The Military Oath of Office

Col Orwyn Sampson

I (FULL NAME)

All that signifies my individuality. A personal reference to no one else, which implies that I accept full responsibility for my actions.

HAVING BEEN APPOINTED

An historical event signifying the accomplishment of some requisite evaluation and/or training. An act conferred by a ruling authority.

A CADET (2Lt/Regular Officer/Permanent Professor . . .)

A position of esteem, respect, privilege, and reward that carries with it professional responsibility.

IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

A branch of our nation’s military that has a unique role to play in military operations and defense of American values and interests.

DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR

An oath to be taken seriously. One to which I offer my full allegiance.

THAT I WILL

An active call. One that demands my energy, my time, and if necessary, my life.

SUPPORT AND DEFEND

A directed call. My activity is to be both offensive and defensive.

THE CONSTITUTION

Not the parchment, but the principles—the ideal of liberty for all men and women.

OF THE UNITED STATES

It isn’t just anybody’s idea. It is ours! Tried by fire and found to be genuine, lasting, and valuable.

AGAINST ALL ENEMIES

There is inherent risk involved in my work. It is a call to arms and a call to sacrifice. The stakes are high. It is life we are supporting and defending and it is life that it may cost—whether supremely or on a moment-by-moment routine basis.

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC

No matter the foe we are ready, even if he arises among us.

THAT I WILL BEAR TRUE FAITH AND ALLEGIANCE TO THE SAME

My complete loyalty—my heart—is tied up in this commitment.

THAT I TAKE THIS OBLIGATION FREELY

An active decision on my part, delegated to no other, mine alone to make. Weighing the costs, in liberty I choose.

WITHOUT ANY MENTAL RESERVATIONS OR PURPOSE OF EVASION

My pledge is not ill-advised, half-hearted, or deceptive.

AND THAT I WILL WELL AND FAITHFULLY DISCHARGE

A commitment to excellence.

THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE UPON WHICH I AM ABOUT TO ENTER

All the duties, not just the pleasant or rewarding ones, remembering that the value of true service comes not in the job you get but the job you do.

SO HELP ME GOD

My allegiance can go no higher.