DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND
5001 EISENHOWER AVENUE, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22333-0001

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF

AMCCC (600-50a) 13 June 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Commander's Statement on Ethics

1. Ethics, values and morality of governments, institutions and people have been a concern for centuries. One of these concerns often is that the current generation has lost the values of prior generations. Even in ancient Rome, a historical writer around 35 BC lamented over the way that it used to be in the "good old days" in 700 BC. But, this perception is illusory. The fact of the matter is that each generation strives and struggles to define a high ethical and moral value system, and adhere to it.

2. As Federal employees, our fundamental character is defined by the conflict of interest laws and various regulations such as the *Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch* and the DoD *Joint Ethics Regulation*. These set the minimum requirements, and we must have a working knowledge of these basics. This is why the annual ethics training program is so important. I expect my commanders, directors and supervisors to ensure that, at a minimum, those of us who file a financial disclosure report attend annual ethics training. In addition, I strongly encourage as many other employees as possible to attend. As some AMC employees have discovered, much to their chagrin and my dismay, the ethics rules apply to ***all*** employees, even if they don't file financial disclosure reports or attend training.

3. A working knowledge of these basics is important, but this is not what makes us "ethical." Rather, it is each AMC employee's internalization of these principles and personal commitment to our corporate value system that includes such attributes as honesty, courtesy, loyalty, duty, candor, selfless service and protection of Governmental resources, including information. This commitment must be so pervasive that AMC's integrity and the ethical principles of its employees are taken for granted, and everyone believes that AMC employees will do the right thing, even when no one is watching.

4. AMC -- Your Readiness Command ... Serving Soldiers Proudly!

JOHN G. COBURN
General, USA
Commanding

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