

The way I see it

By Jim Koenig

"HECK-SHUCKS-DARN"

The 22d Signal Brigade has a serious problem concerning professionalism and its getting worse everyday. The problem is vulgarism.

It is absolutely impossible to walk anywhere within the Brigade without hearing indecent and offensive language.

The most popular saying among brigade soldiers is the two magic words that describes sexual relations with one's mother. This crude and tasteless phrase is spoken loudly and without regard for anyone who might be in the area.

The dictionary describes vulgarity as "a manner of expression used mainly by uncultivated people." To me it shows not only the absence of cultivation and professionalism but also a lack of self esteem.

I have had the opportunity to observe and work with many soldiers in the three battalions and PHC Brigade and have come to the conclusion that this is a professional problem up and down the chain of command with no regard to race, sex or national origin.

As a private back in the early sixties my first impression of the officers corps was that it had a certain touch of class. An enlisted person never heard a officer curse in those days. But not so today.

On any given morning you can hear First Sergeants bellow out four letter words in their formations. A leader who does that shows a lack of respect for his or her troops.

Call me old fashion, tell me I'm a sexist but it won't change the fact that I can't stand to hear a woman use



vulgarity. Since being assigned to the 22d I've heard more coarse and filthy language from female soldiers, officer and enlisted, than anywhere in my military career. Ladies, quit dragging yourselves down to gutter level just to appear equal. Clean up your act, be professional, that's the road to the top.

This problem can be solved if we try. First, as officers, NCO's and peers we need to tell these foul-mouth soldiers who use the disgusting language in public to tone it down. In most cases they don't even realize what they are saying because it's a habit.

And second we need to realize that success rises and falls on leadership.

A word from the top

A man may choose to sit and fish instead of working - That's his pursuit of happiness. He does not have the right to force his neighbors to support him
....PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

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