

The Center for the Study of Professional
Military Ethics
at the U.S. Naval Academy



Annapolis, Maryland

Ethics. For the ancient Greeks, the word meant “character.” For Aristotle, the study of ethics was the study of excellence or the virtues of character. It has come to mean the study and practice of the “good life,” the kind of life people *ought* to live.

In our time, the concept of ethics has broadened to include not only the characteristics of the good *person*, but also the “best practices” in various *professions*, among them medicine, the law, the military.

For the Center for the Study of Professional Military Ethics, ethics covers both the individual professional and the profession itself.



Formally established by the Secretary of the Navy in 1998, the Center has an ambitious mission—“to promote and enhance the ethical development of current and future leaders through education, research, and reflection.” Its founders charged it to work with and for the midshipmen, faculty, and staff of the U.S. Naval Academy, where it is located, but also to reach out beyond the Academy to the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Department of Defense, and beyond. Their vision is that it would serve as a beacon for ethics, excellence, and character for the military, and ultimately for the entire nation.

“To educate a person in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.”

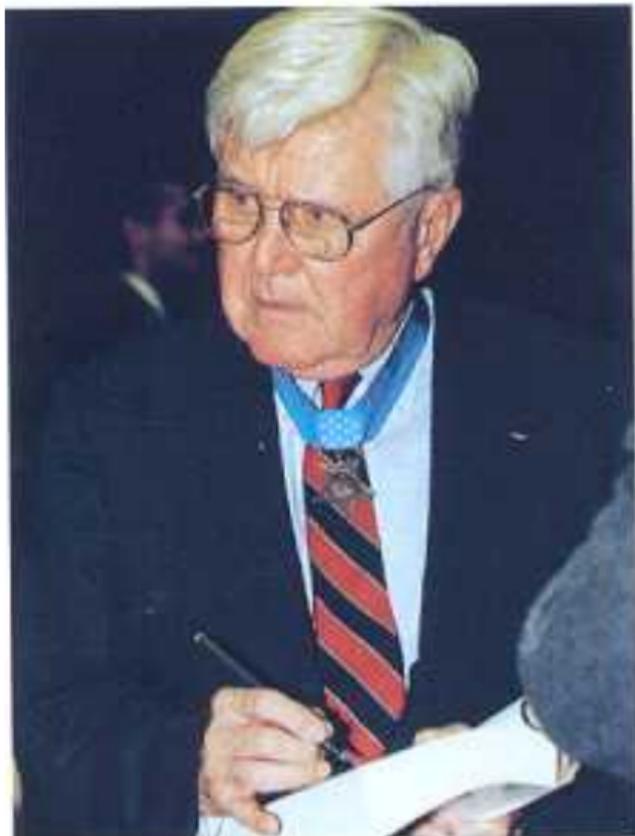
Theodore Roosevelt

The Center has three major program goals:

★ To enrich the intellectual life of the Naval Academy in the field of ethics

The Center sponsors an Ethics Lecture Series, in which distinguished speakers address important ethical challenges in military affairs, national security, and public life. These lectures are open to the entire Naval Academy community, as well as the general public.

It also organizes Faculty and Staff Ethics Roundtables, which invite leading scholars and practitioners to a seminar-style format for stimulating exchanges on cutting-edge ethical issues.



Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale, USN (Ret.)



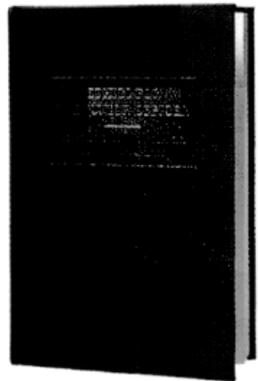
For midshipmen, the Center sponsors a competition and prize for the best ethics essays written each semester in the Naval Academy's core ethics



course. It also organizes informal, small-group discussions of ethical problems drawn from the real world and from films.

To fulfill its commitment to advance the state of knowledge in the field, the Center provides part-time and full-time opportunities, for Naval Academy faculty and others, for sponsored research and writing in military ethics.

Center staff are the editors of *Ethics for the Junior Officer*, a book of ethics case studies sponsored by the Naval Academy Class of 1964 and presented by them each year to every first-class (senior) midshipman.



The Center organizes an Annual Ethics Conference, to which select academics, military officers, government officials, journalists, and representatives of non-governmental organizations and think-tanks are invited for intensive and wide-ranging discussions of contemporary problems in ethics. The goal is for the participants to take the insights and perspectives they glean from the conference, and apply them to their on-going work.

★ *To enhance the teaching of ethics throughout the military education and training systems, and beyond*

The Center publishes case studies in ethics, which are available for use in service academies, war colleges, civilian colleges and universities, and elsewhere. On an on-going basis, the Center solicits and commissions case studies by talented case writers. The Center also develops curriculum modules and other teaching materials in ethics.

The Center regularly conducts workshops and seminars on ethics and on teaching ethics for professors and instructors in military and civilian schools, colleges, and universities. The Center designs such programs to meet the distinctive needs of various “clients.”



Resident Fellows 2000-2001

The Center’s Resident Fellows Program consists of selected military officers, academics, civil servants, or other professionals who spend an academic year in residence in an intensive program in professional ethics. Each Fellow undertakes one or more individual projects, pursues individually tailored readings, and participates in a weekly Fellows Seminar.

“Your moral purpose is of your own making.”

Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale

★ *To conduct executive and other outreach programs in ethics*

The Center runs specially designed ethics seminars for senior executives in the Department of Defense, the intelligence community, and various federal government agencies.

It also co-sponsors projects and programs with other ethics centers, university institutes and departments, corporations, and foundations. Collaborative ventures and joint projects are a continuing and valuable part of the Center's work.

“ . . . officers . . . are responsible for the physical, mental and moral welfare . . . of those under their command.”

Major General John Lejeune, USMC

The Center for the Study of Professional Military Ethics builds on the age-old study of ethics and focuses on practical and professional applications in various settings—military, governmental, academic, and corporate. It seeks to be that “beacon” its founders envisioned.

“ . . . an officer of the Navy . . . should have the nicest sense of personal honor.”

John Paul Jones

Requests for additional information should be directed to:

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