

PERSONAL ETHICS



SCIE ARMA SEMINAR

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RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

Presented by:

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Goals



- Review principles
- Discuss personal ethics
- Learn from others
- Have fun

What do we need!



- Personal ethical framework
- Healthy in order to support your principles

Universal Principles



1. Self-determination (autonomy)
 Promise keeping (fidelity)
 Truth-telling (veracity)
 Confidentiality (privileged info)
2. Avoid harm
3. Doing good
4. Fairness/entitlement (justice)

Personal Ethics



Emphasis:

- Continue to build a personal ethical framework
- “... good governments rely first and foremost on **good people** with character... and courage to do the right thing”
- Ethics in public service is a perpetual responsibility

Five Moral Situations



1. Moral **uncertainty** – principle?
2. Moral **dilemma** – two or more principles!
3. Moral **distress** – struggle to choose!
4. Moral **certainty** – choose the right action
5. Existential ethics – act without knowledge of what is right or wrong

Exercise #1



7 Personal Questions

1. I hold myself accountable to?
2. I treasure most?
3. I will not compromise?
4. My strongest strengths are?
5. I need to improve in the following two areas?
6. I want to be perceived/remembered as?



7. List one thing you promise to do!

Example: Keep a personal notebook, journal, and check it periodically

Example: I will spend more time with my children

How do I keep a promise?



You make the decision before an incident!

- (-) **Example:** Don't decide in the ice cream shop to not have a ice cream cone
- (+) **Example:** I will not use the city's computer for personal use

Case #1



A co-worker recommended Mrs. Evans for a Distinguished Service Award (DSA) for her action during a city emergency. The recommendation was approved and the DSA was awarded to Mrs. Evans during a ceremony with the press present. Several months later, you discovered that your co-worker inflated the recommendation and made several statements that were untrue. With this knowledge, the DSA would not have been awarded.

1. What is the problem?
2. What principles are being broken?
3. What action should you take and why?

Case #2



You have become aware that your boss is taking cash from the *ready cash fund* and buying lunch. He stated, on several occasions, that he has been short of cash and has taken several dollars. He further stated that he always paid it back. The records indicate that the *ready cash fund* is short at the end of each week. It is your responsibility to explain the shortage.

1. What is the problem?
2. What principles are being broken?
3. What action should you take and why?



Ethical Bingo

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Training in Decision-making

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