

P THIS WEEK IN THE ARMY

[FIVETHINGS]

EVERY SOLDIER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

The Army ethic

For the first time, the service is putting in writing, in a single document, the Army ethic, a set of principles soldiers should live by, and integrating it into the service's doctrine.

"The Army ethic is not just pie in the sky for four-star generals," Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond Chandler said. "It's for everyone who's an Army professional."

The Army expects units and commanders to talk to their soldiers about the Army ethic during leader development programs, small unit functions, and during one-on-one "oak tree counseling," Chandler said.

"At the end of the day, the best way to do this is looking someone in the eye, having that candid conversation, and there are tools that enable that candid conversation," he said.

What you need to know:

1 What is it? The Army ethic is the next step in the Army's profession campaign.

"Professions have to have an ethic that determines the way they behave, the norms of behavior amongst the profession," said Sgt. Maj. David Stewart, the senior enlisted adviser for the Center for Army Profession and Ethic, or CAPE. "You think about the Hippocratic oath that doctors have. How do I help members of this profession understand what these norms of behavior are, both legally and morally?"

2 Why now? The Army ethic is "everything that we do, each and every day," Stewart said. "We're building trust every day. We're building esprit de corps, we're coaching, counseling and mentoring each and every day."

And the ethic existed in the Army, just in multiple places.

"It exists in our creeds and warrior ethos, but the idea is it's never been in one single spot," he said. "We're putting it all in one place now."

Including it in Army doctrine also will help soldiers better apply the ethic to their daily lives.

"It's very easy for this to be some esoteric thing in the cloud," Chandler said, "but how does it actually apply to you and your battle buddy sitting next to you?"

3 What's next? CAPE, with input from the service's senior officers and noncommissioned officers, put together a white paper outlining the Army ethic and what it will mean for soldiers.

Stewart and his team are preparing to roll out the white paper across the force for even more feedback before it's added to Army Doctrine Reference Publication 1 (Army profession).

The goal is to have the updated ADRP 1 by the Army's birthday in June, Stewart said.

4 Who cares? The Army's top leaders do.

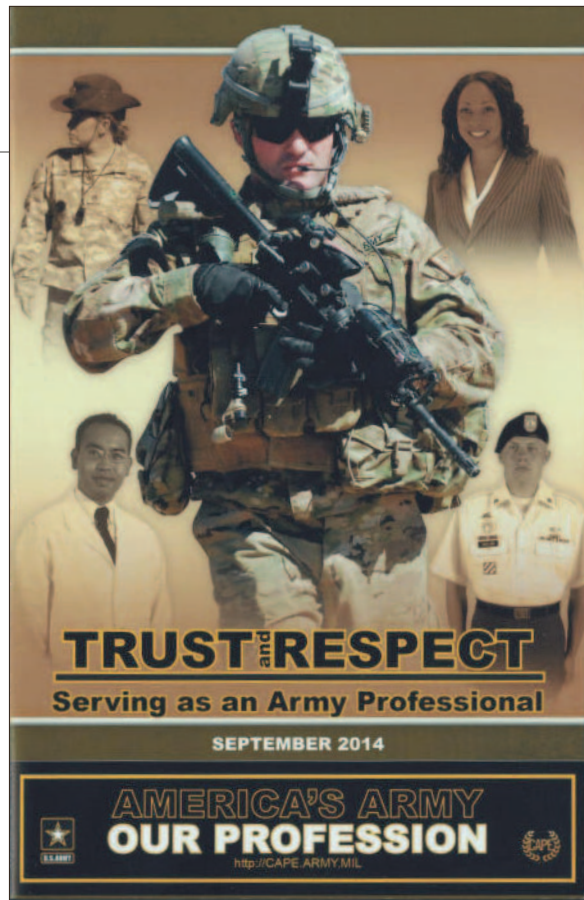
"The professional ethic is not a 9-to-5 ethic. It's a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week ethic," Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno said on Oct. 13. "It has to be a lifelong ethic."

Everything a soldier does reflects upon the profession, Odierno said.

It "reflects on who you are, reflects on those who rely on you to do very difficult missions," he said.

5 Want more? CAPE has put together training materials, including video testimonials from real soldiers, for units and commanders to use. The material, as well as the Army ethic white paper, is on CAPE's website: cape.army.mil.

— Michelle Tan



To read the white paper on the Army Ethic visit cape.army.mil. You can also offer your own recommendations.