, why are we making a distinction between the house or city and the Terrorists? The enemy hides behind women and children. At some point don’t we need to fight these people on our terms? That is what we did 65 years ago. They have brought civilians into this fight. The civilians allowed that. Is the enemy is using our own Ethics against us. They know how hard they can push and they push. These people have no respect for life. They have no respect for children. Still the people allow them to use their homes and cities as launching points for attacks on Iraq, the United States, the Iraqi people, and Freedom.

One last thought. I got this off the internet, this is a pretty good point in my opinion:

“In case we find ourselves starting to believe all the anti-American sentiment and negativity the democrats believe, we should remember England's Prime Minister Tony Blair's words during a recent interview. When asked by one of his Parliament members why he believes so much in America, he said:

"A simple way to take measure of a country is to look at how many want in... And how many want out. Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you:

- 1. Jesus Christ*
- 2. The American G. I.*

One died for your soul, the other for your freedom.”

Reference:

TRADOC DCSINT Handbook No. 1: A Military Guide to Terrorism in the 21st Century

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