

NCO DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES

Duty: A duty is something must do by virtue of your position and is a legal or moral obligation.

It is the duty of squad, section, and team leaders to account for his soldiers and ensure they receive necessary instructions and are properly trained to perform their jobs. NCOs take care of soldiers by developing a genuine concern for their soldiers' well-being and training them as individuals and teams.

An NCO's duty is to do what is ethically and legally correct. The NCO must make the best judgment possible based on the Armed Forces values and his experience and previous study and reflection.

There are specified duties, directed duties, and implied duties.

Responsibility: Responsibility is being accountable for what you do or fail to do.

Any duty, because of the position you hold in the unit, includes a responsibility to execute that duty. NCOs are accountable to their subordinates, superiors, Armed Forces, and country for their personal conduct and actions.

There are command responsibilities and individual responsibilities.

Authority: Authority is defined as the right to direct soldiers to do certain things.

There are two types of authority: command authority and general military authority.

Command authority is the authority leaders have over soldiers by virtue of rank or assignment. Command authority is not limited to commissioned officers. Noncommissioned officers' command authority is inherent with the job by virtue of position to organize, direct or control soldiers to accomplish assigned missions.

General military authority is authority extended to all soldiers to take action and act in the absence of a unit leader or other designated authority.

Officers may delegate any or all of their authority to NCOs.

With such broad authority given to all commissioned officers and noncommissioned officers, the responsibility to use mature, sound judgment is critical.