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AUSTRALIAN  
DEFENCE FORCE

# MILITARY PROFESSIONAL MASTERY BRANCH



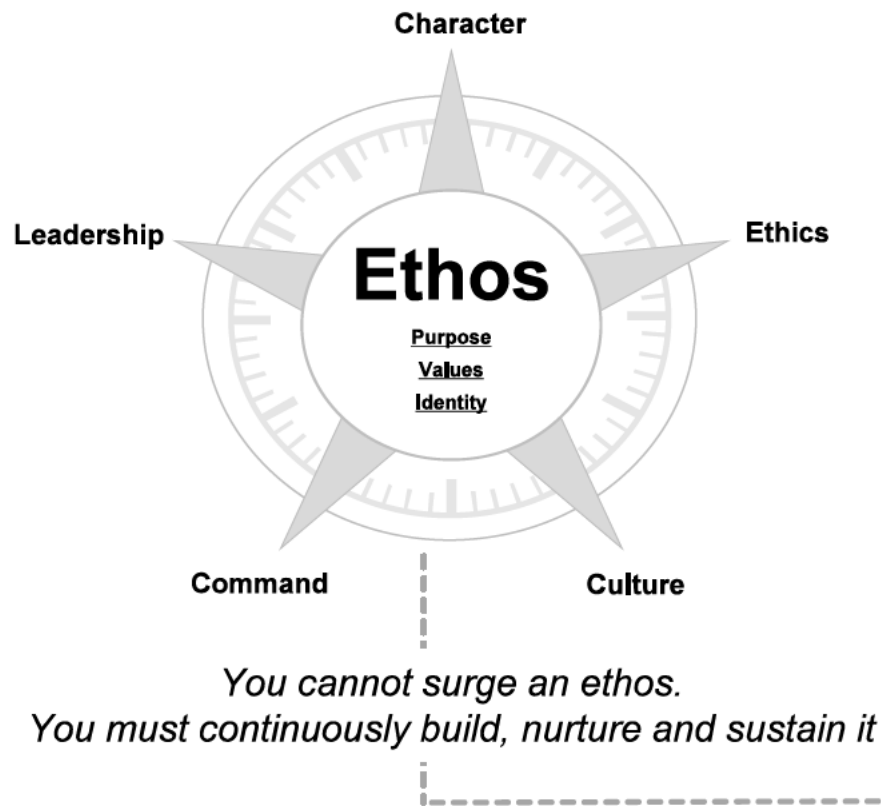
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## ETHOS OF THE PROFESSION OF ARMS

The ethos of the Australian Military is a blend of collective purpose, values and shared identity.

This ethos ensures that the Australian Defence Force acts as a trusted, respected, and effective instrument of national policy, upholding the highest standards in defence of Australia and its interests.

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# ETHOS OF THE PROFESSION OF ARMS

## Key Functions of Our Ethos

**Purpose:**

Clarifies the ADF mission.

**Defines Core Values and Principles:**

Service, courage, respect, integrity, excellence;  
guides alignment and newcomer understanding.

**Legitimises Lethal Force:**

Ensures lawful, disciplined, morally clear use of  
violence.

**Preserves Moral Integrity in War:**

Helps navigate moral hazards and retain humanity.

**Fosters Trust with Society:**

Reinforces military as servant of the nation, not  
personal gain.

**Strengthens Cohesion and Leadership:**

Builds unity, loyalty, courage, and selflessness.

**Guides Ethical Decision-Making Beyond Battlefield:**

Provides framework for complex political,  
humanitarian, and strategic dilemmas

## Conduct in the Profession

**State-Sanctioned Lethality with Moral Purpose:**

Use lethal force lawfully, and ethically.

**Unlimited Liability and Selfless Service:**

Prioritise mission, puts support in place for  
comrades, accept potential ultimate sacrifice.

**Doctrine of Double Effect and Ethical Warfare:**

Minimise unintended harm; operate under laws of  
armed conflict; uphold humanity even in war.

The Ethos of the Australian  
Profession of Arms affirms the  
sacred trust placed in the ADF: to  
wield force with honour, protect  
with courage, and serve with a  
steadfast commitment to  
Australia's people and values.

## Our Ethos

- Serves as a moral compass  
guiding behaviour and  
identity.
- Anchors purpose, legitimises  
force, and preserves humanity.
- Explains why, what is  
expected, and how to deliver.
- Provides a foundation for  
actions in Service and enables  
transition as a part of society

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# ETHOS OF THE PROFESSION OF ARMS

## Purpose

Defence's mission is to defend Australia and its national interests in order to advance Australia's security and prosperity.

## Values

**SERVICE, COURAGE, RESPECT, INTEGRITY, EXCELLENCE**

## Identity

**The Joint Force**

## Guiding Principles

- **Unlimited Liability:** Prioritise mission and mates
- **Self-Regulation:** Uphold standards and ethics
- **Ethical Action:** Navigate environment; preserve humanity
- **Living Ethos:** Enable wellbeing; support reflection and debriefing

## Individual Obligations

### Expert

- Master your craft
- Train, think, adapt
- Pursue excellence

### Steward

- Honour the Anzac Tradition
- Lay the foundations for the future
- Lead with integrity

### Diplomat

- Represent Australia
- Reflect our values
- Build understanding

### Servant

- Serve the people
- Grin in the face of adversity
- Love for country, the ADF and mates

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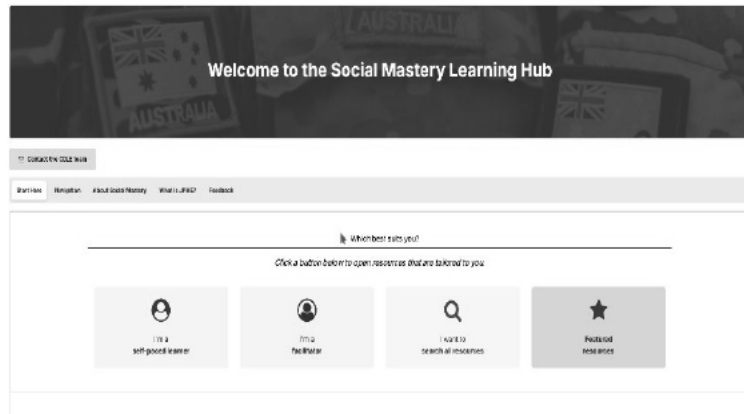
# Developments



The Continuum on a page

|  | 1  | 2  | 3                                    | 4   | 5  |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Induction                                |  |  |                                      |   |  |
| Intermediate                             |  |  |                                      |   |  |
| Joint Operational                        |  |  |                                      |   |  |
| Integrated                               |  |  |                                      |   |  |
| National                                 |  |  |                                      |   |  |
| Defence                                  | Cognitive Abilities<br>Critical and Creative<br>Thinking | Complicated Problems                     | Complex Problems                     | Wicked Systems                                | Multi-agency<br>Wicked Systems             |
| Profession of Arms                       | Own Domain Awareness                                     | Own Domain Mastery<br>Joint Awareness    | The Art of War<br>Joint Competency   | Military Power<br>Joint Mastery               | Integrated<br>National Power               |
| National Security<br>Policy and strategy | National and Military<br>Power awareness                 | Operational Planning<br>Military Science | Campaign Planning<br>Operational Art | Theatre Operations<br>Strategic Art           | Coalition Capabilities<br>Political Acumen |
| Employment Category                      | Initial Employment<br>Competence                         | Advanced Specialisation                  | Capability Leadership                | Joint Effects                                 | Civil-Military Interface                   |
| Core Military Skills<br>and Joint Skills | Basic Military Skills                                    | General ADF<br>Knowledge and Skills      | One Defence<br>Capability System     | Integrated Systems                            |  |
| Influence                                | Lead Self  | Lead Teams /<br>Lead Leaders             | Lead Operating Systems               | Lead Capability                               | Lead Integrated Systems                    |
| Military Ethics<br>and values            | Conceptual Frameworks<br>Defence Values                  | Ethical Philosophies                     | Moral Leadership                     | Lead organisation<br>through ethical concerns | Stewarding the<br>Profession               |
| Character                                | Resilient Moral Identity                                 | Trust Development<br>Through Co-sensory  | Character Role Model                 | Generate Climates<br>of Trust                 | Character Exemplar                         |
| Culture                                  | Culture Alignment  | Diversity Appreciation                   | Cultural Stewardship                 | Cross Cultural<br>Leadership                  | Cross Cultural<br>Ambassador               |
|  | Foundation   | Tactical                                 | Operational                          | Enterprise                                    | Strategic                                  |
|  | Developing   | Productive                               | Flexible                             | Agile   | Adaptive                                   |

Home



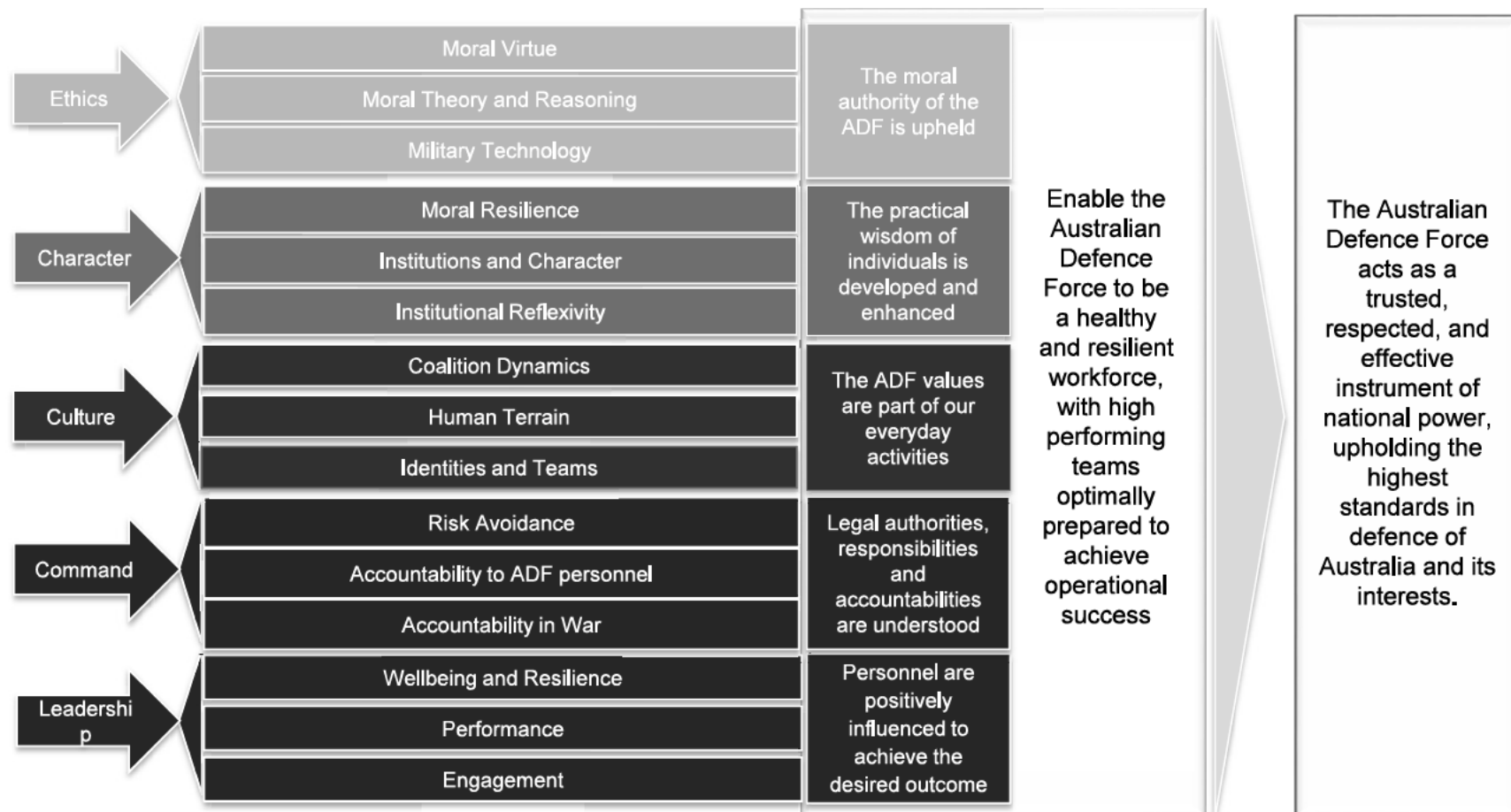
Lives in Leadership | Future Forge

ADC Forge Media - Podcast - Apple Podcasts

Ethics page revamp



# Developments





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## Conduct of the Ethics Seminar

### DAY ONE

- Upholding Integrity in High-Stakes Environments
- Evolve the Profession's Legitimacy.
- Navigating Ambiguity and Complexity
- Building Cohesion in approach

### DAY TWO

- Strengthening personal character and resilience

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## Keynote Address - The Hard Right



LTGEN JJ Frewen AO, DSC

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