

Customs, Courtesies, and Traditions: “A Bond of Loyalty” Video Case Study

Facilitator: This is a two-part video. Watch each part, asking the associated questions after the correct segment. Remember that PV2 Miller volunteered to share this story and is a dedicated Soldier proudly serving in our profession of arms.

Video summary: *Esprit de corps* applies to all levels from the individual to the Army overall. Soldiers with *esprit de corps* have pride and shared values. PV2 Miller’s personal *esprit de corps* demonstrates a strong bond of loyalty to help a fellow Soldier. PV2 Miller describes having a buddy in Basic who gets a "Dear John" letter from his fiancé. While other members of the platoon react to the saddened Soldier in various ways, PV2 Miller has to decide whether or not to stick by his friend.

Two parts: Length: 1:23, 1:54.

Notes:

Part 1

- How does individual morale affect group *esprit de corps*?
 - Why does the Soldier’s “Dear John” letter negatively affect the group?
 - How could a negative event build group cohesion?
- Military courtesy defines interactions between professionals. What courtesy do Army Professionals of the same rank owe each other? What Army Value reinforces courtesy?
 - How does courteous behavior affect trust within a unit or organization?
 - Ask each member of the group to reflect on a time when someone’s treatment of them ruined a trust.

Part 2

- PV2 Miller said, “You form a bond with somebody and you can’t just throw that away.”
 - What does this statement say about PV2 Miller’s character? About his commitment to his buddy?
- Customs are established practices. How do members in your organization deal with situations like this?
- How does your organization show bonds of loyalty? How could the organization strengthen those bonds?