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Adultery in the Military

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Abstract

As a member of the United States Army, I have come across many Soldiers that are married. Marriage is the final commitment between two people and identifies that they will be true and faithful to each other. The Army recognizes this commitment and believes that Soldiers should honor their commitment and be faithful to their spouse. However, just as in civilian life, some married Soldiers commit adultery. This is inconsistent with Army ethics and regulations. It is up to leaders at all levels to hold those who commit adultery accountable.

Adultery in the Military

If I happen to have a friend inside the Army who is committing adultery, I would definitely turn him/her in, even if it would end their career in the military. Many Soldiers find themselves in this situation everyday and have to make the decision whether to turn the Soldier in or look the other way. The military punishment for committing adultery could be severe a year of imprisonment plus a shameful discharge, which can result in the loss of all retirement benefits. If I could save a relationship from adultery, I would definitely do so. Committing adultery may be temporary, but the damages it may cause a person may be continuous and permanent.

Adultery has affected many military families. Soldiers of all rank are committing adultery. It can be seen inside units, military schools and in deployments to combat zones. Wherever it occurs it does not make any difference. The military views it as wrong and leaders have to put a stop to it. Maintaining good order and discipline is vital to operation and keeping cohesion within the organization.

The military is where parents send their young sons and daughters to learn discipline and respect. The military suffered one of its biggest scandals in the mid 90's when a Drill Sergeant from Aberdeen was charged with several counts of adultery. This violated trust that young Soldiers had towards their leadership. The military developed the "Zero Tolerance" policy toward sexual harassment after the scandal. A Soldier can only be charged with adultery if he/she is caught in the act. The military will have a hard time proving a case against a Soldier. There has to be evidence to show the Soldier committed the act of adultery. The Soldier chain of command cannot just act on hearsay there must be proof of the act.

Former Sergeant Major of the Army Gene McKinney was accused of adultery stemming from a long investigation, but was acquitted of the charge of adultery because the government had to prove that he had committed the act I feel that this sent a message throughout the Army that if you are in a position of importance you can get away with adultery.

The harm it causes with marriage interactions and occasionally gives a possible chance towards divorce. Among the Soldiers that I have known who have gone through divorce adultery has been the foremost causes. Adultery may be a basis for physical, emotional, and spiritual misery not only towards the individuals who commit the action but also towards others who surround them. When an individual considers adultery, this individual must bear in mind the depressing long-standing effects it may retain upon their existence.

The military place higher value on adultery than the civilian sector. Society at any rate is not capable to implement a regulation regarding the act of adultery when you can turn on your television and find shows that promote adultery on any of the major stations. Shows that promote infidelity are not just found on the cable station any more. You can see popular shows on prime time that promote adultery these seem to be the most watch show of the era. Inside justly tough, well-founded marriages, adultery is seen as disgraceful and selfish. I feel that the individuals who are involved in an adulteress relationship have violated the trust of their spouse and family members. For me adultery denotes the permanent failure of love.

Soldiers who are eligible for retirement and charged with adultery are flagged and cannot retire until the charge is dropped. If they are found guilt of the charge they stand a change of losing out on thousands of dollars, which can result in a serious life style change. I feel that the military choose whom they want to target and pursue the adultery charge with the same force as they do when we go to war. I have seen where Noncommissioned Officer and the lower ranks

were charged with adultery and forced out of the military. But the senior level Noncommissioned Officer who could retire finishes their career and retired with full benefits. I also feel that officers at all level get away with the act of adultery. I have been in units where Noncommissioned Officers and Officers were caught in the act by the leadership and the only person that was punished was the Noncommissioned Officer he was reduced in rank but the female Officer was promoted to the next rank a few months later.

The Soldiers that I have talked with have provided much reason for the act of adultery that they have performed or are performing and have not been caught. Several Soldiers say that an affair gives them the excitement and ability to perform acts that they cannot or will not ask their spouse to perform and it's mostly done just for the excitement and not for love. Some soldiers that have performed adultery say that their spousal requirements are not being met. This is one of the reasons marriages have a tendency to become more defenseless towards extramarital situations.

I feel that those Soldiers who perform adultery have declared that an affair may revitalize a boring marriage, formulate you to be an enhanced lover, assist you with mid-life crises bring pleasure into your existence or even bring enthusiasm back into your marriage. Some Soldiers see adultery as a harmless act that only affects them and no one else. Leaders who commit adultery and get caught lose the trust of the Soldiers who look to them as a person of true value and someone that they can believe in.

I stated previously adultery may be seen anywhere, and the military is not an exception. We know that being Soldiers we can be separated from your family, your friends, and your loved ones. And this situation may result in loneliness. Because an individual is lonely, he/she may

tend to look for a companion, maybe a group, or another person whom he/she would be comfortable. When an individual becomes comfortable with a group or with another individual, they may tend to exchange stories about their personal lives, from their saddest or lowest moments up to the happiest times of their lives. Because they are far away from their own family, friends, and loved ones, and being near a comfortable friend. This releases an individual from the feeling of loneliness inside the army and makes it easier for Soldiers to find themselves in an adulteress relationship. I still cannot say that this make it right.

I feel until the military views the adultery as crime that is blind to all ranks and genders and pursue the charge at the same level regardless of the position a Soldier holds. This is one of the reasons why I think some Soldiers have a hard time reporting other Soldiers that they know to be guilty of committing adultery. I do not think that there is one Soldier in the military that does not know someone who has is committing the act of adultery. I cannot prove it but I know that I have worked with Soldiers that have committed adultery, if I could prove it I would turn them in but there is no guarantee that the charge will be found creditable and the Soldier found guilty. This will put a serious strain on the friendship are trust within the unit either way that it turns out. If a Soldier is found guilty of adultery I feel they should be move out of the unit and give a change to finishing their commitment are aloud to retire. People in the civilian sector are not fired for committing adultery.

As professionals and leaders we have an obligation to up hold the rules and regulation that govern the military therefore we must set the example at all time. My personal feelings on adultery cannot be the basics that I judge the act of adultery but by the regulation and set my personal views to the side. Until the rule a changed are revised adultery cannot be tolerated at

any level within the military. So I support the policy and rules that all Soldiers must follow pertaining to adultery.