



**Living the Army Ethic –  
America’s Army: Our Profession**

Our Army Ethic includes the moral principles expressed within the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. As Soldiers and Army

Civilians, we swear an oath to support, defend, and bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution. This American military requirement is a solemn commitment to render Honorable Service on behalf of the American people.

In our service, we represent who we are as a Nation. Our actions must be ethical and just. We swear our allegiance to the Constitution and defending the rule of law. We should never take this responsibility lightly. It is this solemn commitment that sets us apart from other nations and armies. It’s not about you, yourself. It’s about you swearing to support and defend the Constitution. In living our Army Ethic, we must remember why and how we serve.

Professions must be trusted and committed to service on behalf of society. The military profession provides a unique and essential service to society. Professions will endure when they adapt and continue to provide relevant, essential, societal service and strive for standards of excellence.

On June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress created our Army and gave us the mission to defend what would become the American dream. In that tradition, as Army Professionals, we dedicate our lives to preserve that dream for generations to come. In fulfilling this sacred duty, we live by and uphold the Army Ethic in all aspects of life.

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Army Doctrine Reference Publication (ADRP) 1 describes the Army Profession as “a unique vocation of experts certified in the design, generation, support and ethical application of landpower, serving under civilian authority and entrusted to defend the Constitution and the rights and interests of the American People.”

Our Army Profession’s certification criteria: Competence, Character, and Commitment and its essential characteristics reinforce our bedrock of Trust -- with the American people, within our ranks, and with Army Families. We must consistently contribute Honorable Service, Military Expertise, and Stewardship of the people and resources entrusted to our care; this is a life-long Duty. In this manner, we ensure our Army is trained and ready to accomplish the mission, in the right way, on behalf of the American people whom we serve; now and for the future.

This We’ll Defend! Army Strong!

RAYMOND T. ODIERNO  
General, United States Army

**Five Essential Characteristics of the Army Profession**

<b>Military Expertise</b>  Our Ethical Application of Landpower	<b>Honorable Service</b>  Our Noble Calling to Service and Sacrifice	<b>Trust</b>  The Bedrock of our Profession	<b>Esprit de Corps</b>  Our Winning Spirit	<b>Stewardship of the Profession</b>  Our Long Term Responsibility
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**Trust between Soldiers**  
**Trust between Soldiers and Leaders**  
**Trust between Soldiers, their Families and the Army**  
**Trust between the Army and the American People**

Loyalty • Duty • Respect • Selfless Service • Honor • Integrity • Personal Courage  
**Ethical Foundation: Legal and Moral**