



ADVANCED LEADERS COURSE
CLASS 005-16

The Dual Profession
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“EXCEEDING STANDARDS”

Army Doctrine Reference Publication number 1 (ADRP 1) defines being a “professional” using several criteria. These criteria include being one who provides “a unique and vital service to society, without which it could not flourish,” and one who “[e]arn(s) the trust of society through ethical, effective, and efficient practice.” As members of the United States Army JAG Corps, we are not only stewards of the Army profession as defined in ADRP 1, but also of the legal profession. We bear special responsibilities regarding both of these esteemed professions. These responsibilities include being proficient, proactive, and progressive in each field, as well as representing them with honor and distinction. Our Corps, the Army, and the dual professions we have been entrusted with all have a rich, proud history deserving of recognition and consideration. As noncommissioned officers, we not only uphold, but enforce the standard as both Soldiers and legal professionals.

The profession of arms, or being a Soldier, can be summed up in a few words: Fight and win our nation’s wars. In order to fulfill this arduous task, a tremendous amount of responsibility must be placed on organizations and—more importantly, on individuals—to be proficient, proactive, and progressive in the art of soldiering. We must be proficient in our warrior tasks; such as effectively operating our weapons and equipment, executing combat maneuvers, and understanding the military decision making process. We must be proactive by keeping ourselves in a state of impeccable physical fitness, perfecting our tactical knowledge using our own resources, and coaching and mentoring others to follow suit. We must be progressive by pursuing military schools to enhance our abilities as well as furthering our civilian education. We must endeavor to be agile and educated on our current theatre of

operation, and well informed on international politics and foreign affairs; being able to identify emerging threats also directly correlates with being a proactive professional.

As legal professionals, we bear the same burden. The law is alive and always changing, which forces us to be adaptable and constantly educating ourselves. We live in a time of particularly significant changes in ethics, morality, and social acceptability. This change begins with an ember, then flares throughout our society, violently at times, and eventually burns itself into our charge; it burns itself into the law. With every change and every shift, we, as legal professionals, must invoke the utmost discipline and strive to emulate the allegorical personification of the ideal we uphold—Justitia, the Lady Justice. She holds scales to weigh the evidence; a sword to punish those who tarnish or break society's adhesive; and wears a blindfold to ensure the fair and impartial administration of her namesake. Mental sharpening is at the core of the legal profession. Our analytical abilities and critical thought processes require constant maintenance or we could commit the worst possible crime; injustice.

As dual professionals, we are irreplaceable assets in the Army's "One Team" concept. We exemplify what is meant by being a Soldier first. We provide services to the Army that are of paramount importance: Through the administration of military justice, we uphold discipline. By advising commands on proportionality and military necessity in an operational role, we effectively and morally facilitate victory and national security. While performing legal services, we also carry a rifle and are fully capable of bringing the fight to the enemy, personally. We can, and will, individually defend the Constitution of the United States, and the interests and security of her citizens. That is what the One Team concept truly entails.

Either of these noble responsibilities requires discipline, fortitude, integrity, and morality; we are entrusted with both of them at once. Not only are we entrusted with them, we are expected to perfect them, as they are professions that demand constant diligence. This threshold of perfection is a daunting task, but a rewarding one. The impact that we can leave on our world by succeeding in either—especially both—of these professions is profound and potentially eternal. I am proud to bear the burden of being a dual professional. My fellow JAG Corps Soldiers—seniors, peers, and subordinates alike—should be proud as well.