



**S M D C / A R S T R A T**  
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All of us, military or civilian, entered the Army with a set of personal values developed during our childhood and cultivated through years of personal experience. When we took our oath to serve this great nation as members of the United States Army, we also agreed to live and act by a new set of values — Army Values. Army Values are the principles, standards, and qualities considered essential for successful Army leaders. They provide the solid foundation that is so critical to helping Soldiers and Army civilians make the right decision in any situation.

Army Values are the moral glue that firmly binds each of us into a group of professionals dedicated to the service of the United States and the Army that protects her. Army Values apply to everyone, in every situation, anywhere in the Army. The trust Soldiers and civilians have for each other and the trust of the American people have for the members of the Army, depends upon how well we embody Army Values.

The Army recognizes seven values that must be embraced and nurtured within all Army members. It is not coincidence that when reading the first letters of the Army Values in sequence they form the acronym "**LDRSHIP**":

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

During this and upcoming issues of *The Eagle*, I will be using my column to discuss Army Values and to reemphasize their importance to Army civilians, Soldiers, and Families. This month, I'll be focusing upon the Army Value loyalty. Army Field Manual 6-22 further defines loyalty:

#### **LOYALTY - Bear True Faith and Allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, Your Unit, and Other Soldiers**

Upon entering the Army, as Soldiers or government civilians, we all swore a sacred oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. We are all expected to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution, and to defend it against all enemies. We are, in effect, swearing our loyalty to the concept of freedom spelled out within our Constitution, and to our fellow Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen who have been entrusted with protecting these freedoms for all Americans. As a group, we are all loyal to the concept of a free America and to the men and women who keep her free.

When discussing loyalty as an Army Value, it is crucial to dispel the notion of a dedicated military professional who gives unthinking consent to all orders issued, whose very honor is a function of unquestioning obedience. This blind obedience or "loyalty" is in no way associated with the core value of loyalty embraced by the Army. As loyal Soldiers, Army civilians, or Family members we must strive to do what's morally right and just. We must remember that we've given our loyalty to principles far greater than an individual or unit.

Bearing true faith and allegiance requires us to refuse illegal or unlawful orders. Loyalty means reporting those who demean our proud history through acts of prejudice, negligence, abuse, or plain stupidity. Loyalty means not going along with the crowd or doing what's popular. Being loyal to the guiding principles of this great country is not always easy, but it is one of our most necessary values.

Loyalty is a powerful thing. It inspires us to overcome great obstacles and allows us to endure great hardships in the name of that which we are loyal to.

As leaders we must remember that we have no prerogative to loyalty. It is hard earned, inspired by honesty and integrity, and is given in trust.

*SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!*