

Leaders must look toward future challenges

Signaleers,

Throughout our formations we have Soldiers with four, five, six or more deployments. These Army professionals are the best warriors in the world because of their operational experience.

With our war in Iraq over and the war in Afghanistan coming to an end, now is the time for these Soldiers to become even better. They will do this by sharing their experiences with young Soldiers and junior officers and by concentrating on the fundamentals of the Army profession. I want to share my thoughts about the Army profession.

You need to read Army Doctrine Reference Publication Number 1 "The Army Profession." It is 34 pages, not including the index and appendixes and it will show a clear path for becoming more professional and leading your subordinates to become Army professionals.

The publication covers five areas of the Army profession: military expertise, honorable service, trust, esprit de corps and stewardship of the profession.

Trust is the bedrock of the Army profession.

This includes trust between Soldiers and their families and trust between the Army and the American people.

We have a problem with sexual assault in the Army. You and your Soldiers must get serious about this problem to protect your people and protect the trust between you and your Soldiers.

The actions of one Soldier can strengthen our hard-earned trust, or erode this trust. You must talk with your men and women about how to behave ethically and you must teach them about the beliefs and values enshrined in our nation's founding documents, such as the U.S. Constitution.

As GEN Martin Dempsey said, "External trust is the bond with which we connect with those we serve, our leaders in government and the American people. It must be continually earned."

Military expertise is another building block of the Army profession. We must focus on training to retain the skills learned in the last 12 years of war. And we must improve on those skills by learning new skills, such as cyber warfare, and increase the emphasis on the moral-ethical field, the political-cultural field and the

leader/human development field.

Honorable service is part of the foundation that Soldiers need to think about on and off duty. Simply said, honorable service is about doing what is right.

The esprit de corps is about the heart and soul of the Soldier and the heart and soul of your formation. Share the hardship and joy of your profession and you will share in the esprit de corps.

Stewardship of the Army profession is about the long-term responsibility to the Army. You must understand that your work is more than a job; it is an office. You must encourage professional education, encourage Soldiers to become experts, enforce standards, build trust, help Soldiers see how they serve honorably, parent your unit's esprit de corps and inspire your Soldiers to never quit.

Pro Patria Vigilans!

