

Case-Ex: Personal Courage

Splash Opening:

(Bolded text is displayed in the Army Values introduction video)

Personal Courage:

Face fear, danger or adversity (physical or moral.)

Personal courage is both physical and moral—physical, as we overcome fears of bodily harm to do our duty and moral, as we seek to do what is right even when unpopular. In both cases, we know what we need to do and—despite the risk to ourselves—we do it.

Objective: **Understand the Army Value of Personal Courage and how our Army succeeds because of the courage of the American Soldier.**

So, how do American Soldiers display Personal Courage?

- **We make and support good decisions—even if unpopular**
- **We risk it all for a buddy or a stranger**
- **We hold to what is right—regardless of the consequences**
- **We face our fears**
- **We speak with candor**

Conclusion: “Our Soldiers have often defined valor by facing their fears and sacrificing all for what we believe. Personal Courage can be shown in a burning building or in the middle of a kill zone. It can also be shown by a Soldier confronting a buddy who has made a wrong choice. Personal Courage emerges from fear and turns our decisions into actions. It builds our true character.”

- What does Personal Courage mean to you personally?**
- How have you observed Personal Courage since joining the Army?**

ARMY VALUES Case-Ex: Personal Courage (continued)

Case-Ex: Personal Courage – ARMY VALUES (PFC Keeter)

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

Part 1:

PFC Keeter describes his road march in Basic when he was really hurting. He talks about the difficulties of the road march and how he wasn't sure he was going to make it. A Buddy offered to take his ruck for him. PFC Keeter was afraid of failing.

Recognize the ethical dilemma

1. How do working through physical pain and facing fears involve Personal Courage?

2. What is PFC Keeter's problem?

Examine options through the ethical lenses

3. What options does PFC Keeter have as he struggles to complete the road march?

4. What rules or regulations apply to this situation?

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

6. What are the potential consequences to this decision?

7. How should PFC Keeter evaluate his options?

Commit to a Decision

8. What factors are influencing PFC Keeter's decision?

9. How will PFC Keeter's desire to perform impact him?

Act

10. What personal traits can help PFC Keeter push through his fear?

11. Why is it so hard for him to commit to finishing the road march?

12. Is this a one-time decision for PFC Keeter or an ongoing challenge?

ARMY VALUES Case-Ex: Personal Courage (continued)

Part 2:

PFC Keeter discusses how he realized that handing off his rucksack would cause more pain for the rest of his platoon, so he draws strength from the hard work they are already doing. He realizes that quitting would actually be even worse for him. PFC Keeter realizes that he can endure, persevere and encourage others to work harder. He relates dealing with the stress in Basic to the stresses they will face in combat.

- 1. How did PFC Keeter display Personal Courage?**
- 2. What motivated the other Soldiers in the platoon to endure even more by taking their buddies' rucks and ACH's?**
- 3. How does observing the courage of others build our own Personal Courage?**
- 4. In what ways did other Army Values contribute to PFC Keeter's Personal Courage?**

5. What was PFC Keeter's definition of Personal Courage? How does this compare to the Army definition?
6. How might this experience change PFC Keeter's attitudes and actions in the future?
7. In what ways did other Army Values contribute to PFC Keeter's Personal Courage?

ARMY VALUES Case-Ex: Personal Courage (continued)

Case-Ex: Personal Courage – Garrison/Off Duty (PV2 CEVIDANES)

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

Part 1:

PV2 Cevidanes describes growing up in Brazil and struggling with her decision to join the Army. Her father was opposed to the decision and encouraged her to attend college first. The cultural norm for PV2 Cevidanes was for women NOT to serve in the Army. She balances the input of her father with advice from some respected mentors.

Recognize the ethical dilemma

- 1. In what ways did it require Personal Courage for PV2 Cevidanes to join the Army?**
- 2. What factors were guiding her to join the Army? What factors were pushing her away from the Army?**
3. How aware was PV2 Cevidanes that she had encountered an ethical dilemma?

Examine options through the ethical lenses

4. What options does PV2 Cevidanes have?
5. What rules or regulations apply to this situation?
6. What is the right thing to do?
7. What are the potential consequences of this decision?
8. How should PV2 Cevidanes evaluate her options?

Commit to a Decision

9. What factors are influencing PV2 Cevidanes' decision?
10. What might be limiting PV2 Cevidanes' ability to take action or to change her perception?
11. What is the easiest course of action?
12. Which decision would require the most Personal Courage?

Act

- 13. Why is it important for Soldiers to understand and display Personal Courage?**
- 14. Personal Courage applies not just to physical circumstances, but also to other types of difficult situations. Describe other types of difficult situations where courage is needed.**

ARMY VALUES Case-Ex: Personal Courage (continued)

Part 2:

PV2 Cevidanes describes her conversation with a mentor and how she realized how important joining the Army would be. She summoned the Personal Courage to tell her father what she was going to do. Many of her friends and family at first struggled to understand her decision, but now they all—including her father—are proud of her.

- 1. How did PV2 Cevidanes display Personal Courage?**
- 2. Describe PV2 Cevidanes' future challenges in the Army that will require Personal Courage.**
- 3. What other Army Values does PV2 Cevidanes display?**
4. What motivated PV2 Cevidanes to act as she did?
5. How might this experience change PV2 Cevidanes' attitudes and actions in the future?
6. Were any of the Army Values in conflict in this scenario? Which ones?

ARMY VALUES Case-Ex: Personal Courage (continued)

Case-Ex: Personal Courage – Combat (PV2 COLTER)

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

Part 1:

PV2 Colter describes wanting to get out of the Army any way he can!

- 1. Would the leaders of a platoon want PV2 Colter as a member of their Platoon?**
- 2. How should PV2 Colter's Battle Buddies respond to his attitude?**

Part 2:

PV2 Colter participates in combat action and witnesses the courageous actions of his Platoon Sergeant.

- 1. Why is it important for Soldiers to act with Personal Courage?**
- 2. What might have happened if PV2 Colter never saw the courage of his Platoon Sergeant?**

Recognize the ethical dilemma

3. What is the situation PV2 Colter is involved in?
4. What are the basic issues involved?

Examine options through the ethical lenses

5. What options does PV2 Colter have?
6. What rules or regulations apply to this situation?
7. What is the right thing to do?
8. What are the potential consequences of this decision?
9. How should PV2 Colter evaluate his options?

Commit to a Decision

10. What factors were influencing PV2 Colter's decision?
11. What might be limiting PV2 Colter's ability to take action or to change his perception?

Act

12. What was the easiest course of action?
13. Which decision would require the most Personal Courage?
14. Were any of the Army Values in conflict in this scenario? Which ones?

ARMY VALUES Case-Ex: Personal Courage (continued)

Part 3:

PV2 Colter has experienced a change due to his actions and his Platoon Sergeant's actions.

- 1. How did the Platoon Sergeant's display of Personal Courage impact PV2 Colter?**
- 2. What other Army Values did you recognize in this scenario?**

Part 4:

PV2 Colter's Platoon Sergeant describes the situation from his perspective.

- 1. Given PV2 Colter's bad attitude at the beginning of the story, how did the Platoon Sergeant develop the trust between them that was needed on the battlefield?**
- 2. How can trust and Personal Courage impact your decisions and ability to Live by the Army Values?**