

# **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

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## **DIMENSIONS OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS FOR THE MODERN UNITED STATES MILITARY**

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This thesis is a study of the literature on military professionalism and military ethics. It suggests that by developing and inculcating a recognized and well-defined Professional Military Ethic in all of the military services and at all rank levels, the modern American armed forces will gain common understandings of the nature of the Professional Military Ethic and apply it to actions in both peace and war.

The literature suggests a hierarchy of values, or, at the least, certain virtues are more often discussed than others in the field of professional military ethics. Those virtues are selfless-service, sacrifice, honor, loyalty and integrity. Leadership is also recognized by military authors as more than a practice, or talent, but as raised to the level of an ethical imperative for the officer corps. Other common virtues are duty, courage, commitment, country, honesty, and competence. This thesis provides an in-depth discussion of these values, and demonstrates how they apply to modern American armed forces.

**KEYWORDS:** Ethics, Professional Ethics, Military Ethics, Professionalism, Leadership, Honor

