Youth Orientation

100 Black Men of America Annual Conference

Good morning, I'm Major General Montague Winfield. On behalf of your conference sponsor, the United States Army, I'd also like to welcome each of you to this annual conference of the 100 Black Men of America. This conference is really all about YOU.

All the adults you'll see for the next few days have gathered here because we care about you and your future. We want you to succeed; and we're here to give you the support you need to become successful.

How many of you are attending this national conference for the first time? I'd like four of you to come up here with me.

How many of you have attended previous national conferences? One…two…you three come stand next to them.

It's no accident that you are here. ALL of you have earned the privilege of being in Las Vegas this weekend. And you want to continue to make your parents and mentors proud of you. Right?

Do you know the easiest way to do that? By practicing the Army Values for the entire time you're at the convention. Practicing the Army Values means you have a higher standard of conduct from the ordinary person.

(He walks over to the first teenager on the stage and hands him or her a large card with the letter "L" on it.)

What do you think the first Army value is? It starts with the letter "L". You get the first chance to win the prize, then we'll try someone in the audience. What Army value starts with the letter L? *(A teen guesses "Loyalty")*

What does loyalty mean? And how would it apply to a situation here at the convention? *(A teen responds)*

Loyalty is having faith and allegiance, believing in and devoting yourself to something or someone. Can you do that for each other throughout this weekend?

(He walks over to the first teenager on the stage and hands him or her a large card with the letter "D" on it.)

What do you think the next Army value is? It starts with the letter "D". You get the first chance to win the prize; then we'll try someone in the audience. What Army value starts with the letter D? *(A teen guesses "Duty")*

What does "duty" mean? And how would it apply to a situation that you might be involved in here at the convention? *(A teen responds)*

Duty is fulfilling your obligations, right? Doing your duty means more than carrying out your assigned tasks. Duty means

being able to accomplish tasks as part of a team. We're in this together, right?

(He walks over to the first teenager on the stage and hands him or her a large card with the letter "R" on it.)

What do you think the third Army value is? It starts with the letter "R". You get the first chance to win the prize; then we'll try someone in the audience. What Army value starts with the letter "R"?

(A teen guesses "Respect")

What does "respect" mean? And how would it apply to a situation that you might be involved in here at the convention? *(Teen responds)*

Respect is treating others as they should be treated, right? Soldiers have a code to "treat others with dignity and respect while expecting others to do the same." It's the Golden Rule. Can we respect each other throughout the convention?

(He walks over to the first teenager on the stage and hands him or her a large card with the letter "S" on it.)

What do you think the fourth Army value is? It starts with the letter "S". You get the first chance to win the prize; then we'll try someone in the audience. What Army value starts with the letter "S"?

(A teen guesses "Service")

Close enough. It's actually "Selfless" Service. What does that mean? And how would it apply to a situation that you might be involved in here at the convention? *(Teen responds)*

Selfless Service is larger than just one person. The basic building block of selfless service is each team member's commitment to go a little further, endure a little longer, and look a little closer to see how he or she can add to the team effort. Can we work as a team this weekend?

(He walks over to the first teenager on the stage and hands him or her a large card with the letter "H" on it.)

What do you think the fifth Army value is? It starts with the letter "H". You get the first chance to win the prize; then we'll try someone in the audience. What Army value starts with the letter "H"?

(A teen guesses "Honor")

What does "honor" mean? And how would it apply to a situation that you might be involved in here at the convention? *(Teen responds)*

Do you know what the Nation's highest military award is? The Medal of **Honor**. This award goes to Soldiers who develop the *habit* of being honorable, and reinforce it with every choice they make and every action they take.

(He walks over to the first teenager on the stage and hands him or her a large card with the letter "I" on it.)

What do you think the sixth Army value is? It starts with the letter "I". You get the first chance to win the prize; then we'll try someone in the audience. What Army value starts with the letter "I"?

(A teen guesses "Integrity")

What does "integrity" mean? And how would it apply to a situation that you might be involved in here at the convention? *(Teen responds)*

Integrity is doing what is right, even when no one is looking. Would you agree? Integrity requires that you do and say nothing that deceives others. The more you act and speak with integrity, the more others will trust you.

(He walks over to the first teenager on the stage and hands him or her a large card with the letter "P" on it.)

What do you think the seventh Army value is? It starts with the letter "P". You get the first chance to win the prize; then we'll try someone in the audience. What Army value starts with the letter P? This one might be tough, so I'll give you a hint. It's actually two words. And the second word is "courage". What do you think the first word is?

(A teen guesses "Personal")

What does “personal courage” mean? And how would it apply to a situation that one of you might be involved in here at the convention? *(Teen responds)*

Personal Courage is the ability to face fear, danger, or adversity. Personal courage has long been associated with our Army. You can build your personal courage by standing up for and acting upon the things that you know are honorable—every day, every time.

Can you remember the seven Army values that you’re going to be living throughout this weekend and beyond? What are they?

Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. Together, these values add up to what abbreviated word?

Kids: LEADERSHIP!

And that’s what you are: Young leaders who will become adult leaders. That’s why you’re here. And that’s why we’re all so proud to be with you and work together for you.

Remember those seven values—and I guarantee you that you will be a strong leader…for life! Enjoy the weekend and conduct yourselves as young people with STRONG values!