

Ethical Decision Problem #2

Driving Under the Influence

This is the second in the Gazette's new series of Ethical Decision Problems (EDPs). Each problem involves a situation that a Marine, Active or Reserve, encountered sometime during his or her military service—a situation that raised troubling ethical considerations. Readers are urged to reflect on the situation and decide what action they would have taken had they been involved. They can then compare their approach to those proposed by two other Marines and published elsewhere in the magazine. The published approaches are not "school solutions" or officially recommended or approved positions; they are simply the reactions of other Marines who were confronted with the EDP in the same manner as the reader.

The Gazette welcomes brief letters commenting on EDPs and on what readers consider to be the notable strengths or weakness of the alternate approaches. These will be considered for possible publication in the Letters Section of the Gazette, 3 months after the EDP appears.

Situation

You are the battalion S-3 and reporting senior for GySgt Robinson, your operations chief. You are particularly satisfied with his professional knowledge, initiative, supervision of the office, dedication, and handling of troops. You rate him easily in the top 5 percent of all SNCOs you have encountered.

After a long, intense period of preparing for an inspection and then passing with flying colors, your section met for a celebration party. The following week the gunny tells you that he was arrested for driving under the influence (DUI) on his way home from the celebration. This disturbing news gives rise to several thoughts:

- You wonder if you did all you should have done to prevent such an incident.

- You know the DUI charge is completely out of character; the gunny is a family man and is active in the church and community. He has a spotless record.

- The gunny has 16+ years of service and is in the process of submitting a reenlistment package. He has a fitness report due next month.

- You are finalizing an awards package for his performance in

preparation for the inspection.

- The battalion CO has a history of hammering any alcohol related offense.

What do you do? Why?



Once you have your solution in mind, you can compare it to the alternative approaches on page 79.