Employ the Army Ethic
Terminal Learning Objective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action:</th>
<th>Employ the Army Ethic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conditions:</td>
<td>In a large group classroom setting, with a computer with internet access, screen, and projector for the first hour; followed by a small group setting in or outside the classroom with the drill instructor for remaining lesson time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Standards:</td>
<td>The trainee must demonstrate knowledge of the task in accordance with the performance measures verbally to their drill sergeant and in a written test during the phase external evaluations. Key knowledge the trainee must be able to remember includes: relating the Army Ethic to Why and How We Serve; what the Army Ethic is and why it is important; the Seven Army Values; relating the Army Values to the Moral Principles of the Army Ethic; and the four steps in the Ethical Reasoning Model.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Domain - Level:</td>
<td>Cognitive - Remembering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No JPME Learning Areas Supported:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We are committed to do our duty to contribute to the “common defense;” we share a love of country and our Army Family; we defend American values that frame the nation as expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States; and we serve “not to promote war, but to preserve peace.”

- Love of Country and Family
- Preserve the Peace – Prevent, Shape, Win
- Defend the American People and Values
We live by and uphold the Army Ethic in the conduct of our mission, performance of our duty, and all aspects of our lives.

By our solemn oath, we voluntarily incur moral obligations inherent in the shared identity to which we aspire:

**Trusted Army Professional**

with complementary roles as **Honorable Servants**, **Army Experts**, and **Stewards of the Profession**
Importance of the Army Ethic

The Army Ethic explains the nature of honorable service in accomplishment of the mission and performance of duty. It guides the Army Profession in the ethical design, generation, support, and application of landpower. It establishes the standard and expectation for all to serve as stewards of the Army Profession. It is expressed in our moral principles, Army Values, oaths and creeds, laws and regulations, and customs, courtesies, and traditions—all embedded within the Army culture of trust.

- Moral basis
- Trust
- Diversity
- Stewardship
- Conflict

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bh6r9M5dIM
The Army Ethic provides the moral basis for why our Army exists. It emphasizes the imperative of being an honorable leader, follower, and steward of trust with the American people.
Within the Army Profession, we earn and reinforce trust among Soldiers, Army Civilians, and the Army Family by living the Army Ethic and consistently demonstrating our character, competence, and commitment.
As volunteer Soldiers and Army Civilians, we mirror our diverse society. This is our strength. At the same time, trust requires that all of us live by and uphold common, fundamental moral principles.
Stewardship includes the duty to develop character by educating, training, and inspiring all who serve to adhere to, internalize, and uphold the Army Ethic as their own.
Rapid changes in the nature of armed conflict present ethical challenges to mission accomplishment. These include complexity on future battlefields, particularly within the human and cyber domains. We must anticipate the ethical challenges associated with this uncertainty and be guided by our Army Ethic.
Our Army Ethic has its origins in the philosophical heritage, theological and cultural traditions, and the historical legacy that frame our Nation.

We respect “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness,” self-evident truths expressed in the Declaration of Independence, as American values and universal rights.

These principles are enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution and our Bill of Rights.

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Preamble to the Constitution of the United States
The Legal and Moral Framework of the Army Ethic

The framework for the Army Ethic shows the rich and varied legal and moral sources of its content; it reflects our national values and moral principles. By our oath of service, we commit ourselves to these time-honored and enduring ideals. The two aspects of the Army Ethic are the Army as a Profession from an institutional perspective, and Individuals as Professionals from an individual perspective. The Army Ethic is derived from both legal and moral foundations as shown in the table. Legal foundations define the minimum standard of what we must do or can’t do, while moral foundations establish the higher expectations to which we aspire.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Framework of the Army Ethic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal Foundations</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Army as Profession** (Laws, values, and norms for performance of collective institution) | **Legal- Institutional**  
  - The U.S. Constitution  
  - Titles 5, 10, 32, USC  
  - Treaties  
  - Status-of-forces agreements  
  - Law of war | **Moral-Institutional**  
  - The Declaration of Independence  
  - Just war tradition  
  - Trust relationships of the profession |
| **Individual as Professional** (Laws, values, and norms for performance of individual professionals) | **Legal-Individual**  
  - Oaths:  
    - Enlistment  
    - Commission  
    - Office  
  - USC—Standards of Exemplary Conduct  
  - UCMJ  
  - Rules of engagement  
  - Soldier’s Rules | **Moral-Individual**  
  - Universal Norms:  
    - Basic rights  
    - Golden rule  
  - Values, Creeds, and Mottos:  
    - “Duty, Honor, Country”  
    - NCO Creed  
    - Army Civilian Corps Creed  
    - Army Values  
    - The Soldier’s Creed, Warrior Ethos |

NCO = noncommissioned officer  
UCMJ = Uniform Code of Military Justice  
USC = United States Code

The **Army Ethic** is the evolving set of laws, values, and beliefs, embedded within the Army culture of trust that motivates and guides the conduct of Army professionals bound together in common moral purpose.
The Legal and Moral Framework of the Army Ethic

Army as a Profession

The legal and regulatory foundations of the Army Ethic are found in codified documents, such as the United States (U.S.) Constitution, the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations. Institutionally, these and other codified parts of our ethic serve to establish the mission of the Army. In addition to the legal foundations, the Army Ethic includes higher standards from its moral foundations, such as those expressed in the Declaration of Independence. While the moral principles of the Army Ethic are not law or regulation, they establish the expectations to which we aspire institutionally as a profession and individually as trusted Army professionals.

Individual as a Professional

The Army Ethic is demonstrated in the performance of duty. Army professionals must meet and uphold these standards. They establish the minimum norms for ethical conduct.

Deliberate failure to meet these benchmarks violates the Army Ethic and may result in legal, regulatory, or administrative consequences. Motivated by both the legal and moral foundations of the Army Ethic, Army professionals adhere to all applicable laws, regulations, or rules in the accomplishment of every mission, particularly in combat or in any application of lethal force. These foundations all combine to be the inspirational and motivational foundations for honorable service.

So What?

Situations of uncertainty will and often occur where the rules do not provide a clear, right course of action. In these cases, Army professionals base their decisions and actions on the moral principles of the Army Ethic, ensuring the protection of the inalienable rights of all people. In this way, Army professionals live by and uphold the moral foundation of the Army Ethic and reinforce the Army culture of trust among fellow Army professionals and with the American people.
Army Values

Loyalty:
Bear true faith and allegiance to the 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 subordinates before your own

Honor:
Live up to all the Army values

Integrity:
Do what’s right, legally and morally

Personal Courage:
Face fear, danger or adversity (physical or moral)
Read each example. Identify the Army Value which is most relevant to each example.

- You witness a fellow Private removing something from another Soldier’s wall locker when he stepped away. Within 10 minutes of him returning he notices his wallet is missing. He asks you if you have seen his wallet. You respond "no".

- You are in the Army military police. You are at an emergency preparedness exercise involving multiple units and services. You hear one of the Air Force security police say to his neighbor, “The Army is all about writing tickets and doing investigations. They don’t care about this stuff like we do.” You correct him and state “The Army cares very much about emergency preparedness. That’s why my boss and I are here partnering with you.”

- You are climbing to the top of the rappel tower and you look down. Fear overcomes you to a point that you can’t move. What must you demonstrate to overcome this fear?
The Soldier’s Creed, including the Warrior Ethos (the underlined and bolded text), captures the spirit of dedication that Soldiers feel in being part of something greater than themselves. It outlines the fundamental obligations of Soldiers to their fellow Soldiers, their unit, and the Army itself. The Soldier’s Creed extends beyond service as a Soldier; it includes commitment to family and society.

I am an American Soldier.

I am a warrior and a member of a team.

I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment, and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvKqA4NNOjY
No one is more professional than I. I am a noncommissioned officer, a leader of Soldiers. As a noncommissioned officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as "The Backbone of the Army." I am proud of the Corps of noncommissioned officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the military service, and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit, or personal safety.

Competence is my watchword. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind—accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my Soldiers. I will strive to remain technically and tactically proficient. I am aware of my role as a noncommissioned officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All Soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my Soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my Soldiers and never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment.

Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of my Soldiers. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve, seniors, peers, and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, noncommissioned officers, leaders!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-nABzP-fm0
CODE OF CONDUCT

I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

II

I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.

III

If I am captured I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

IV

If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

V

When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

VI

I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l13FNk7DFxU
As trusted Army professionals, we should aspire to live by the Golden Rule: Treat others as one would want to be treated; or, do not treat others as one would not want to be treated.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Pn0wpIZmLs
Employ the Army Ethic

Crossing the Delaware and the Battle of Trenton

Leader: GEN George Washington
Army Value: Loyalty
Message: I am an American Soldier; I serve the people of the United States
Moral Principle: We serve honorably – according to the Army Ethic – under civilian authority while obeying the laws of the Nation...

Narrative:
The Continental Army found themselves encamped in Pennsylvania after a series of defeats at the hands of the British. General Washington led a demoralized and exhausted Army, many nearing the end of their enlistments. With a harsh winter settling in, General Washington wanted to preserve his force, inspire colonial volunteers to join the Army, and for Congress to support the war effort. In December 1776, he chose to seize the initiative by crossing the Delaware River, then attacking and destroying an isolated garrison of Hessian troops in Trenton, New Jersey. This action provided the Continental Army a much needed victory that bolstered morale and supported future victory at Princeton, forcing the British and Hessian forces to flee from southern New Jersey. General Washington was a primary example of the Army’s purpose, “This We’ll Defend,” remaining loyal to the defense of the fledgling Nation, its future Constitution, and civilian authority.
The Army Ethic includes the moral principles that guide our decisions and actions as we fulfill our purpose: to support and defend the Constitution and our way of life. Living the Army Ethic is the basis for our mutual trust with each other and the American people. Today our ethic is expressed in laws, values, and shared beliefs within American and Army cultures. The Army Ethic motivates our commitment as Soldiers and Army Civilians who are bound together to accomplish the Army mission as expressed in our historic and prophetic motto: This We'll Defend.

Living the Army Ethic inspires our shared identity as trusted Army professionals with distinctive roles as honorable servants, Army experts, and stewards of the profession. To honor these obligations we adopt, live by, and uphold the moral principles of the Army Ethic. Beginning with our solemn oath of service as defenders of the Nation, we voluntarily incur the extraordinary moral obligation to be trusted Army professionals.

**Honorable Servants of the Nation—Professionals of Character:**
- We serve honorably—according to the Army Ethic—under civilian authority while obeying the laws of the Nation and all legal orders; further, we reject and report illegal, unethical, or immoral orders or actions. **HONOR-LOYALTY-SELFLESS SERVICE**
- We take pride in honorably serving the Nation with integrity, demonstrating character in all aspects of our lives. **HONOR-SELFLESS SERVICE-INTEGRITY**
- In war and peace, we recognize the intrinsic dignity and worth of all people, treating them with respect. **RESPECT**
- We lead by example and demonstrate courage by doing what is right despite risk, uncertainty, and fear; we candidly express our professional judgment to subordinates, peers, and superiors. **PERSONAL COURAGE**

**Army Experts—Competent Professionals:**
- We do our duty, leading and following with discipline, striving for excellence, putting the needs of others above our own, and accomplishing the mission as a team. **DUTY-SELFLESS SERVICE**
- We accomplish the mission and understand it may demand courageously risking our lives and justly taking the lives of others. **DUTY-SELFLESS SERVICE-PERSONAL COURAGE**
- We continuously advance the expertise of our chosen profession through life-long learning, professional development, and our certifications. **DUTY**

**Stewards of the Army Profession—Committed Professionals:**
- We embrace and uphold the Army Values and standards of the profession, always accountable to each other and the American people for our decisions and actions. **HONOR-DUTY**
- We wisely use the resources entrusted to us, ensuring our Army is well led and well prepared, while caring for Soldiers, Army Civilians, and Families. **RESPECT-DUTY-SELFLESS SERVICE**
- We continuously strengthen the essential characteristics of the Army Profession, reinforcing our bond of trust with each other and the American people. **DUTY-SELFLESS SERVICE**

LOYALTY, DUTY, RESPECT, SELFLESS SERVICE, HONOR, INTEGRITY, PERSONAL COURAGE
The Army Ethic The Heart of the Army

Our Shared Identity
Trusted Army Professionals

Honorable Servants – Character

Army Experts – Competence

Stewards – Commitment
How We Serve as Trusted Army Professionals

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCDTUIdhPb8
# Moral Challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Black-and-White Moral Challenges</th>
<th>Gray Moral Challenges</th>
<th>Unseen Moral Challenges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You know the right thing to do, but are tempted not to do it</td>
<td>You don’t know the right thing to do: each option seems to have moral costs and benefits, with competing moral principles</td>
<td>Your moral vision is impaired: you don’t even see the moral aspects of the situation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MORAL MACHINE**

**ETICS**
**Ethical Reasoning Model**

**Thinking**
- Recognize the Conflict
- Evaluate the Options

**Motivation**
- Commit to a Decision
- ACT

**Steps**
- Acknowledging that an Ethical Conflict exists, defining it, and identifying the conflicting rules/virtues/outcomes/etc.
- Evaluating the possible Courses of Action using the Ethical Lenses.
- Choosing and committing to the best Ethical course of action.
- Acting on your Ethical decision.

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**ETHICAL REASONING**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYIFI0pPr7s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYIFI0pPr7s)
Using the “Ethical Lenses” (Perspectives)

Is there a Rule/Regulation that applies to the Course of Action (CoA)? Look at law, regulations, rules of engagement, policies, etc. Know the difference between guidance and orders.

Think of and compare possible outcomes for the CoA. A CoA benefitting the greatest number of affected persons may be the best solution.

Finally, look at the COA in light of professional and personal virtues. COAs that seem to be applicable to a conflict but can not be reconciled with the moral principles of the Army Ethic, Army Values, and your personal core virtues are suspect for leading to moral/ethical error.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nWcVOh9f34
Ethical Reasoning Model

“Ethical Reasoning” Model

Recognize the Conflict → Evaluate the Options → Commit to a Decision → ACT

Thinking

Motivation

Acknowledging that an Ethical Conflict exists, defining it, and identifying the conflicting rules/virtues/outcomes/etc.

Evaluating the possible Courses of Action using the Ethical Lenses.

Choosing and committing to the best Ethical course of action.

Acting on your Ethical decision.
Scenario: Your platoon is conducting M4 rifle qualification at the range. You are tired and hungry, and you just want the long day at the range to end. You and your Battle Buddy were on the same firing line and just finished the course of fire. As your firing line proceeds to be “rodded off” the range you notice your Buddy tuck several live rounds of ammunition into his boot as he leaves his firing position. You then see and hear that after “rodding off” the range he went through the “brass and ammo shakedown” without handing over the live rounds.

What should you do?

Use the Ethical Reasoning Model with lenses to make your decision.

What is the conflict?

Evaluate the Options:
Rules.
Virtues.
Outcomes.

Commit to a Decision:

Act: It takes some personal courage to act when there is fear, uncertainty, and risk. Consider if your decision would be different if your squad leader or platoon guide told you to do the opposite of what you thought was right. What would you do then?
Reflection

What is the main take away from what you learned?

Why do you think it is important to understand the material?

How will this information benefit you in the future?
This lesson described the Army Ethic to include its legal and moral foundations and Army Values. The Army Ethic is the heart of the Army and the inspiration for our shared professional identity – Who We Are – Why and How We Serve. The Army Ethic, including the Army Values, guides our decisions and actions on and off duty.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRXrEiBeOXo
Questions?