

ARMY VALUES Case-Ex: Duty

Case-Ex: Duty – Combat (SFC MacDonald)

(Bolded questions are included in the Case-Ex video interface)

Part 1:

SFC MacDonald describes being a medic at Bucca Prison in Iraq—the largest detention facility in that country in 2005. He describes the hostile conditions and the violence within the perimeter. He was responsible as a medic to care both for the MPs in his unit and for the detainees. Medics gave proactive health-care even to insurgents. One day, a detainee is severely injured during a fight and his friends carry him to the fence. SFC MacDonald describes the conflict between his desire and Duty as a medic to treat the man bleeding out on the other side of the fence, and his Duty as a medic and a Soldier to not enter the perimeter until it is secure.

1. What do you think SFC MacDonald's Duty is with regard to the detainees?

To his medics?

2. What is SFC MacDonald's problem?

3. How aware was SFC MacDonald that he had been confronted with an ethical decision?

4. What conflicts in the performance of his Duties did SFC MacDonald have?

5. With regard to the injured detainee, what are the possible outcomes if SFC MacDonald does nothing? If he goes inside the wire?

6. What options does SFC MacDonald have?

7. What rules or regulations apply to this situation?

8. What could be considered the right action and attitude?

9. How should SFC MacDonald evaluate his options?

10. Have you been in a situation where there seemed to be more than one right thing to do?

11. Would it be easier to just ignore this situation and not take action? What might happen?

12. In what ways is this situation more difficult because there is not a clear right or wrong?

13. What is the easiest course of action for SFC MacDonald?



ARMY VALUES Case-Ex: Duty (continued)

Part 2:

SFC MacDonald follows his unit SOP and does not move in because the area is not secure—he would be exposing other US Soldiers to harm. He discusses watching the detainee bleed out. He followed safety first. SFC MacDonald also reflects on the responsibility as a medic to prioritize care and ensure that they also protect themselves as an asset.

- 1. What actions did SFC MacDonald take to perform his Duties?**
- 2. Why was it hard for him to resolve the conflicts he faced between his Duties in this situation? What does his decision tell you about his values?**
- 3. What could have been the effects if SFC MacDonald had tried to render aid?**
- 4. What other Army Values did you recognize in SFC MacDonald?**
5. What motivated SFC MacDonald to act as he did? What does his decision tell you about his values?
6. What could have been the long-term effects if SFC MacDonald had tried to render aid?
7. How might this experience change the attitudes and actions of everyone that was involved?
8. What conflict did you see among the Army Values?

