



10 February 2012

Leader Discipline

Leaders, we had a 168 Service-members apprehended for curfew violations in 1st Qtr FY12. More disappointing was that over 1/3 (more than 50) were NCOs or Commissioned Officers. These violations from Leaders, who are responsible for the enforcement of the curfew they are violating, are unacceptable. The curfew was implemented for the reasons of mission-readiness and force-protection. We must be ready to fight tonight. This is not a bumper-sticker. Because of our mission and the uncertainty of the enemy to the north, it is an absolute imperative. I cannot and will not tolerate the actions of Officers and NCOs who lack self-discipline and choose to intentionally disregard an existing lawful military order that is their duty to uphold. I expect self-discipline from every USFK Officer, NCO and Service-member, both on an off-duty.

It is disappointing that over 50 Officers and NCOs intentionally violated the curfew. This displays not only a lack of judgment, but a disregard for the values of our profession and sets an extremely poor example to the very Service-members who we are charged to lead. More to the point, it represents a highly disappointing lack of self-discipline and military leadership. Officers and NCOs charged with enforcement of the curfew are not following it. It is time to get our young leaders back to some fundamentals.

It is the duty of all Officers and NCOs to enforce discipline and lead by example. The strength of not only USFK but our Alliance lies in our discipline. Discipline is indispensable to mission readiness. No military can fight and win if it lacks discipline. Leading by example is just the starting point. We must train our subordinates, ensure the standard is clear and understood, and hold them accountable for their actions.

The standards for the curfew are clear and written in both a policy letter and fragmentary order. I want you to reinforce the curfew standards again to all of your Service-members, with a specific focus on the leaders, (Officers and NCO's), on their duty to know, teach, live and enforce the standard, not just the curfew, but all of our Service regulations, policies and codes. One leader violating a lawful order is one too many let alone more than 50. There is no place in our Services, USFK or our Alliance for leaders who cannot follow lawful military orders.

All leaders in USFK have the duty to enforce discipline through positive personal example. This duty cannot be delegated and I hold all USFK leaders accountable for it. If Officer and NCO leaders are self-disciplined, professional, and competent, they will inspire the same to our junior enlisted. Mentor your young Officers and NCOs to lead by example. I expect all Officers and NCOs to strictly follow and enforce all lawful military orders. Educate and train thoroughly all of your subordinate leaders on the curfew standards. Enforce discipline. Enforce the curfew. Be ready to fight tonight.


JAMES D. THURMAN
General, US Army
Commander

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