

- **The problem I think we should center on**
 - [Flechais & Chalhoub](#) show that ethical issues in cybersecurity are not rare edge cases. They come up during routine work because practitioners make high-impact decisions with incomplete info, conflicting stakeholders, and real authority (access, monitoring, denial of service, disclosure choices, etc.).
 - Cyber practitioners hold discretionary power. What keeps that power constrained in practice when the work is fast, opaque, and often protected by confidentiality?
 - **Main question:**
 - How do security practitioners stay aligned with codes of ethics in ways that actually prevent abuse of power?
- **Sub-questions**
 1. **Where does “power” show up in daily practice?**
 - a. Use Flechais & Chalhoub’s CyBOK mapping as the structure (human/org, attacks/defenses, systems, software, infrastructure).
 2. **What are the failure modes?**
 - a. Examples: over-collection, unnecessary surveillance, retaliation, hiding incidents, “silent fixes,” excessive access, and using tools beyond authorization.
 3. **What happens when someone sees misconduct?**
 - a. Reporting behavior: barriers, incentives, cultural norms, mechanisms, frequency.
 4. **What would “real” ethical control look like?**
 - a. Not just “have a code,” but enforceable routines: approvals, logging, separation of duties, escalation ladders, protected reporting channels, and independent review.
- **What to cover:**
 - **Barriers:** fear of retaliation, career harm, NDAs/confidentiality, “it’s normal here,” loyalty to team, ambiguity (“is this actually unethical?”).
 - **Appetite and culture:** do leaders want to know, or just want problems to stay quiet?
 - **Mechanisms:** internal channels, hotlines, compliance, external regulators, and professional bodies.
 - **What “counts” as reportable:** misconduct vs bad judgment vs “grey-zone.”

- **How the military relates:**
 - AI Prompt: “Compare military and cybersecurity professionals with relation to ethical decision making and provide academic journals that may be helpful.”
 - Both military and cybersecurity are professions where people are entrusted with power. The difference is that the military has more explicit accountability structures around authority.
 - **Compare:**
 - chain of command and responsibility expectations
 - explicit norms about accountability for decisions
 - formalized professional identity and discipline
 - reporting misconduct as part of duty, plus the realities and frictions
 - Some sources we can cite for the military side of things:
 - “Paradoxes of Professionalism” (International Security, MIT Press) [MIT Press Direct](#)
 - Naval War College Review (professional military ethics and accountability themes) [Digital Commons](#)
 - Military Review PDF on command responsibility/accountability [Army University Press](#)
1. Define “abuse of power” for this project
 2. Pick 2–3 CyBOK areas to go deeper (for example: incident response + privacy/monitoring + vulnerability disclosure).
 3. Draft the military comparison as a subsection: “How professions operationalize accountability for authority,” using the sources above.
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- Other useful sources from the previous outline:
 - **Insider threat & misuse of access**
 - Cases where employees exfiltrate customer data, abuse admin privileges, or snoop on records (healthcare, financial institutions). [PMC+1](#)
 - Ethical angles: least privilege violations, lack of monitoring, culture that tolerates “peeking”.
 - **Cross-jurisdiction ethics (US vs EU vs more authoritarian regimes)**
 - There’s comparative legal work on privacy and surveillance, but less on:
 - How practitioners in different legal regimes handle ethical conflicts (e.g., Chinese vs EU vs US data retention, encryption, monitoring). [Premier Science+1](#)