
Module 5.0 Ethical Decisions**Learning Outcome**

5.0 Upon completion of this block of instruction, the student will have developed an understanding of ethics, ethical decision-making, how it relates to the Chief Petty Officer Creed, and the outcomes of unethical decisions.

Objectives

5.0a Analyze and discuss the importance of ethics as it relates to the CPO Creed and the trust given to CPOs.

5.0b Analyze and discuss the definition of ethics. Discuss how our diversity impacts ethics and how the Navy and CPOs align ethics of all Sailors.

5.0c Discuss the effects of unethical behaviors/decisions within leadership and how it erodes trust and credibility of leadership.

5.0d Discuss how an individual Chief's ethical failure reflects upon the entire community.

Curriculum Development References

1. Laying the Keel, 2023.
2. Navy Leader Development Framework, Version 3.0 May 2019.

Student Preparation Material**A. Student Support Material**

1. Syllabus 5.0.

B. Reference Publications

1. Laying the Keel, 2023.
2. Navy Leader Development Framework, Version 3.0 May 2019.
3. Ludwig, D.C. & Longenecker, C.O.J Bus Ethics (1993) 12:265. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF01666530>.
4. <https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2017/08/14/inside-the-hue-city-chiefs-mess-meltdown/>

Instructor Preparation**A. Review assigned student support material****B. Reference Publications****C. Instructional Materials Required**

1. Personalized lesson plan.

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2. Slideshow
 - a. SLIDES 5-1 through Slides 5-14
3. Practical Exercises
 - a. PE1
4. Support Equipment
 - a. VAP or SMART Board and Butcher Paper
 - b. Markers
 - c. Paperclips (one per Selectee)

D. Seminar Room Preparation

1. Write your name, lesson number, and lesson module title on the marker board.
2. Check all audio/visual equipment (as applicable) to ensure it is present and in working order.

E. Suggested Timelines

1. 60-90 minutes.

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Discussion Point

Related Instructor Activity

I. Introduction**Display Slide 5-1****A. Attention**

A. Introduce yourself and the lesson module.

1. Establish contact

1. Discuss the purpose of the lesson.

2. Lesson Objectives

B. Provide a motivating statement on the importance of the subject matter.

B. Motivation: Used to heighten awareness of the lesson module and increase the student's interest.

Display Slide 5-2 (Objectives)**C. Overview****Display Slide 5-3 (Overview)**

1. CPO Profile Video

2. CPO Creed

3. Definition of Ethics

4. Bathsheba Syndrome

5. Success and Ethics

6. Practical Exercise

7. Naval History Timeline

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Related Instructor Activity

II. Presentation**Display Slide 5-4**

- Play CPO Profile Video.

A. CPO Creed section five (5).**Display Slide 5-5**

Note: Let the students read the excerpt from the CPO Creed

- ASK: What does this phrase mean to you (Individually and as a Mess)?
- ASK: Why is it important that your seniors and juniors trust you?
- EXPLAIN: Lack of trust can erode your ability to influence people. Typically, removal of trust only allows us to draw on the power/authority of our position/billet to influence, and all other means diminish. A leader with only one influence tactic is a poor leader. Without trust, one cannot influence those above us either (officers/senior CPOs). A lack of trust removes all means to influence. Therefore, we have no power/authority of position over our seniors.
- EXPLAIN: The Creed describes our ability to positively influence. It is your responsibility to

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Related Instructor Activity

preserve these privileges through your attitude and performance.

B. Definition of Ethics**Display Slide 5-6**

Note: Let the students read the definitions.

- ASK: Do we all come into the Navy with the same ethics?
- DISCUSS: Where do most people learn their values, morals, and ethics?
- EXPLAIN: Because the Navy is so diverse, it builds tools and training that align us all with ethics (ex. Oath of Enlistment, Sailor's Creed, CPO Creed, Charge of Command, Oath of Office, Navy Ethos).

C. The Bathsheba Syndrome**Display Slide 5-7**

- ASK: Has anyone heard of the story of King David and Bathsheba?

Note: Let the students read the slide.

D. Origin Story**Display Slide 5-8**

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Related Instructor Activity

- ASK: Can I get a volunteer to read the slide?
- NOTE-Background for Facilitator: King David began as a shepherd (Humble beginnings, like us). He went on to kill a famous warrior, Goliath. This resulted in his rise to power. He became a King. Even though he was known for his solid morals, David's for the wife of one of his generals resulted in his unethical decision to sleep with her (Bathsheba). He impregnated her, then attempted to cover it up by bringing her husband back from campaign. David attempted to have the general sleep with Bathsheba in a ruse to allow him to believe the child to be his own. When the general refused (a code existed not to sleep with your spouse while on campaign), King David had him sent to the front lines where he was killed. David then took Bathsheba as his own.

E. Success and Ethics**Display Slide 9**

- STATE: Although we do not become Kings, we can relate to this story in that we start from low ranks (humble beginnings) and rise to authority (CPOs). Sometimes we can be tempted to use this authority to make unethical choices.

Note: Have the students read the slide.

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Related Instructor Activity

F. Activity**Display Slide 5-10**

- **Practical Exercise**
- **DIRECTIONS:** 1. Have the class split into four groups (the size of groups will depend on the size of the class). 2. Hand each Sailor a USS *Hue City* worksheet.
- **EXPLAIN:** Everyone take a moment to read about the *Hue City* Chiefs' Mess breakdown. Then, among your group, discuss the four questions presented on the slide. Be prepared to share your answers with the class. (5-10 minutes)
- **DISCUSS:** Call on one person from each group to explain their answer to ONE of the four questions. (ex. Group 1 explains their findings for question one.
Group 2 explains their answer to question 2 etc.) (5-10 minutes)

G. Points to Remember**Display Slide 5-11**

Note: Have the students read the slide.

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Related Instructor Activity

H. Naval History Timeline Links

[Wesley A. Brown](#)
[The Korean War](#)
[Ensign Jesse Brown](#)
[Carl Brashear](#)
[USS Nautilus](#)

Display Slides 5-12 through 5-13

- Display Naval History Timeline.

I. Summary**Display Slide 5-14**

- Recap the main points from the presentation.
- ASK: Does the gravity of the trust which is about to be bestowed upon you have a different perspective now than before the module? How?