

What is the correct NCO Creed?

Good afternoon,

My name is Staff Sgt. Robert Fadden and I teach at the Fort Lewis, Wash., NCO Academy. Throughout my time as an NCO, and now instructor and mentor of newly promoted NCOs, there has been a question that has continued to bother me and I have yet to find closure. Upon becoming a noncommissioned officer from my induction ceremony, through all phases of my Noncommissioned Officer Education System attendance, and throughout my career — I have memorized and strived to achieve all the milestones that our NCO Creed depicts.

There are many variations of the NCO Creed; the one published in FM 7-22.7, which is what we teach at the Warrior Leader Course, states in paragraph two, “that I will strive to remain technically and tactically proficient.” There is another version of the creed published in DA PAM 600-25 which states just the opposite, “that I will strive to remain tactically and technically proficient.” If you look online at the NCO Creed that was recited at the Year of the NCO ceremony, it directly corresponds with the FM 7-22.7. Considering this dilemma, I would find it appropriate if someone could publish an official version of the NCO Creed.

The discrepancy noticed in these two versions may seem minor to some; however, there is confusion as to what the standard is. As a standard bearer that teaches young NCOs how to become proficient leaders, I feel this is very important, not only for myself, but for the entire NCO Corps. I would hope that by the end of you reading this e-mail, a single version of the creed is generated and pushed down to all NCOs through their leadership. Thanks for attention in this matter.

Staff Sgt. Fadden, we took your question to the folks at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy Directorate of Doctrine and Training Development, the individuals responsible for publishing FM 7-22.7, The NCO Guide, and they came up with an answer we hope will bring you closure.

First, according to the 2007 Army Modernization Plan published by the Army G-8, the hierarchy of Army doctrine places FMs above DA PAMs. Therefore, the version that appears in FM 7-22.7 is the correct one, and USASMA has notified the authors of DA PAM 600-25 of their discrepancy. They are in the process of correcting it. Here is the correct version of the NCO Creed:

NCO Creed

No one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of soldiers. As a Noncommissioned Officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as “The Backbone of the Army”. I am proud of the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the Military Service and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit, or personal safety.

Competence is my watchword. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind — accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my soldiers. I will strive to remain technically and tactically proficient. I am aware of my role as a Noncommissioned Officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my soldiers and never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment.

Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of my soldiers. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve; seniors, peers, and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, Noncommissioned Officers, leaders!

