



LIVING THE WARRIOR ETHOS

TASK: Define and discuss The Warrior Ethos and living it.

CONDITIONS: Leader facilitated group discussion.

STANDARDS: Soldiers understand how to live the Warriors Ethos.

REFERENCE(S): ADP 6-22



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The Warrior Ethos Defined

Ethos is defined as the disposition, character, or fundamental values peculiar to a specific person, people, culture, or movement. The Warrior Ethos, the professional attitudes and beliefs that characterize the American Soldier, is a reflection of our nation's enduring values by the profession charged with protecting those values. The Warrior Ethos is the foundation for the American Soldier's total commitment to victory in peace and war.

At the core of every Soldier is the willingness and desire to serve the nation—both its people and its enduring values. The Warrior Ethos is a commitment to serve the nation. Soldiers who live the Warrior Ethos put the mission first, refuse to accept defeat, never quit, and never leave a fallen comrade. They have absolute faith in themselves and their team because they have common beliefs and values.

The seven Army Values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage (LDRSHIP) form the second level of this pyramid of the Warrior Ethos. Army Values are universal; they enable you to see what is right or wrong in any situation. When you encounter a situation that requires you to make a decision, you should apply the Army Values. If any one term is not applied, the decision will be flawed. As you can see, Army Values and the Warrior Ethos are integral parts of a unified system of beliefs as with the Soldiers who follow them, they depend on each other. The Soldier's Creed ties this system together.



LIVING THE WARRIOR ETHOS

The Soldiers Creed

The Soldier's Creed, first committed to memory and then increasingly applied to all your tasks whether routine and safe, or urgent and dangerous puts the Warrior Ethos into the practical context. The intent of the Soldier's Creed is to link your commitment to selfless service to the goal of every other American Soldier (*victory with honor*).

The Soldier's Creed unifies the Army's culture by expressing fundamental human beliefs from a warrior's perspective. It helps Soldiers understand that, no matter what their personal or professional backgrounds may be, all Soldiers are warriors and members of a team with difficult and dangerous tasks to perform. To develop into an effective Soldier, you must begin now to live by the seven Army Values, the Warrior Ethos and the Soldier's Creed.

The Soldier's Creed

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.



LIVING THE WARRIOR ETHOS

The Four Tenets of The Warriors Ethos

Always place the mission first

Never accept defeat

Never quit

Never leave a fallen comrade

While all citizens hold beliefs and values that bring our nation together, Soldiers must take action to protect the nation. The four tenets of the Warrior Ethos provide the motivation for that action, motivation built on a comradeship that the Warrior Ethos creates. Because of that comradeship, Soldiers fight for each other, as well as for their nation and for their beliefs. Time and again you see that Soldiers would rather die than let their buddies down. Living The Warrior Ethos will ensure that your unit has the final ingredients necessary for victory. Soldiers must live The Warrior Ethos to become a competent, confident, flexible, and adaptable team—a team imbued with the Warrior Ethos. Just such a team rescued more than 500 American and Allied prisoners of war from the Japanese at the end of World War II.