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Adultery an Ethical Problem

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## Ethic Paper on Adultery

Adultery is a controversial subject and a common occurrence in the United States Army and in the civilian community as well. In the civilian world, adultery is a crime in most states but the punishment varies from state to state. In the military, adultery is punishable under the Uniformed Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). While most people view adultery as consensual sex between two persons of which at least one is married the actual definition of adultery is extramarital sex that willfully and maliciously interferes with marriage relations. Adultery is a common occurrence in the Army. While adultery is punishable under UCMJ, its effects are far more reaching. Adultery is a direct violation of the Army Values. For the purpose of this paper, I would like to apply the Army values to marriage.

The first Army Value is Loyalty, which is bearing true faith and allegiance to the constitution, the Army and other Soldiers. Committing adultery is being unfaithful to the spouse. When a Soldier commits adultery, they violate the allegiance that they have with their spouse. Being loyal to a spouse is something that comes from within the person.

The second Army Value is Duty. Duty is fulfilling your obligations. When a Soldier, or any person, gets married, they generally go before God and take many vows. While they do not take a vow to uphold the Army Values some of the vows that they may take are to honor and cherish, for better or worse, and til death do us part. While many people today choose to write their own vows, the meaning of marriage remains the same.

Soldiers have a duty to remain faithful to their spouse. Marriage is more than an obligation. Marriage is a commitment. Commitments to love, honor, and be true to your spouse.

The third Army Value is Respect. Respect is treating others as they should be treated or doing unto others as you would have them do unto you. A Soldier should respect their spouse. Remaining faithful to them is just one-way to show respect. When a Soldier cheats on their spouse, they are not just showing disrespect to their spouse. They are also disrespecting themselves, the person they commit adultery with, to the Army, and to the unit to which they belong.

The fourth Army Value is Selfless Service, which is to put the welfare of the nation, the Army, and our subordinates above your own. It leads to teamwork; it encompasses discipline, self-control, and faith. A Soldier that commits adultery does not show selflessness, they show selfishness. In a marriage, a Soldier must put their marriage above their own wants, needs, and desires. The Army and a marriage take teamwork.

The fifth Army Value is Honor. Honor is living up to all of the Army values. Honor in marriage is living up to the commitment you have with your spouse. When a Soldier commits adultery, they dishonor more than the marriage. They dishonor themselves, the spouse, the person they commit adultery with, their family, their unit, the Army, and God.

The sixth Army Value is Integrity, which is to do what is legally and morally right. Adultery is both illegal and immoral. Adultery is punishable under the UCMJ. In a marriage, a Soldier has a moral obligation to remain faithful to their spouse.

The seventh and final Army Value is Personal Courage, which is the ability to face fear, and danger or adversity. It is both physical and moral courage. It does not take personal courage to commit adultery. It takes personal courage to remain faithful. It takes personal courage to uphold your wedding vows. It takes personal courage to stay out of situations that could lead to misbehavior.

In conclusion, I would like to say that when a Soldier commits adultery they are not just hurting themselves and their family. They are hurting the Army as a whole. When a Soldier commits adultery the hurt the morale and welfare of their unit. A case in point is the 10<sup>th</sup> Sergeant Major of the Army, Gene McKinney. He received a court martial with 19 charges ranging from adultery to solicitation of adultery to obstruction of justice. While acquitted of all of the charges sexual in nature former SMA McKinney received a conviction on one count of obstruction of justice. Even though not convicted of adultery *How do you know this - Did you do a Survey.* most people remember that charge above all others. The charges and subsequent court martial placed a large cloud over the Army as a whole. Former SMA McKinney's conduct is still a topic of many discussions today. Many Soldiers believe that he got off lightly.