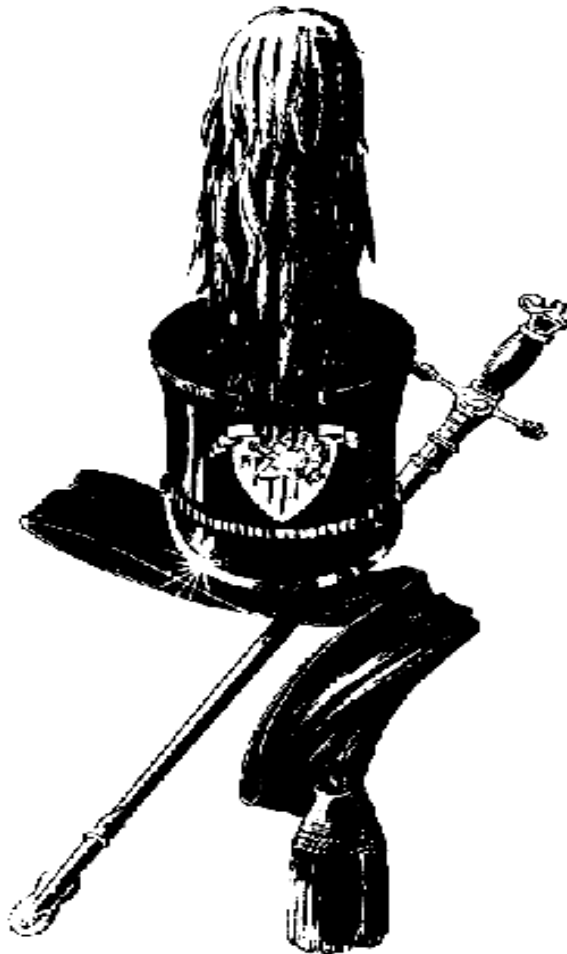




United States Military Academy



Cadet Honor Code & System



Duty, Honor, Country

LTC Todd Messitt
Special Assistant to the Commandant
for Honor Matters



Outline

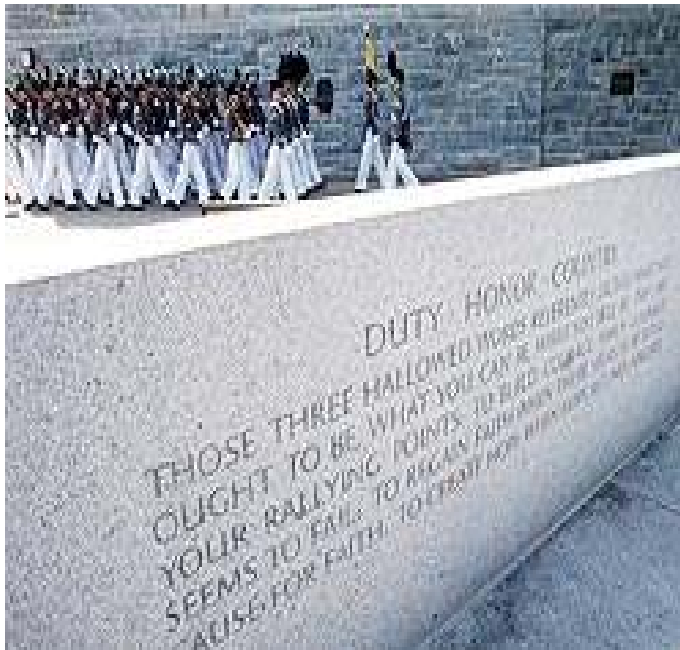
- ***Honor Code and Purpose***
- ***Organization and Responsibilities***
- ***Honor Investigative Process***
- ***Superintendent's Options***
- ***Honor Study Group***

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State of the Code

- ***The Honor Code is healthy and working ...
but remains under pressure.***



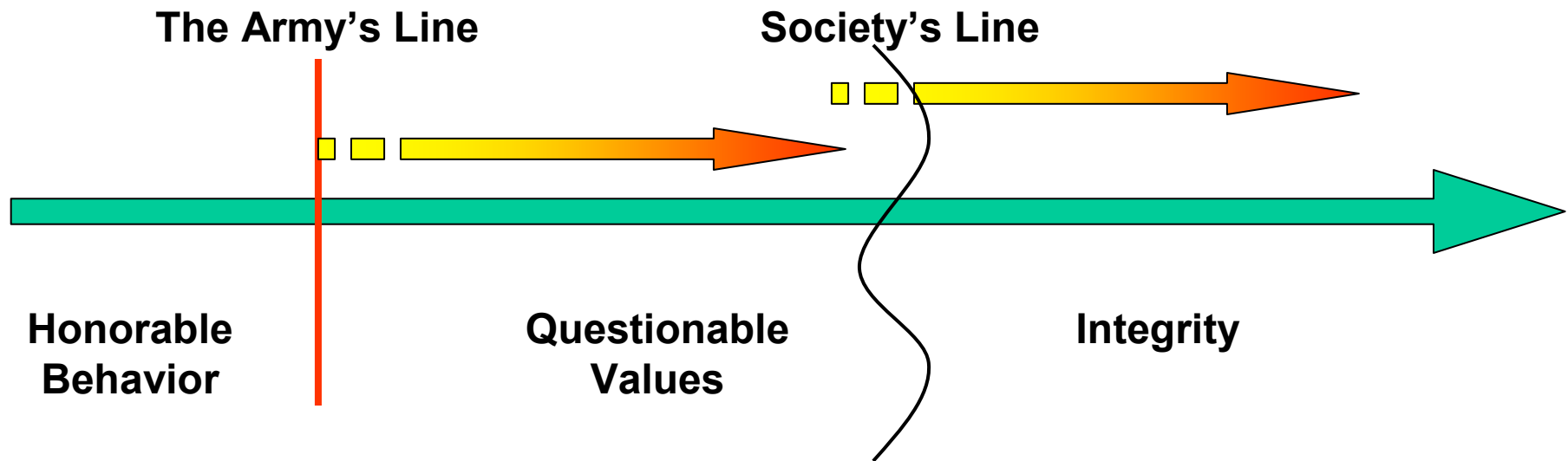
“There are two parts to being honorable,
one believing in it,
and two living up to it.”

- David Wilkie, 1988 Honor Chairman

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Values Degradation in Society



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Cadet Honor Code

“A cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do.”

- **Purpose:**
 - To foster a commitment to honorable living as leaders of character for the Army and the Nation
 - Foundation for inculcating the Seven Army Values
- **Developed and administered by the Cadets**
- **The minimal standards for all Cadets**

Honor Plaza



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Goals of the System

- ***Learn*** and ***practice*** the essential leader responsibility of establishing a healthy, ethical climate within a unit
- ***Develop an understanding*** of the importance of integrity as an essential aspect of leadership
- Develop a strong desire to maintain an honorable lifestyle manifested in the ***Spirit of the Code***
- Achieve the level of ***commitment to honorable conduct*** necessary to prepare for greater challenges of integrity throughout a lifetime as an officer in the US Army and in service to the nation

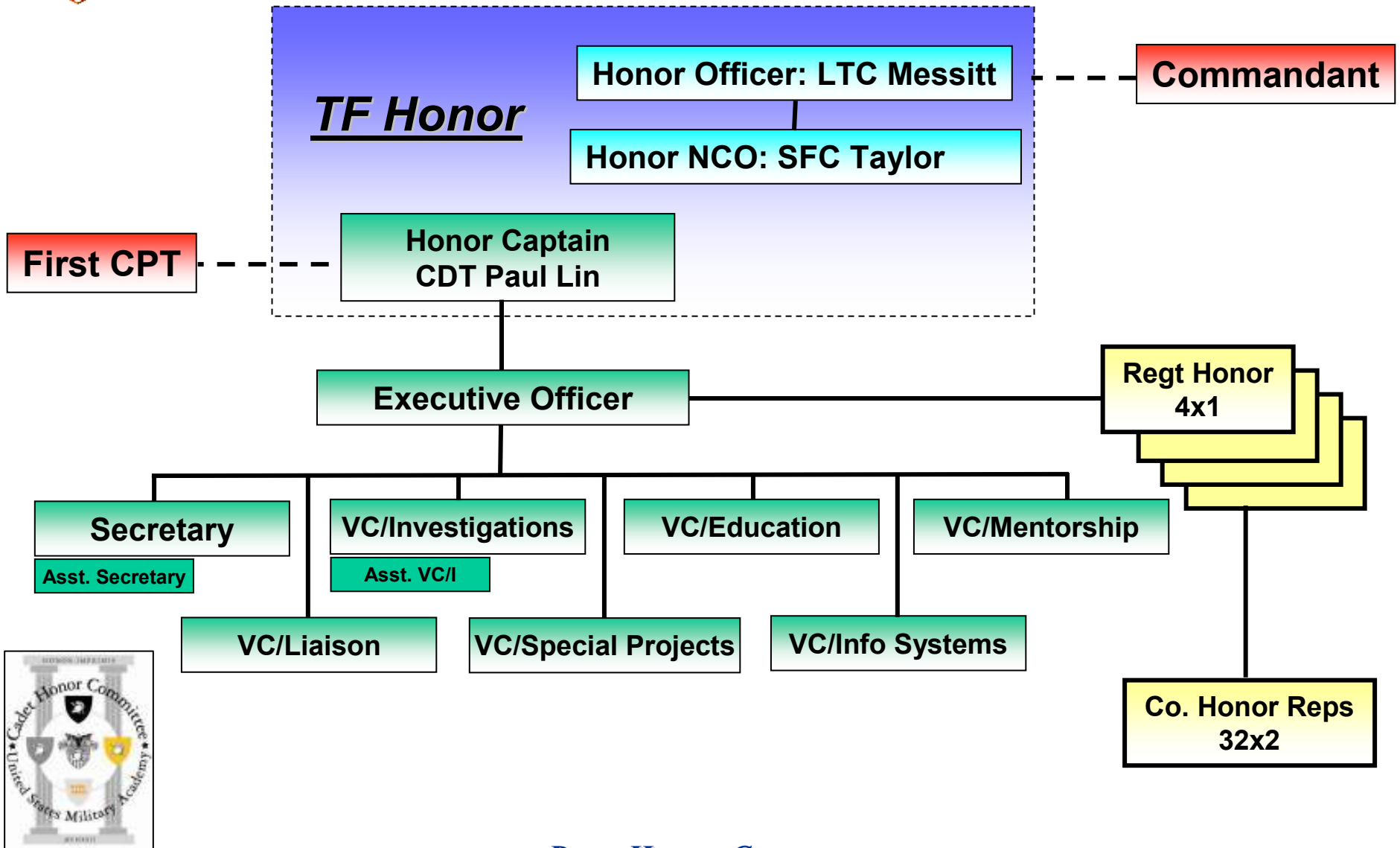
The Spirit of the Code

A cadet is truthful, fair,
respectful and responsible.

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The Honor Staff



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Special Assistant for Honor Roles/Responsibilities



- Commandant's Advisor for Honor issues
- Mentor the Cadet Honor Staff
- Assist Cadets with the implementation of the Honor Campaign Plan
- Supervise the Cadet Honor investigation process
- Supervise the administration of the Honor boards
- Supervise the Honor Mentorship Program



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Honor Committee Responsibilities

The Honor System is a Cadet run system

- Conduct honor investigations
- Serve as board members on all honor boards
- Oversee the Honor Mentorship Program
- Four year honor education program
- Formal publications
- Character development conferences
- Advise and assist the Corps of Cadets, Staff and Faculty, the Commandant, and Superintendent

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Honor and Academic Department Teamwork

- Cadet Liaisons in every department
 - Provide education, assistance, information and feedback to instructors
- Acknowledgement Statement Review and Implementation
- Instructor Involvement in Honor Boards
 - Witness
 - Character Witness
- Instructor Involvement in Cadet Honor Development
 - Model and reinforce honorable behavior
 - Classroom, OR duties, sponsorship and everyday interface with cadets
 - Honor Mentorship Program
 - Honor Instruction

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Superintendent's Options

(Standard Sanction or Discretion)

- Standard sanction for Honor Code violation is separation from USMA
- Over the last 10 years the Corps has averaged per year:
 - 121 investigations**
 - 65 Honor Boards**
 - 38 violations**
 - 12 cadets separated**
 - 17 cadets resigned during process**
 - 20 suspended separation- Supt's discretion**
- Alternatives to the Standard Sanction = Discretion:
 - Placed in Honor Mentorship Program
 - Suspended Separation
 - Turned back one class year
 - Turned back to December Graduate
 - Allowed to graduate with class
- Routine basis for Supt's Discretion:
 - Cadet maturity and time under the code
 - Resolve to live honorably
 - Egregiousness of the offense
 - Potential for service as an officer
 - Duress
 - Board Recommendations
 - Committee and Chain of Command Recommendations

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Honor Mentorship Program

- 9-12 month program under mentorship of Army officer, senior NCO or civilian faculty member
- Program includes:
 - keeping a journal
 - writing their own XY case
 - writing a role model emulation
 - conducting honor instruction
 - executing a developmental project
- Cadet has no privileges while enrolled in HMP
- Corps/Club Squad cadets don't compete
- Superintendent approves program completion

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USMA Honor Study Group



- **Purpose:** Conduct an in-depth review of the state of the Honor Code and Honor System at USMA
- **Group Composition:**
 - GEN (Ret) Fred Franks (Chair)
 - Select members of Academy staff from ODean, ODIA, BTD, Chaplain's Office, OPA, SCPME
 - MG (Ret) John Altenburg- Former Deputy JAG
 - Dr. Len Marrella- author *In Search of Ethics*
 - Current Cadet Honor Captain and Class of 2002 Honor Captain
- **Issues Addressed:**
 - The current Honor climate - Attitude, Trends, and Culture
 - Cadet "legal advice"
 - Alcohol as a defense
 - Plagiarism
 - Pressure on Cadets and the Implications
 - Equal Justice
 - Legal Correctness Balanced with Honor Code Mission
 - Honor Education
- **Recommendations to Superintendent in Nov '07**

"It's important to periodically put the spotlight on our Honor System and check its health. There are no specific reasons to do this right now... it's just time" .. LTG Hagenbeck

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Questions?

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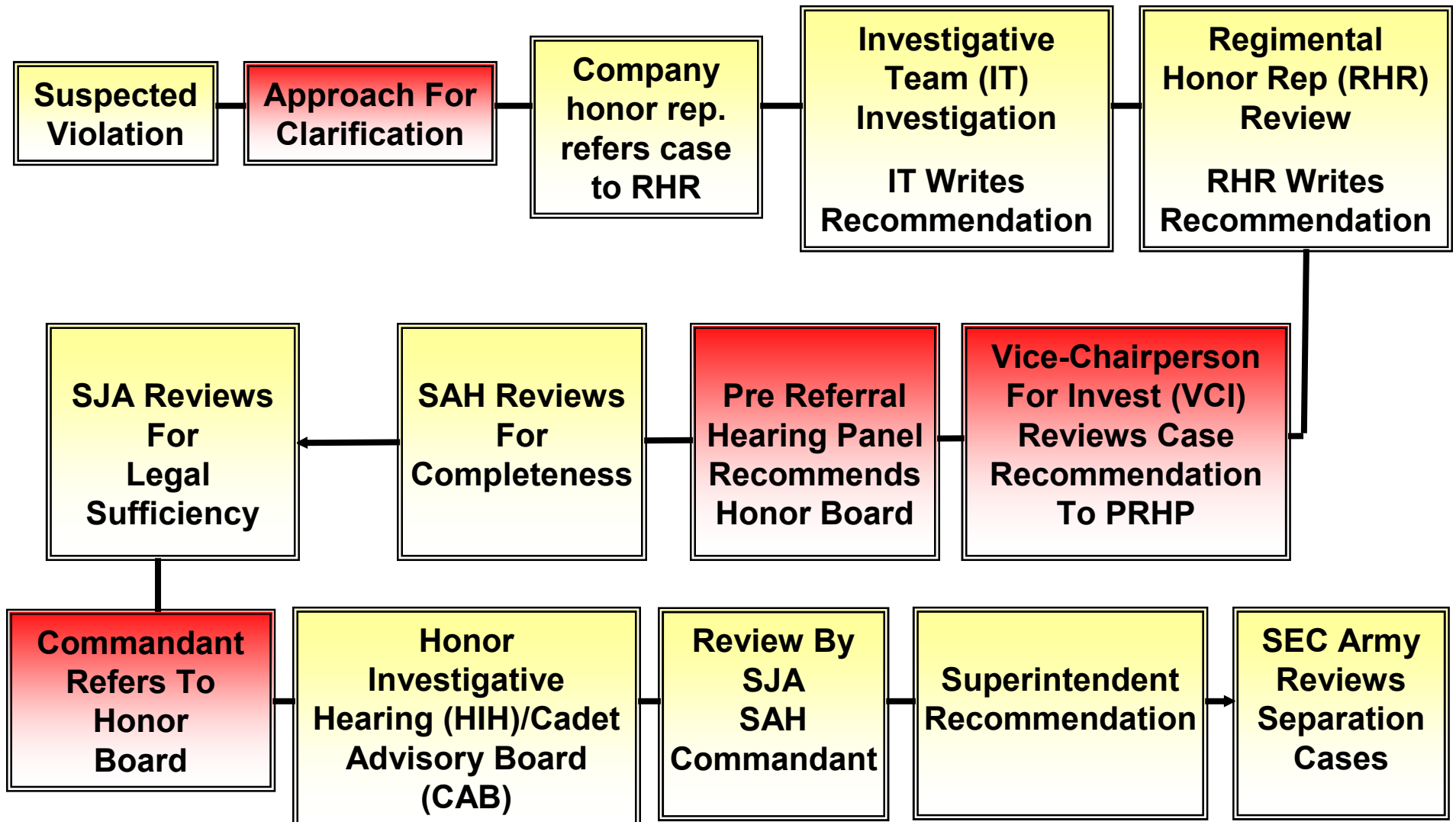


BACK UP

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Honor Investigative Process

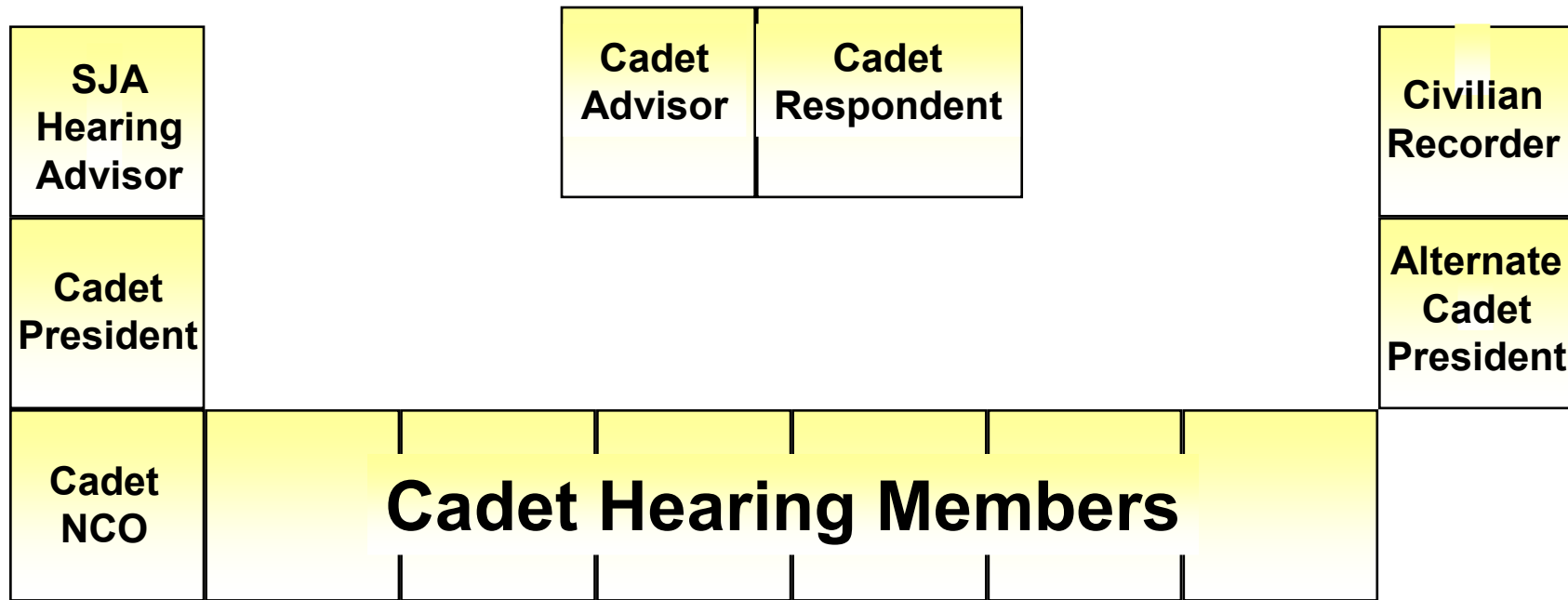


 - Case may be dropped at this stage

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Honor Investigative Hearing



- Six voting cadet members (4 of 6 to Find)
- Three honor committee reps in each hearing
- Three cadets from the Corps-at-large in each hearing
- Burden of Proof - *Preponderance of Evidence*

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