



# It's Your Oath Reference Sheet

Get the understanding, meaning, and history of the Oath of Office.  
It's more than words, so *Own Your Oath!*

## Purpose

As an officer who has taken and possibly administered the Oath, **how well do you understand the history, importance, and significance of the words of this oath?**

All officers say the Oath of Office upon commissioning and renew that oath with each promotion. Civil servants also take an Oath of Office. Enlisted members take the Oath of Enlistment upon entry and again each time they re-enlist.

**Our oaths are to the Constitution, and nothing else.**

**When did you last read it?** This tool provides background information to educate those saying the oath on the important act of swearing to support and defend our Constitution. **We must better understand the significance of this Oath and how it ties into our National Freedom and our Liberty.**

Use this tool and apply it the next time you are asked to perform a re-enlistment or officer promotion.

Reemphasize their solemn duty to defend the Constitution as an American Citizen!

## Joint Military, Oath of Office

"I [*state your full name*], having been appointed a (*rank*) in the United States *Military*, do solemnly swear (*or affirm*)

that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic;

that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;

that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion;

and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter.

So help me God."

## What does it Mean?

**I (name) do solemnly swear (or affirm)...**: Signifies a public statement of commitment, where you personally accept complete and total responsibility for your decisions and actions.

**...that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States...**: You are not swearing to support the President, the Country, the flag, political party, or a particular service branch, but rather the Constitution, symbolizing all these things. **Have you read the Constitution lately, or ever?**

**...against all enemies, foreign and domestic...**: We must always be prepared for current and future wartime operations, kinetic or otherwise. (Service Before Self)

**...that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same...**: Officers pledge allegiance to our Nation's citizens and the Constitution that empowers them, not a military service branch, government, or organization. (Service to our Nation's Ideas Before Self)

**...that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion...**: Your word is your bond! Without integrity the moral pillar of any core value is lost.

**...and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter.**: Promising to give the effort our all. (Anything worth doing is worth overdoing)

**So help me God (optional)**: Signifies truth and commitment to what you have sworn to in your oath. It is a call to a higher being or divine agency to assist with ensuring your own integrity and honesty regarding your Oath.

## Unpacking Your Commissioned Officer Oath of Office (Joint Military, One Oath)

There are many different Oaths, but **all include some form of formal declaration or promise to fulfill a pledge**, often calling on a higher being, or a sacred object as witness to truth, commitment, **sincerity of your statement and promise**; with an **implication of divine judgment** in the event of falsehood or breach of obligation. **Oaths call on a higher power to perform to the best of our ability**, a sense of honor (without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion), and **consequences of failing to live up to one's word and duty**. Such declarations began during ancient Roman times. Many pledged loyalty to a specific general officer for a specific campaign. That's not what we do today as US Armed Forces Officers, however. **Oaths began in the U.S. in early colonial days**. In the 1600s, the Pilgrims established the Mayflower Compact—which served as an oath, a covenant, and a constitution. It's noteworthy that during the **Constitution against all enemies, including domestic ones**.

We've, unfortunately, been **hyper-focused on foreign threats through our own cultural biases, historical focus, and entertainment industry**. That leads us to focus on the word "foreign" and neglect to consider many of the **domestic threats** that are apparent, if we'll only look. The founding fathers were adamant about economic matters. **Roman soldiers demanded pay in "sound money,"** at the time that being precious metals such as gold or silver. They recognized then, **as drafters of the Constitution recognized in the late 1700's, that a sound economy begins with the honest management of the medium of exchange in markets for products and services.** *They knew from history that unsound money created "by decree" of the government was detrimental to the population and citizens who put a governor in place.* Because of this, we're seeing our cost of living increase drastically while our incomes from the federal government

continues falling way behind. Additionally, **we're storing our life savings, in fact our energy from the jobs we've performed, into Wall Street held financial services vehicles that are putting our life's energy at grave risk.** It's our life's energy because **we trade our time, imagination, knowledge, and experience in a job for single paychecks measured in the fiat currency, which is produced at will by the federal government and the banks.** This only skims the surface and is central to any sense of Liberty and Freedom you desire to enjoy once you leave military service, and during it, too.

Learn more with the *It's Your Readiness* series in the [Liberty Readiness Toolkit](#).

Get a jump on "transition planning" with this free guide:

<https://www.jarrodsmith.com/freebie>

To Your Liberty,  
**Jarrod H. Smith,**  
#HeckYeah