



JOINT TASK FORCE CIVIL SUPPORT

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Justifying Chocolate

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It's October, and I'm ready to send my kids out on an annual candy gathering mission! I can't wait to help them "sort" and "sample" a little myself. It's the parent's prerogative after all, right? And in my mind, there is nothing better to "sample" than the CHOCOLATE!

Chocolate is health food in my book. M&Ms, Dove, Hershey's, it's all good to me. I even like the cheap stuff. This one truth I hold dear, "Chocolate is good for you!" Let's look at the details. First, Cocoa is a bean, and beans are good for you. We all know from a grade school rhyme "beans are good for your heart." And beans are vegetables, and vegetables are good for you. My mom always told me to eat my vegetables. DON'T tell me my mom was wrong. Then there is "milk chocolate." Milk builds the body, I've heard it said in 12 different ways! Okay, so there is some caffeine, but that just saves me from other addictions, right? Let's not forget the cocoa bean grows from a plant - so somehow I think it is a fruit as well! And if you mix chocolate with peanut butter, you have extra protein too! Lastly, we all know from scientific research that chocolate is loaded with antioxidants, and antioxidants fight cancer! I'm all for the fight against cancer! Thank God for CHOCOLATE, it's a miracle food from heaven!

An old proverb reads, "There is a way that seems right to man, but in the end it leads to death." (Prov 16:25) The older we get, and the more experience we get, isn't it interesting how we learn to rationalize, justify, and excuse so much. It's all the more reason we must hold fast to the principles and values that we choose in our best moments, that we may prevent waning in our distant moments. How easily we risk arguing just as silly arguments as above, yet with much more serious elements, of faith and family, with much more serious consequences. Let us continually reaffirm our core values, of faith; of hope and grace; and the values we hold within the Army, that they may not slip. Hold fast that which gives strength.