



Moral Dimension of Decision Making

TASK: Discuss the topic of the moral dimension of decision making.

CONDITIONS: Given an environment that fosters learning, discuss the topic of the moral dimension of decision making.

STANDARDS: Understand why moral decision making is a critical to the Soldier, leaders, and Army Profession.

REFERENCE(S): ADRP 1, ADRP 6-22.



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Ethical Decision Making Model

- 1. Define the problem:** This is the most difficult step. Gather as much information as possible to understand the problem in as thorough manner as can be accomplished given the time restriction of the situation.
- 2. Know the relevant rules:** Know what rules apply to this situation. For example in a combat environment there are typically Rules of Engagement (RoE) which are approved by commanders or other norms or laws which are applicable.
- 3. Develop and evaluate courses of action:** Determine what options you have. Remember not doing something may be an option. The more realistic options generated the better.



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4. Choose the course of action that best represents the Army values:

Which COA best corresponds to the values of loyalty, integrity, personal courage, honor, duty, respect and selfless service?

Keep in mind that ethical reasoning is very complex in practice. The process to resolve ethical dilemmas involves critical thinking based on the Army Values. No formula will work every time. By embracing the Army Values to govern personal actions, understanding regulations and orders, learning from experiences, and applying multiple perspectives of ethics, leaders will be prepared to face tough calls in life.