

## Letters to the Editor

Editor reserves the right to edit for propriety and space. All letters must have the complete name and address of the writer and must be signed.

We do not print unsigned letters, but we will withhold your name from publication on request and protect your privacy.



### Commentary

# Respect works both ways

By Randy Irvine

Words of wisdom on the subject of respect have survived through the ages such as, "the more respect you give, the more you are likely to receive." Life is like a river in that if you flow with the current, your trip will prove an easy one. Not necessarily challenging, but easy. Human relationships however, do not flow entirely in one direction but must flow back and forth, like respect. Respect should be given and received, but is it?

Disrespect from a subordinate to his superior can and often does result in punishment under UCMJ. What happens when a superior shows disrespect to a subordinate? A superior can show disrespect in attitude, language, mannerisms, lack of recognition for job performance, and many other things, yet there is no recrimination. Recrimination

would only result in a charge of disrespect, after all, it's a one way avenue. More than likely disrespect used by the superior in daily performance will enhance his career while neglecting that of his subordinate. Further, such behavior is often misclassified as being in good taste among peers, good leadership, or excellent discipline.

This one way flow of respect is damaging to the soldier, the morale and cohesion of the unit, and the very integrity of the superior. Just as smiling uses fewer muscles than maintaining a frown, I believe that it is far easier to show respect than disrespect. We're stronger as a team. Division in our ranks is equivalent to weakness, weakness that will show on the battlefield. (Sgt. Irvine is the HHC, 22nd Career Counselor.)

## Commander's policy on views, opinions

Views and opinions expressed in the Letters to the Editor column, whether positive or negative, are solicited by our FIVE by FIVE editor and will be free from any reprisal or adverse action.

Any action taken by anyone in this command against someone writing a letter for the editorial page will be handled by me personally.

Col. Joseph D. Schott

### FIVE by FIVE

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