

The Dual Profession and the One Team Concept

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Army Doctrine Reference Publication number 1 (ADRP 1) defines an Army professional as "servants of the Nation, Army experts, and faithful stewards of the people, other resources, and profession entrusted to our care." As noncommissioned officers, we are the example of professionalism. We enforce the standard of the profession. To be a professional is to understand, embrace, and competently practice the expertise of the profession.

As the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps mission states, we are expected to "provide principled counsel and premier legal services, as committed members and leaders in the legal and Army professions, in support of a ready, globally responsive, and regionally engaged Army." As members of the legal profession, there is always room for improvement and growth. We should continue to further our military and civilian education to better educate ourselves and the JAG Corps. As legal professionals, we are held to enforce the law and standards. Additionally, we are required to uphold justice while on and off duty. We are also required to train and lead our Soldiers to support the operations of the United States Army.

Army leaders establish a culture where effectiveness prevails over efficiency. They place primary importance on maintaining the profession through investing in the development of their Soldiers. The Army profession is built on trust, military expertise, honorable service, esprit de corps, and stewardship. These five characteristics reflect values, the Army Ethic, and our approach to accomplishing the mission in support to defense of the Constitution. The Army must always be prepared to accomplish its

mission. We lead by example and demonstrate courage. We honestly express our decisions to seniors, peers, and subordinates.

Being dual professionals, we provide legal assistance and military justice by supporting commanders and providing assistance to help increase the readiness of units. While performing such duties, we stand ready to deploy in defense of the nation. As dual professionals, we can and will have a "can do attitude." We should always be confident, competent, and agile with everything that we do. From experience, some believe support Soldiers are substandard when it comes to readiness. It is up to us to make sure that we perform our best being both legal and arms professionals.

I have always been proud to be a paralegal paratrooper. We are doing what most will not do. At the end of the day, we are all sergeants in the United States Army. We are individuals that should be able to adapt and overcome any obstacle. Being a dual professional in both professions is part of the one team concept. We are all a team fighting the same fight.