

ARMY CUSTOMS, COURTESIES AND TRADITIONS HANDOUT
AMERICA'S ARMY – OUR PROFESSION (AAOP) TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

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As Army professionals, we must:

- a. Apply Army Customs, Courtesies, and Traditions within their organizations to develop esprit de corps.
- b. Incorporate Army history into formal and informal activities to inspire a sense of shared organizational heritage and Army heritage among their members.
- Steward the Army by continuing to honor Customs, Courtesies, and Traditions that reflect and strengthen the Army's Essential Characteristics Military Expertise, Honorable Service, Esprit de Corps, Stewardship of the Profession, and "the bedrock of the profession," Trust, for current and future generations.

Esprit de Corps is the winning spirit within the Army Profession, embedded in the culture, sustained by traditions and customs, fostering cohesive and confident units with the courage to persevere. It is one of the Army Profession's Essential Characteristics (ADRP 1).

- A spirit that fosters teamwork, cohesion, cooperation, and loyalty (ADRP 6-22).
- A characteristic that is developed and strengthened through the disciplined practice of our "military art and science" and reflected in our time-honored customs, courtesies, and traditions.

Army Culture is a longer lasting and more complex set of shared expectations than climate.

- Culture consists of the shared attitudes, values, goals and practices that characterize the larger institution over time.
- Climate is a reflection of how people think and feel about their organization at the moment.
- *Esprit de Corps* is a vital element within Army Culture.

A **Custom** is an established practice.

- Both official and social.
- Include positive actions – things you do and taboos – things you avoid.
- The customs of the Army are its common law.

Courtesy among Army Professionals is vital to maintain discipline.

- Includes good manners and politeness in dealing with other people.
- Provides a basis for developing good human relations, for building relationships.
- Was developed in a military atmosphere and has become an integral part of serving in uniform (FM 7-22.13).

Tradition is a customary pattern of thought, action, or behavior held by an identifiable group of people.

- Expressed in the things we do and say and in the uniform we wear.
- Information, beliefs, and customs handed down by word of mouth or by example from one generation to another.
- The "Army Way" of doing and thinking.