

Chapter 3

CORE VALUES, HONOR CODE, & ETHICS

When we look at the *mission* of Air Force Junior ROTC we see the words: **“Develop Citizens of Character Dedicated to Serving their Nation and Community.”** As AFJROTC cadets you are expected to meet **“Higher Standards”** than a normal high school atmosphere; and to do that you first must understand some terms that apply to values that should already be important to you. These are the Air Force Core Values.

Integrity First – The essential element upon which other values are built and developed. Integrity is being honest with others as well with your own self. **It’s about doing what is right all the time, every time, even when no one is looking.** Cadets should strive to build that **“Inner-Drive”** within them-selves to ensure that actions taken will never come back to put you in a situation that causes regret what you did when no one was around to make the right decision for you.

Service Before Self – The call for having a sense of commitment and dedication for the needs of others, community, environment, and country. AFJROTC and KY-951 want to develop cadets to **“See the Bigger Picture”** and embrace ideals of caring for people and community in which they live. This includes all citizens of the world for the greater good. To lend a hand when needed and to just make everything they are involved with **“BETTER”** then when they arrived.

Excellence in All You Do - The desire to do the very best you can in everything you do. When KY-951 cadets try to define **“Excellence,”** they should always strive for **“Doing it RIGHT, the FIRST TIME.” No Exceptions!!**

The Navy Seals have a philosophy about breaking barriers in your mind about your own capabilities. Reach as far as you can into the air. When you think you can reach no farther, reach for two more inches.

The **“Core Values”** above serve as our road map and set the standard for our behavior. To remind us of the importance of setting and meeting higher standards of performance as we pursue our own goals in life. We can take a lesson from all military service academies whose young men and women adhere to a strict honor code. KY-951 developed an extensive **“Honor Code Reference Handbook”** that covers **“Core Values & Honor”** in great detail. It is required that cadets review this handbook, to ensure you understand this unit’s beliefs on this crucial topic. **Ensure that you truly understand the term “Independent Effort (IE).”** The motto below is the embodiment of what the Air Force and AFJROTC stand for:

“I will not lie, steal, or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone that does.”



A ***lie*** is a statement of untruth, meant to deceive or mislead



Cheating is taking unfair advantage or gaining an unearned advantage



Stealing is depriving some one of their possessions without permission

If you become aware of lying, cheating, or stealing, report the incident to the cadet chain of command and AFJROTC instructors. **An “In-Depth” Honor Code is published for KY-951.**

The ideals and mindset of cadets in the KY-951 program should be centered around developing standards within themselves, that will pay dividends for the rest of their life. The characteristics described above, make leaders and pillars of the community and cadets should strive daily to make these ideals a major part of their life.

The development of **ethics** will only enhance the way of life for all KY-951 cadets. Ethics is defined as having a moral code, morals, morality, values, rights and wrongs, principles, ideals, standards of behavior, a value system, virtues, and your own conscience. Cadets should take chapters two & three very seriously, and work daily to define these ideals internally to help them develop into the person that they want to grow into and become.