

Commander's Guidance for Senior Leader Ethics Education

FOUNDATIONAL MODULE: LIVING THE ARMY PROFESSION

The intent for this module, *Living the Army Profession*, is to provide a platform of study and engagement with peers that will enhance understanding of the Army Profession and Army Ethic as the foundational concepts for Army programs, initiatives, and professional identity. Among American professions, the Army Profession has unique characteristics because of the lethality of our operations. The Nation tasks the Army to do many things besides combat operations, but ultimately as ADP 1 and ADRP 1 state, the primary reason the Army exists is to fight and win the Nation's wars through prompt and sustained land combat, as part of the joint force. The Army must always be prepared to accomplish this mission through the application of lethal force. The uniformed members accept unlimited personal liability, knowing that they may lose their lives to accomplish their mission. The moral implications of this for Soldiers are great and compel them to be diligent in their understanding of what it means to be an Army professional. The Army, like other professions, regulates the behavior and effectiveness of Army professionals and units through its ethic. The *Army Ethic* is the evolving set of laws, values, and beliefs, deeply embedded within the core of the Army culture and practiced by all members of the Army Profession to motivate and guide the appropriate conduct of individual members bound together in common moral purpose.

The first area of this investigation is an examination of the Army Profession doctrine in *Army Doctrine Publication (ADP) 1 The Army, Chapter 2* and *Army Doctrine Reference Publication (ADRP) 1 The Army Profession*. What does it mean for the Army to be a Profession and its members to be professionals? Why does the Army need an Ethic? Is the Army performing as a profession with its members upholding and promoting its essential characteristics?

The second area of investigation is an evaluation of the Army's integration of Army Profession doctrine, Army Leader Development Strategy, and Army Mission Command. How does the Army Profession doctrine inform Army Leader Development Strategy and Army Mission Command? Can the Army develop leaders of character who exercise Mission Command without an understanding of the Army Ethic and essential characteristics? How should the Army Profession doctrine inform the Army's messaging StratCom and marketing?

The third area examines the underlying cultural factors in the Army Profession affecting current Army issues? Why are Sexual Abuse, Sexual Assault and Hazing large issues in the current media when they are inconsistent with the Army Ethic and the espoused values that we as Army Professionals adhere to? Why is the topic of Senior Leader Ethics being debated in the public forum? How can Army Profession doctrine inform Soldier Readiness and Resilience?

The fourth area examines how the message of the Army as a Profession informs an Army program or initiative as it relates to current Army issues. Why should Army Profession concepts be integrated into Army programs or strategies especially those related to current Army issues (i.e. Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Senior Leader ethics, Suicide Prevention, Hazing, Fraternization, Substance Abuse, Equal Opportunity, Ready and Resilient)?

This foundational module, *Living the Army Profession*, promotes learning in the higher categories of the cognitive and affective domains. Learning new material, applying the learning, and engaging in topic discussion is the suggested method for this topic.