**Professionalism and Ethics in Corrections Activity 3**

Ethical Core Value Scenarios

Write or discuss the ethical response to the following scenarios.

1. You are responsible for 15 offenders on a work squad. While out in the field, another officer arrives to transport an offender back to the unit for an appointment with the institutional parole officer. The officer yells out to the offender, “Hey wetback Hernandez, come here.” The offender says, “Don’t call me a wetback.” The officer replies, “I’ll call you whatever I want to call you, and there’s nothing you can do about it!” The offender pushes the officer. The two begin to fight. You are armed with a shotgun and tell the offender to lie down. The offender complies, and there is no further incident. The Captain later hears about the fight and asks you what happened.
2. You know tobacco is strictly prohibited inside the unit. You know your supervisor smokes. He asks you if you want to go to the back gate and take a smoke break with him. The back gate is located inside the perimeter of the unit.
3. You have a term paper due tomorrow, and you have not finished it by the time that you come to work. While on duty, you work diligently on your paper and even decide to “skip” the midnight count in order to complete it. You submit the numbers from the count you took 4 hours earlier.
4. One of your employees in the maintenance shop has been having plumbing problems at his house. He has complained several times that he can’t afford the tools he needs for the repairs. You notice that several of the expensive wrenches are missing from the tool board after your employee leaves for the weekend. One of the offenders tells you he saw the employee place the tools in his pants pocket before he left. On Monday morning after your employee clocks in, you notice the tools have all been returned. The employee tells you he was able to get his plumbing fixed this weekend.
5. Your co-worker is having problems at home with her marriage. She has been on edge lately and easily breaks down in tears. You notice that she is talking privately with the same offender on a regular basis when she is on duty. You see her hand the offender a small folded piece of paper. Later, you overhear the offender saying he got the officer’s phone number.
6. You and several other officers go to the movies on your night off. You are wearing a shirt with the state logo and your unit’s name. The employee says, “Go on in officer. There is no charge.”
7. You observe one of your friends pull an offender in the sally port, yell at him, and punch him in the stomach. He tells you that he is under investigation and needs you to back him up. He wants you to tell the Lieutenant that he did not strike the offender.