

ETHICS

Deciphering the Navy Code

Naval Services FamilyLine CORE Library

Fall 2014

Telephone Skit

Webster's dictionary defines ethics as *“the principles of conduct governing an individual or group.”*

Many things in this skit seem like innocent conversations with friends; but the Navy has a slightly different view. In our first conversation, getting the CS's to help for a wardroom party seems innocent. Their title says they are Culinary Specialists, right? Well, the Navy would view it as “Misuse of Subordinate.”

In conversation two, the CHENG is in trouble, seems innocent as the CO and XO spouses prepare for a ripple to go through the wardroom; but the Navy views it as an integrity issue for the CO/XO.

In conversation three, traveling in uniform, especially hoping for a bump up to first class seems benign; but it is a slippery topic in the Navy world. Technically no one is to travel in uniform unless it's “Mission Essential.” The Navy does not station people at the airport to monitor this and being bumped up to first class could be seen as using your office for personal gain.

Now doing your family laundry on the ship, I know some of you are saying, “Why didn't I think of that!” In conversation four, we learn the Navy views this as “Misuse of Government Property.”

In our last conversation, I am sure you all know – discussing ships movement is an OPSEC issue.

Ring, ring...

Misuse of
Subordinate

1

PERSON A: Hello?

PERSON B: Hey A! How are you?

PERSON A: Doing well, just super busy trying to get ready for this command party!

PERSON B: It's a big deal; your first get-together as CO spouse. I bet you're excited!

PERSON A: I am. I really am! But I am having trouble figuring out food and when I'm going to have time to do all the necessary prep. I don't know what to do.

PERSON B: Well, you're hubby is CO, right?

PERSON A: Well, yeah. So?

PERSON B: Girl, just use the CSs from the ship!

PERSON A: How did I not think of that? That's a great idea! I'll put A-spouse on it as soon as he gets home. Hey, thanks, B, you just saved me some time and energy!

PERSON B: No problem! Hey, give me a call if you need anything else!

PERSON A: Will do. Bye!

PERSON B: Bye

Ring, ring...

Integrity Issue
for the CO/XO

2

PERSON C: Hello?

PERSON A: PERSON C! Hi my trusty XO-spouse! It's PERSON A. I got your message last night.

PERSON C: Hi! How are things?

PERSON A: Good, good. Just getting ready for the shindig next week.

PERSON C: Lots of work you have. Can I help?

PERSON A: No, I have an idea I need to run past A-spouse.

PERSON C: That's good. Listen, there's something I need to talk to you about.

PERSON A: Well that sounds ominous. What's up?

PERSON C: Well, C-spouse (XO) came home last night and told me about CHENG being in some deep trouble.

PERSON A: Hmmmm. Yes. Go on.

PERSON C: So it is true?

PERSON A: Well, I shouldn't say, but what have you heard?

PERSON C: I heard that they are just not ready for INSURV and your husband is going to fire CHENG if Engineering doesn't pass.

PERSON A: Well, that's about the gist of it.

PERSON C: Oh my goodness. I just feel awful for her. You know her husband, CHENG-Spouse, is a very good friend of mine.

PERSON A: Yes....

PERSON C: Well, I just needed to confirm with you. I'm going to give him a call and give him a heads up. I just don't want this to come as a surprise.

PERSON A: Well, well... ..don't tell him I told you anything! I don't know anything.

PERSON C: I gotcha. Your name won't come up.

PERSON A: Thanks trusty XO-spouse. Talk to you soon.

PERSON C: You, too. Take care.

Ring, ring...

Misuse of Office
for Personal Gain

3

PERSON D: Hello?

PERSON C: PERSON D, it's PERSON C.

PERSON D: Hey girl. What going on?

PERSON C: Well, I'm deliberating a phone call to a department head spouse that I don't want to make, but that's not why I called. What are you and D-spouse doing next Friday?

PERSON D: Let me check...nothing on my calendar. What do you have in mind?

PERSON C: Just thinking dinner. Low key. We'll cook burgers.

PERSON D: Sounds good. D-spouse gets back in town Friday afternoon.

PERSON C: Oh, where's he headed?

PERSON D: Norfolk for a 2-day conference.

PERSON C: Two days! So short!

PERSON D: I know, but he sure is racking up those frequent flyer miles if he flies in uniform, they usually bump him to First Class!

PERSON C: They do?! I'm going to have to tell my spouse to start wearing his uniform when he flies, too! (laugh)

PERSON D: Yeah, definitely! Take the perks, baby! (laugh) OK, well, I have you on the calendar for next Friday. See you then.

PERSON C: Sounds good! Bye for now!

Ring, ring...

Misuse of
Government
Property

4

PERSON E: Hello, PERSON E residence.

PERSON D: Hi PERSON E, it's PERSON D.

PERSON E: PERSON D, how are you?

PERSON D: Good. Just getting my day together. Listen, what time is the Command Party on Saturday?

PERSON E: 6:00 here at my house.

PERSON D: Great, what can I bring?

PERSON E: Well, DIVO-wife X was supposed to bring some appetizers, but now they can't come. Can you bring some?

PERSON D: Sure, not a problem. So, what's up? Why can't they come? She has been so excited.

PERSON E: Well, didn't you hear?

PERSON D: No....

PERSON E: Apparently her husband brought the family laundry on board to wash it while he was on duty last Sunday.

PERSON D: What? Why?

PERSON E: Well, DIVO-X told CO that his wife wanted to save some money. And apparently, the laundry facilities on board cannot be used for personal business. They're actually only supposed to be operated by crewmembers. So he got an LOI and now he has duty the night of the party.

PERSON D: Ah. Well, I guess that's a bummer for them. And a hard way to learn something like that. Anyway, it's a bummer for you, too. What kind of appetizers should I bring?

PERSON E: I don't know...something tasty, but easy. I'll make some, too! Now I just have to figure out what.

PERSON D: Well, I'm on it. See you Saturday!

Ring, ring...

OPSEC Issue

5

PERSON F: Hello?

PERSON E: PERSON F, it's PERSON E. I have a question.

PERSON F: Sure, what's up?

PERSON E: Well, I need to make appetizers for our commands party this Saturday, and I remember you telling me about what you made the night you had the wardroom spouses over.

PERSON F: Oh yeah, those cheese puffs?

PERSON E: Yes! Were they difficult?

PERSON F: Only a little, but they are so worth it.

PERSON E: Perfect, can you email me the recipe?

PERSON F: Of course. Let me make a note so that I do it today. You know how F-spouse's ship gets home next week? Well, the FRG is meeting today for homecoming arrangements!

PERSON E: Oh, so exciting! When does he get in?

PERSON F: Oh, on Thursday the 14th! Sometime between 6 and 8 a.m., so it will be an early morning for us! Oh, thanks for reminding me, I need to call the wardroom spouses, too, and let them know the details!

PERSON E: I'm so happy for you! Shoot me that recipe when you get a chance, and I'll be thinking about you on the 14th!

PERSON F: Thanks! Talk to you soon!