The Center for Civil-Military Relations (CCMR) offers a one-week seminar in the value of fighting ethically against terrorists. Though combating terrorism must be conducted within the rule of law, a government's actions should meet ethical standards as well. Without adhering to ethical principles, governments are in danger of losing the legitimacy that sustains them in the fight against those who recognize no legal or ethical limits. In the short run, ethical constraints may at first appear to be a hindrance, but in the long run fighting ethically is a significant advantage. Bundled in this course is a major second theme focusing on public affairs and strategic communications. Without thoughtful synchronized messages, targeted at adversaries, citizens, and international partners, ethical conduct cannot influence the outcome. Governments need to learn how to remind all audiences that fighting ethically works, setting the example for counter-terrorism professionals and creating a tipping point for the counter-terrorism campaign. The effects of technology on ethical behavior will also be explored. Although much of the content in this seminar pertains to military forces, there is ample opportunity to address other institutions charged with the responsibility for applying coercive force.

The key objectives of the course are:

- Review the role of ethics in armed conflict, including the intersection of ethics and law.
- Using vignettes, explain why fighting ethically works against terrorists.
- Examine the trade off between tactical discrimination and personal risk.
- Investigate the application of public affairs and strategic communications to fighting terrorism.
- Explore the mutually supporting activities of ethics and media strategies.
- Study business ethics to extract applicable lessons for government.
- Examine the role of technology in combating terrorism and how it influences human behavior.
- Conduct a classroom exercise on fighting terrorism ethically.

The overall goal of this seminar is to leave the student with a solid understanding of ethics and combating terrorism. In CCMR's experience, most counter-terrorism professionals have not thought enough about fighting ethically. We see this as another tool governments and their institutions can use to hasten the victory against terrorists and strengthen civil-military relations.