

Ethical Decisions



Module 5.0

NOV 2020 Version 2.0

Ethical Decisions

OBJECTIVES

- 5.0a Analyze and discuss the importance of ethics as it relates to the CPO Creed and the trust given to CPOs.
- 5.0b Analyze and discuss the definition of ethics. Discuss how our diversity impacts ethics and how the Navy and CPOs align ethics of all Sailors.
- 5.0c Discuss the effects of unethical behaviors/decisions within leadership and how it erodes trust and credibility of leadership.
- 5.0d Discuss how an individual Chief's ethical failure reflects upon the entire community.

Overview

- CPO Creed
- Importance of trust
- Definition of Ethics
- Ethical Alignment
- Discussions
- Examples of unethical behavior
- Effects of unethical behavior

Ethical Decisions

“It is now required that you be the fountain of wisdom, the ambassador of good will, the authority in personal relations as well as in technical applications. “Ask The Chief” is a household phrase in and out of the Navy. You are now “The Chief.” The exalted position you have achieved – and the word exalted is used advisedly – exists because of the service, character, and performance of the Chiefs before you. It shall exist only as long as you and your fellow Chiefs maintain these standards.”



John Finn



Carl Brashear



Ethical Decisions

Ethics defined:

“moral principles that govern a person’s behavior or the conducting of an activity.”

“rules of behavior based on ideas about what is morally good and bad.”

“the moral correctness of specified conduct.”



Ethical Decisions

The Bathsheba Syndrome

Basis: Biblical story which depicts how power can corrupt our ethical decision-making ability.

KING DAVID

- Humble beginnings
- Rises to power
- Charismatic / Influential
- Strong moral character
- Temptation to abuse position and power for personal gain
- Made the unethical decision and went to lengths to cover it up
- Results in punishment (by God) and upheaval within his kingdom



Ethical Decisions

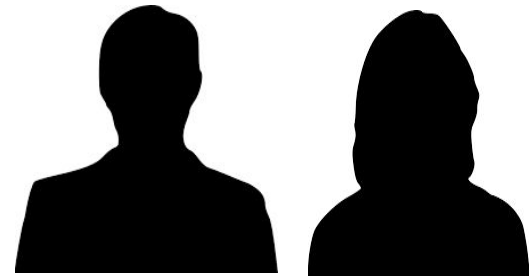
The Bathsheba Syndrome Modern Examples



A sex scandal sunk six senior enlisted Sailors
The failure of the Chiefs mess began back in February when scores of Sailors departed off the cruiser in the Lithuanian port town of Klaipeda, ready to blow off some steam. That night would end with a drunk Chief Sonar Technician, or STGC, having sex with a junior Sailor in the Senior Chief's hotel room.



General Petraeus
Provided classified information to his biographer with whom he was having an extra-marital affair.



Insert a unethical story?

Ethical Decisions

Activity: Ethical decisions

Break into two groups.

- Group 1: List 5 reasons we make bad decisions (5 minutes)*
- Group 2: List 5 reasons we make good decisions (5 minutes)*

Once the activity is complete have someone from each group discuss their lists and give explanations for their choices.



*Positions afford us the “**right**” to make decisions, but the key is to use our positions to make the “**right**” decisions.*

Ethical Decisions

One BAD Apple

- Although there is the accountability to ourselves as individuals to do the right thing as a CHIEF, it is not just the individual CHIEF who suffers when one does wrong.
- “What’s said in the Mess, stays in the Mess” is a message that describes how we can disagree and have differences as a functional Mess; free to provide input to the process and come out in UNITY...
- It is NOT permission to cover our tracks, provide blind loyalty, and violate our ethical obligations to the Navy, our Sailors, and ourselves.

Ethical Decisions

Summary

- CPO Creed
- Importance of Trust
- Definitions of Ethics
- Ethical Alignment
- Discussions
- Examples of unethical behavior
- Effects of unethical behavior