**Ethical Dilemma on the Job**

Kevin Sleem

The ethical dilemma I used when asked in class was cheating on your spouse when someone is on deployment in the military. I want to use a different example for this assignment.

One ethical dilemma is stealing from the workplace. This could involve money from the petty cash drawer, or even a pair of sunglasses from the company store. I never embezzled money, but I did take a pair of sunglasses. I regretted it the next day, but it was too late to return them. We had taken shirts before from the company store, and no one noticed, but they kept a daily eye on the sunglasses. The next morning the manager walked to the store, and looked inside for a hard second, and he knew I had taken them, but did not say anything to me. I hope it was just because I was young, I hope I would not steal a pair of sunglasses again, but I rationalized it because I did not take any sick days. When I left the job I still had a few sick and vacation days built up, that I did not claim, but it was a learning experience for me. Don’t steal from work.

Another ethical dilemma is making a stand at work to protest something. One time at my job as a night auditor they were firing people from the night kitchen staff, and so I left in the middle of the night to show who was important. There was someone else there, and it was after I had given my two weeks notice, but the manager was called in, and someone still gave me a curt response the next morning. The lesson I learned is mind your own business at work. You might get attached to other workers, but there is unemployment insurance for terminated workers, and there are other jobs out there.

Another ethical dilemma is lying about maintenance records. For example, in the Navy, on the ship, we had to replace gaskets on motors. This is not easy, as there is very little tolerance for the gasket to surround the motor. This is important to maintain lubrication and functionality to maintain a tight fit. It might take hours to replace a gasket on a single motor. There can be an instinct to lie on the maintenance logs about replacing the gasket, because it is a labor intensive and time consuming job. An ethical dilemma I faced one time outside of work was cheating in a card tournament. I drew an extra card in the finals, and won the tournament. Cheating in sports and activities may seem like no big deal, and one saying is if you are not cheating, you are not trying, but cheating in sports can be indicative of bad behavior in the workplace too, and you might cheat on a maintenance log. Drugs are bad, and don’t cheat in sports is the lesson I learned.

In my job as an engineer, I will be given sums of money to complete prototypes. I should not misappropriate that money, like a pair of sunglasses, and any excess funds should be returned to the company. Also, we have to keep maintenance logs as engineers, so I should make sure I perform all required maintenance tasks and not lie to OSHA. A machine could fail and cost the company money, or someone could be hurt. And do not cheat in life, or in sports. It is better to not get a contract and tell the truth, than get the contract and lie. Usually, that is a tough decision, if you need the money, and fibbing out specifications could get you the job, but you still have to deliver on your promises, or your company might fail.