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## Cyberbullying not in line with Army Values

Leaders and Soldiers,

We all know what Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage mean. We learn these values in detail during training, and we live them every day in all we do – whether on the job or off – this extends to include everything we do on the Internet.

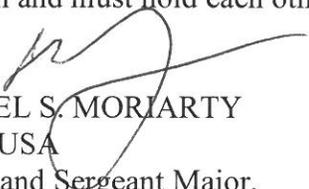
Unfortunately, cyberbullying is a real and increasingly common practice in the online military community.

Cyberbullying can take place in chat rooms or social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter, through the use of cell phones, instant messaging, or e-mail. The problem is compounded by the fact that a bully can hide behind an electronic veil, disguising his or her true identity. Some of our Soldiers and Leaders are participating in inappropriate and potentially harmful interactions using electronic communications.

We believe and respect Soldiers and Leaders are entitled to their own opinions, but we must not forget that while serving in uniform, we represent the United States Army. Bottom line, as a member of the U.S. Army we have one identity. Our online identity should be no different from our day to day identity. If we wouldn't say something in person to our 1SG, commander, CSM, etc. then we should not type or say it in a public venue online.

Recently, the Army has clarified its standards for Online Conduct. Individuals who participate in or condone misconduct, whether offline or online, may be subject to criminal, disciplinary, and/or administrative action. As leaders we need to fully understand the risk that cyberbullying poses to readiness and retention and take steps to reduce this threat.

We can and must hold each other accountable.

  
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