The intent of the America’s Army – Our Profession theme is to educate the Total Force on The Army’s Framework for Character Development and the mutually supporting nature of culture, climate, and identity. In order to prevail in large-scale combat operations, Soldiers and Army Civilians must understand the interdependent relationships between character, trust, and mission command.

Strategic leaders strengthen the Army Culture of Trust and set the conditions that support Professional Organizational Climates and living our shared identity. Organizational leaders establish climates that motivate Soldiers and Army Civilians to live by and uphold the Army Ethic in the exercise of mission command. Direct leaders inspire their followers to embrace our shared identity as Trusted Army Professionals.

“Our leaders, then, are going to have to be self-starters. They’re going to have to have maximum amounts of initiative … critical thinking skills … [and] character, so they make the right moral and ethical choices in the absence of supervision under intense pressure in combat.”

General Mark A. Milley
39th Chief of Staff, U.S. Army
As the Army’s proponent for the Army Profession, the Army Ethic, and Character Development, CAPL’s goal is to make training and education about the Army Profession straightforward and effective without burdening the organization with more tasks or extensive preparation requirements. The easy-to-use online resources below are designed to support your training.
This pamphlet contains the key concepts and terminology presented in Army Doctrine Reference Publication ADP 6-22, *Army Leadership and the Profession*.

This pamphlet is produced by the Center for the Army Profession and Leadership (CAPL). If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact CAPL at [http://capl.army.mil/contactus.php](http://capl.army.mil/contactus.php) October 2018
### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our History</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What it Means to be a Profession</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The U.S. Army as a Profession</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Army Profession is a Vocation</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who are Members of the Army Profession?</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Army Ethic</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Certification Process</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preserving the Army Profession</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Characteristics of the Army Profession</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorable Service</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Expertise</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship of the Army Profession</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil-Military Relations</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esprit de Corps</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oaths, Creeds, and Norms of Conduct</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oaths of Office &amp; Enlistment</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soldier’s Creed and Warrior Ethos</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noncommissioned Officer Creed</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army Civilian Corps Creed</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title 10 U.S. Code Requirement of Exemplary Conduct</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code of Conduct for Members of the United States Armed Forces</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army Values</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soldier’s Rules</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeline of the U.S. Army</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The United States Army is the largest branch of the United States Armed Forces and is responsible for land-based military operations. It is the oldest established branch of the U.S. military and is one of seven U.S. uniformed services. The modern Army has its roots in the Continental Army, which was formed on June 14, 1775, to meet the demands of the American Revolutionary War before the establishment of the United States. The Congress of the Confederation officially created the United States Army on June 3, 1784, after the end of the Revolutionary War, to replace the disbanded Continental Army.

The U.S. Army Motto, “This We’ll Defend,” was first used by the War Office of the Continental Congress during the American Revolutionary War. “This We’ll Defend” simply states our commitment and oath to defend the Constitution of the United States and its citizens.
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

The National Guard is a unique and essential element of the U.S. military. Founded in 1636 as a citizen force organized to protect families and towns from hostile attacks, today’s National Guard Soldiers hold civilian jobs or attend college while maintaining their military training part-time, always ready to defend the American way of life in the event of emergencies. The Army National Guard has both a state and national mission.

U.S. ARMY RESERVE

The history of America’s federal citizen Soldier extends back to the early years of the republic. In fact, one of our founding fathers, leader of the Continental Army, and first president, George Washington, presented his concept for a federalized militia in 1783 to a congressional committee created under Alexander Hamilton to investigate and recommend a military establishment.

ARMY CIVILIAN CORPS

In 1776 the Board of War and Ordnance was established with the responsibility of equipping and dispatching troops, maintaining personnel records, and disbursing funds. Five members of the Continental Congress, several clerks, and a paid secretary – Richard Peters, the first Army Civilian – comprised the board. Subsequently the Continental Army hired Civilians for driving, crafts, carpentry, and laborer jobs. Today Army Civilians have a crucial role in the ethical design, generation, support, and application of landpower.
“The Army is a profession because of the expert work it produces, because the people in the Army develop themselves to be professionals, and because the Army certifies them as such. They’re not just time servers; they’re not government bureaucrats. These are people who are motivated intrinsically by a calling – far more than a job – the desire to serve and defend the Republic. Not just anybody can go out and run a patrol on the streets of Baghdad. So that is what uniquely makes the Army a profession – the effective and ethical application of landpower that the American people trust to defend their security interests.”

Don M. Snider, Ph.D.  
FORMER CAPE Senior Fellow Emeritus
A profession is a trusted, disciplined, and relatively autonomous vocation whose members:

- Provide a unique and vital service to society, without which it could not flourish.
- Provide this service by developing and applying expert knowledge.
- Earn the trust of society through ethical, effective, and efficient practice.
- Establish and uphold the discipline and standards of their art and science, including the responsibility for professional development and certification.
- Are granted significant autonomy and discretion in the practice of their profession on behalf of society.
Army Profession: A unique vocation of experts certified in the ethical design, generation, support, and application of landpower, serving under civilian authority and entrusted to defend the Constitution and the rights and interests of the American people.

Army Professional: A Soldier or Army Civilian who meets the Army Profession’s certification criteria in character, competence, and commitment.

The professional responsibilities of a Soldier or Army Civilian include:

 › Preserving the trust and confidence of the American people and fellow Army professionals by sustaining essential characteristics of the profession, including Trust, Military Expertise, Honorable Service, Stewardship, and Esprit de Corps.

 › Strengthening our Honorable Service and demonstrating our strength of character by living in accordance with the Army Values and the Army Ethic. Those values and principles are the basic moral building blocks of our profession.

 › Advancing our expert knowledge, skills, and abilities in unified land operations, and developing and certifying every Army professional in character, competence, and commitment.

 › Through our Stewardship, ensuring the present and future development and effectiveness of the profession’s people and resources.

 › Creating and sustaining a professional organizational climate, increasing cohesion, and fostering pride in our profession through Esprit de Corps.
The Army Profession plays a vital role as a partner with the joint community and other government services that dedicate themselves to serving the Nation. We pursue a noble calling and render Honorable Service. We remain remarkably privileged to provide for the common defense of the American people, as we operate to prevent conflict, shape operational environments, and win the Nation’s wars.

Army professionals are individually responsible for developing and maintaining moral character and competence, on and off duty, while following their own personal commitment to work that is more than a job – it’s a calling to serve in the defense of the Nation. As stewards of this honorable profession, all Army professionals must not only regulate themselves but also their fellow professionals.
ARMY MISSION

The U.S. Army’s mission is to fight and win our Nation’s wars by providing prompt, sustained land dominance across the full range of military operations and spectrum of conflict in support of combatant commanders. We do this by:

• Executing Title 10 and Title 32 United States Code directives, to include organizing, equipping, and training forces for the conduct of prompt and sustained combat operations on land.

• Accomplishing missions assigned by the President, Secretary of Defense, and combatant commanders, and transforming for the future.
WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE ARMY PROFESSION?

“We need to reinvest ourselves in the Profession continuously to maintain the fact that we are a profession.”

SMA Daniel Dailey
15th Sergeant Major of the Army

TWO COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

The Army Profession has two broad categories of professionals – Soldiers and Army Civilians. These professionals comprise two complementary and mutually supporting communities within the Army Profession.

Profession of Arms: A community within the Army Profession composed of Soldiers of the Regular Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve.

Army Civilian Corps: A community within the Army Profession composed of civilians serving in the Department of the Army.

Upon taking our initial oaths, we voluntarily join the Army Profession as aspiring Army professionals. Upon completion of the appropriate requirements, we receive our initial certification. This is a significant first step in our development as trusted Army professionals. The responsibility for continuing development and certification is a mutual one, shared between the individual and the Army Profession. Army professionals undergo multiple certifications in order to assume greater responsibility or duty requiring advanced knowledge or skills.

When members of the profession of arms receive their initial certification and commit themselves to live by the Army Ethic, both on and off duty, they become Soldiers for Life. Soldiers for Life contribute to the well-being of the Nation after military service by continuing to demonstrate exemplary conduct in their communities.
The Framework of the Army Ethic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legal Foundations</th>
<th>Moral Foundations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal-Institutional</strong></td>
<td><strong>Moral-Institutional</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The U.S. Constitution</td>
<td>The Declaration of Independence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title 5, 10, 32, USC</td>
<td>Just War Tradition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treaties</td>
<td>Trust Relationships of the Profession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status-of-Forces Agreements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law of War</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal-Individual</strong></td>
<td><strong>Moral-Individual</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oaths:</td>
<td>Universal Norms:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Enlistment</td>
<td>• Basic Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Commission</td>
<td>• Golden Rule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USC – Standards of Exemplary Conduct</td>
<td>Values, Creeds, and Mottos:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCMJ</td>
<td>• “Duty, Honor, Country”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rules of Engagement</td>
<td>• NCO Creed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soldier’s Rules</td>
<td>• Army Civilian Corps Creed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

*Laws, values, and norms for performance of collective institution.
**Laws, values, and norms for performance of individual professionals.
The Army Ethic
The Heart of the Army

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.

Trusted Army Professionals Are

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.

We take pride in honorably serving the Nation with integrity, demonstrating character in all aspects of our lives.

In war and peace, we recognize the intrinsic dignity and worth of all people, treating them with 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.

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.

We accomplish the mission and understand it may demand courageously risking our lives and justly taking the lives of others.

We continuously advance the expertise of our chosen profession through lifelong learning, professional development, and our certifications.

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.

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.

We continuously strengthen the essential characteristics of the Army Profession, reinforcing our bond of trust with each other and the American people.
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION CRITERIA

- **CHARACTER:** Dedication and adherence to the Army Ethic, including Army Values, as consistently and faithfully demonstrated in decisions and actions.

- **COMPETENCE:** Demonstrated ability to successfully perform duty with discipline and to standard.

- **COMMITMENT:** Resolve to contribute honorable service to the Nation and accomplish the mission despite adversity, obstacles, and challenges.

Certification is verification and validation of an Army professional’s character, competence, and commitment to fulfill responsibilities and successfully perform assigned duty with discipline and to standard. The Army has significant autonomy to make decisions due to its unique military expertise and moral obligation to serve the best interests of the Nation. For example, Congress does not normally dictate doctrine to the Army; it trusts the Army to develop it correctly. Through certification, the Army strengthens trust by confirming the professional development of Soldiers and Army Civilians and the readiness of organizations.

Certification in the Army has two purposes. For the Army Profession, certification demonstrates to the American people that the Army is qualified to perform its expert work. For Army professionals, certification also provides motivation and a sense of accomplishment. Examples include an earned rank or credential, selection for a leadership assignment, or successful completion of training.

The Army Profession certifies the character, competence, and commitment of its Soldiers and Army Civilians throughout their service. Certification methods include:

- Official promotion and evaluation systems.
- Professional training and education within Army schools, including branch, skill, and functional area qualifications.
- Centralized certifications and assignments for leadership and command positions.
“Discipline is based on pride in the Profession of Arms, on meticulous attention to details, and on mutual respect and confidence. Discipline must be a habit so engrained that it is stronger than the excitement of battle or the fear of death.”

General George S. Patton, Jr.
Former Commanding General, Third and Seventh Armies
America’s Army was founded on June 14, 1775. Under the new Constitution enacted in 1789, it became a military department of the federal government, a hierarchical bureaucratic institution. Many decades later, by the early 1900s, generations of foresighted Army leaders slowly transformed the Army into the modern professional entity of which we are members today.

The first cohort professionalized by today’s standards was the officer corps. It developed a codified body of expert military knowledge in land warfare doctrine, instituted formal programs of career-long military education, and cultivated a unique military culture grounded in the Army Ethic of honorable service to the Nation. Because of these and other such advancements listed above, bonds of trust between the Army and the American people began to grow.

For many years, some believed that only officers were professionals. But in the aftermath of Vietnam, while rebuilding the hollow Army of the 1970s, such status was extended through professional development to warrant officers, enlisted, and Army Civilians as their vital contributions and value to the profession gained recognition.

The Army as an institution has a dual character. It is both a governmental occupation within a military department organized as a hierarchical bureaucracy and, more recently, recognized collectively as a military profession. These two aspects of the institution – bureaucracy and profession – have very different characteristics and ways of behaving. Both aspects are necessary within the variety of organizations and functions within the Army, but, overall, the challenge is to keep the predominant culture and climate of the Army as that of a military profession.
The Army Ethic – The Heart of the Army

Loyalty • Duty • Respect • Selfless Service • Honor • Integrity • Personal Courage

Trust among Leaders, Peers, and Subordinates
Trust between Soldiers and Army Civilians
Trust in the Army by Army Professionals and their Families
Trust between the Army and the American People
“Trust matters in three ways for us as part of the military profession. Trust matters with the American people. That’s the very essence of why we exist. Trust matters up and down and left and right. And most importantly it matters in combat… That’s the very essence of mission command, and it’s all built upon that single word that’s in the doctrine, the bedrock of the Army Ethic, which is trust. I trust that you will achieve the purpose, and you will do it ethically and morally and legally correct. And that takes an immense and off-the-charts level of character. You’ll have to have a spine of titanium steel to withstand some of the pressures of intense ground combat, and you’ll always have to do the right thing when no one is looking.”

General Mark A. Milley
39th Chief of Staff, U.S. Army
Trust – The Bedrock of Our Profession

The American people place special trust and confidence in the Army as a profession that considers honorable service to the Nation its highest priority. Trust is the bedrock of the Army’s relationship with the American people. Our professional responsibility is to preserve this earned trust. Within the Army Profession, mutual trust is the organizing principle necessary to build cohesive teams. The Army’s ability to fulfill its strategic role and discharge its responsibilities to the Nation depends on:

• Trust among Leaders, Peers, and Subordinates
• Trust between Soldiers and Army Civilians
• Trust in the Army by Army Professionals and their Families
• Trust between the Army and the American People
Honorable Service – Our Noble Calling

The Army exists as a profession for one reason: to serve the Nation by supporting and defending the Constitution in a way that upholds the rights and interests of the American people. This is the basis for the Army Ethic, which is the heart of the Army Profession. The Army Ethic defines what it means to serve honorably. Our professional responsibility is to daily contribute honorable service, living by and upholding the Army Ethic in the conduct of our mission, performance of duty, and all aspects of life.

“Recognizing readiness as the Army’s first priority, we understand that the most critical factor in delivering Army readiness is the development of leaders of character at every level. … Ethical leaders of character strengthen the bond between our Army and our Nation …”

General James C. McConville
36th Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army
“[W]e must reform our outdated personnel system to one that develops smart, thoughtful, innovative leaders of character who are comfortable with complexity and are capable of operating from the tactical up to the strategic level.”

Honorable Mark T. Esper
23rd Secretary of the U.S. Army
“The American Soldier is a proud one and he demands professional competence in his leaders. In battle, he wants to know that the job is going to be done right, with no unnecessary casualties. … The American Soldier expects his sergeant to be able to teach him how to do his job. And he expects even more from his officers.”

General of the Army Omar N. Bradley  
First Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

“There is nothing so likely to produce peace as to be well-prepared to meet an enemy.”

George Washington  
First President of the United States
Military Expertise – Our Application of Landpower

As a profession, our military expertise is the ethical design, generation, support, and application of landpower. This is how the Army contributes honorable service in defense of the Nation. Our professional responsibility is to continually advance our expert knowledge and skills in landpower and to certify Army professionals. To sustain our expertise, the necessity of lifelong learning is accepted by all Army professionals.

The Army professional must develop expert knowledge in four fields:

- **Military-technical**: How the Army applies landpower to accomplish the mission.

- **Moral-ethical**: How the Army accomplishes the mission in the right way according to the values of the American people.

- **Political-cultural**: How the Army understands and operates in a multicultural, complex world.

- **Leader-human development**: How the Army recruits, develops, and inspires Army Professionals.
Stewardship of the Army Profession

Stewardship is the responsibility of Army professionals to strengthen the Army as a profession and to care for the people and other resources entrusted to them by the American people. Army professionals continuously strive for excellence in the performance of duty to accomplish every mission ethically, effectively, and efficiently. Stewardship requires that we understand our work is more than just a job; it is an office. We accept this sense of office when sworn in under oath; this is explicit in the oaths taken by Army Officers and Army Civilians and implied in the Oath of Enlistment. These oaths conclude with the language: “and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter.”
Senior Army leaders have a direct stewardship responsibility to strengthen trust with the American people through their professional engagement in civil-military relations. Civilian authority over the military is established and codified in our Constitution and is the mechanism by which the American people, through their elected and appointed officials, exercise oversight of the military. Army professionals understand this and appreciate the traditional role that such oversight has played throughout our history.

Final decisions and responsibility for national strategy and policy, and for the organization and resourcing of the Army rest with civilian authority. With this understanding, Army professionals have a duty to provide their unique and vital expertise to the decision-making process. It is our responsibility to ensure that professional military advice is candidly and respectfully presented to civilian leaders.
“The Soldier’s heart, the Soldier’s spirit, the Soldier’s soul are everything. Unless the Soldier’s soul sustains him he cannot be relied on and will fail himself and ... his country in the end.”

General of the Army George C. Marshall
15th Chief of Staff, U.S. Army
**Esprit de Corps – Our Winning Spirit**

Success in all our missions requires spirited and dedicated Soldiers and Army Civilians who strive for excellence. We are bonded together through mutual trust, in cohesive teams – units and organizations – a band of brothers and sisters. Our shared identity, sense of purpose, and winning spirit strengthen our individual and collective commitment, resilience, and courage – a never-quit resolve – enabling us to persevere and accomplish even the most arduous mission.

Soldiers and Army Civilians are well-trained, well-equipped, and ready to accomplish a variety of missions. However, these preparations alone are not enough. The challenges of warfare – a formidable and dangerous enemy, a hostile and uncertain environment, physical and emotional fatigue, separation from loved ones, and attendant stresses – wear on even the most experienced Army professional. To persevere and prevail in these conditions requires an intangible resilience that is at the core of our ethos.
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.
“We are at a critical time in our Army’s history, and it is our people – our professionals – who will chart our path forward and ensure we remain the best fighting force in the world. Our Army Profession recognizes that all – Soldiers and Civilians – who have taken the oath to support and defend our Constitution commit themselves to the values that we hold so dear.”

*General Gustave F. Perna*

*19th Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command*
ARMY CIVILIAN OATH OF OFFICE

“I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter; So help me God.”

COMMISSIONED OFFICER AND WARRANT OFFICER OATH OF OFFICE

I, _____, having been appointed an officer in the Army of the United States, as indicated above in the grade of _____ do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign or domestic, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservations or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter; So help me God.” (DA Form 71, 1 August 1959, for officers.)

ARMY OATH OF ENLISTMENT

“I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.” (Title 10, US Code; Act of 5 May 1960).
NATIONAL GUARD
OATH OF OFFICE

I, ____________, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of ____________ against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and of the Governor of the State of ____________, that I make this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of ____________ in the National Guard of the State of ________ upon which I am about to enter, so help me God.

NATIONAL GUARD
OATH OF ENLISTMENT

I do hereby acknowledge to have voluntarily enlisted this __ day of ___, 20___, in the _____ National Guard of the State of ____________ for a period of ____ year(s) under the conditions prescribed by law, unless sooner discharged by proper authority. I, ____________, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and of the State of ____________ against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to them; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the Governor of ____________ and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to law and regulations. So help me God.
SOLDIER’S CREED AND WARRIOR ETHOS

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.
NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER CREED

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!
ARMY CIVILIAN
CORPS CREED

I am an Army Civilian –
a member of the Army Team.

I am dedicated to our Army,
our Soldiers and Civilians.

I will always support the mission
I provide stability and continuity
during war and peace.

I support and defend the Constitution of
the United States and consider it an honor
to serve our Nation and our Army.

I live the Army Values of Loyalty, Duty,
Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity,
and Personal Courage.

I am an Army Civilian.
All commanding officers and others in authority in the Army are required –

1. To show in themselves a good example of virtue, honor, patriotism, and subordination;

2. To be vigilant in inspecting the conduct of all persons who are placed under their command;

3. To guard against and suppress all dissolute and immoral practices, and to correct, according to the laws and regulations of the Army, all persons who are guilty of them; and

4. To take all necessary and proper measures, under the laws, regulations, and customs of the Army, to promote and safeguard the morale, the physical well-being, and the general welfare of the officers and enlisted persons under their command or charge.
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

Article I: 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.
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)
**THE SOLDIER’S RULES**

1. Soldiers fight only enemy combatants.

2. Soldiers do not harm enemies who surrender. They disarm them and turn them over to their superior.

3. Soldiers do not kill or torture any personnel in their custody.

4. Soldiers collect and care for the wounded, whether friend or foe.

5. Soldiers do not attack medical personnel, facilities, or equipment.

6. Soldiers destroy no more than the mission requires.

7. Soldiers treat civilians humanely.


9. Soldiers should do their best to prevent violations of the law of war.

10. Soldiers report all violations of the law of war to their superior.

*AR 350-1, Table F-2, Page 188*
“The history of our Army Profession is the history of our Nation.”

General Fred Franks
Former Commanding General
U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command

Over 200 Years of Selfless
Service to the Nation