To Serve With Honor is the first book by an American to focus on the validity of current standards of military ethics in more than a century. This thoughtful study begins with the premise that the military profession is qualitatively different from any other profession. Author Richard Gabriel uses this assumption to address such vital questions as What are the limits of military obedience? and When does a soldier have an obligation to resist the orders of his superiors?

My Personal Review:
This book argues that the permeation of business and civilian standards into the military services of the United States, have and will severely compromise its capabilities. Beliefs such as, that the lack of a promotion to a supervisory position should be equated with incompetence and failure, that physically comfortable administrative positions are more prestigious and require more competence than field positions, and the so-called team spirit entailing that everything, including ethics, be subordinate to the achievement of the goal, are thoroughly analyzed and criticized as incompatible with the fundamental purposes and responsibilities of a military serving a Western democracy, and the honor demanded for these responsibilities. All involved with, and interested in the capabilities of, the U.S. military will find this book both highly readable and uniquely thought provoking.

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