

THE NCO CREED



**WE ARE
PROFESSIONALS,
NONCOMMISSIONED
OFFICERS**

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 tactically and technically 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!



A Historical Perspective: The Noncommissioned Officer

Time has not altered the truth of what Baron Von Steuben wrote at Valley Forge, in his “Regulation for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States.”

“The Choice of Noncommissioned Officers is an object of greatest importance. The order and discipline of a regiment depends so much upon their behavior that too much care can not be taken in preferring none to that trust but those who by their merit and good conduct are entitled to it. Honesty, sobriety, and a remarkable attention to every point of duty, with neatness in their dress, are indispensable prerequisite: A spirit to command respect and obedience from the men, an expertness in performing every part of the exercise and an ability to teach it, are also absolutely necessary; Nor can a Sergeant or Corporal be said to be qualified who does not write and read in a tolerable manner.”

The year was 1778, but there is little we can add to the doughty Baron’s instructions for the Sergeants and Corporals:

“It being on the Noncommissioned Officers that the discipline and order of a company in a great measure depend, that they cannot be too circumspect in their behavior toward the men, by treating them with mildness and at the same time obliging everyone to do his duty. By avoiding too great familiarity with the men, they will not only gain their love and confidence, but be treat-

ed with a proper respect; whereas by a contrary conduct will forget all regard and authority become despised.”

“Each Sergeant and Corporal will be in a particular manner answerable for the squad committed to his care. He must pay particular attention to their conduct in every respect; that they keep themselves and their arms always clean; that they have their effects always ready, and put where they can get them immediately, and even in the dark, without confusion; every fine day he must oblige them to air their effects.”

“When a man of his squad is warned of duty, he must examine him before he carries him to the parade, obliging him to take all his effects with him, unless when specially ordered to the contrary.”

“In teaching the recruits, they must exercise all their patience, by no means abusing them, but treating them with mildness, and not expect too much precision in the first lessons, punishing those only who are willfully negligent.”

“They must suppress all quarrels and disputes in the company; and where other means fail, must use their authority in confining the offender.”

From the Citizen-Soldiers of Valley Forge to today’s All Volunteer Professional NCO Corps, the Noncommissioned Officer’s traditional role of service to the Nation is older than the Nation itself. **A**

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 I live the Army Values.

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.

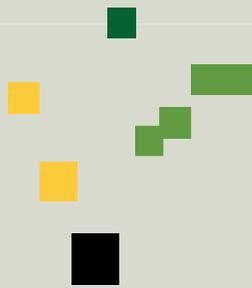
I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I will always place the mission first.



**I am an American
Soldier.**

7 Army Values



LDRSHIP

Loyalty

Bear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. constitution, the Army, and other Soldiers. Be loyal to the nation and its heritage.

Duty

Fulfill your obligations. Accept responsibility for your own actions and those entrusted to your care. Find opportunities to improve oneself for the good of the group.

Respect

Treat people as they should be treated. In the Soldier's Code, we pledge to "treat others with dignity and respect while expecting others to do the same."

Selfless Service

Put the welfare of the nation, the Army, and your subordinates before your own. Selfless service leads to organizational teamwork and encompasses discipline, self-control and faith in the system.

Honor

Live up to all the Army values



Integrity

Do what is right, legally and morally. Be willing to do what is right even when no one is looking. It is our "moral compass" and inner voice.

Personal Courage

Our ability to face fear, danger, or adversity, both physical and moral courage.

SPACE AND MISSILE DEFENSE NCOS TRAINING OUR WARRIORS

PROFESSION OF ARMS



SELT

SENIOR ENLISTED LEADERS' TRAINING CONFERENCE

2011

