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ABSTRACT: Ethical Issues in the Global Arms Industry: A Role for Engineers

This paper has four parts. The first two seek to clarify the subject of this conference, ethical issues in the global arms industry. I take the subject to be questions related to special morally binding standards for the design, manufacture, sale, maintenance, and disposal of military artifacts, systems, training, or the like. The third sketches the role engineers have in much of the global arms industry. It is a central place, one constrained in various ways by engineering's codes of ethics and technical standards. The last part considers ways in which engineers might help with resolving some of the ethical issues current standards leave open. Among these is developing new technical standards. While the first part of this paper should contain few surprises, the last three will, I hope, contain more.