

## **Ethics Final Exam**

**1. Anticipating the possibility that their soldiers may one day be captured by the enemy, some modern armies include in their basic training exposure to simulated yet intimidating torture techniques. That is, they subject their own troops to mild forms of simulated torture in order that they may learn how to resist torture and not divulge the plans and classified information that they know. Some other armies actually train through experience of torture.**

**Is this practice justifiable ethically? If you believe it is justifiable only under certain conditions, specify the conditions. Explain and defend your position, and then explain how your ethical philosophy helped you come to this conclusion.**

- Torture is never ethical. Torture is defined as inflicting severe pain on someone for enjoyment or to illicit certain responses. Torture may get the answer military seeks from a prisoners but it is inhumane and violates the notion of a democratic society. Torture is excruciating pain. No soldier will ever learn to tolerate the pain associated with torture and to conduct experiments to see if the soldiers level of tolerance will increase is not only completely inhumane and a violation of their 8<sup>th</sup> amendment rights. Torture is not ethical in any situation.

**2. Analyze the following ethical situation using YOUR ethical philosophy. Read the situation and then in your answer, explain why this is an ethical situation, what the "issues" are, and how an "ethical" person would resolve them. Explain how YOUR ethical philosophy statement has helped you reach a conclusion about how to resolve or analyze this situation.**

**Construction companies must usually engage in competitive bidding for their contracts. This practice demands that they anticipate every material and labor cost months and even years ahead and commit themselves to complete a project for a specified amount of money. A mistake in calculating or a failure to anticipate a significant increase in prices can bankrupt a company.**

**Consider the situation of the combination of the unexpected increase in lumber prices due to the war in Iraq and Afghanistan with multiple hurricanes in the United States in the past few years.**

**1. Would it be ethical for a company who had won a bid for a construction job before the increase in lumber prices, to use substandard materials in order to offset the increase in lumber prices after the fact?**

**2. Would it be ethical for a customer to hold the contractor to the original bid after unplanned and unprecedented lumber price increases occur, knowing it will cause the contractor to go bankrupt, or do the job at a huge loss?**