

# Customs, Courtesies, and Traditions: “Caught in the Act” Written Case Study

**Facilitator:** Reading the Case Study twice often ensures that participants are prepared to discuss the issues.

**Facilitator’s Summary:** "Customs" are established practices, endemic to our culture, prescribing what is expected and what is "unbecoming" or inconsistent with good order, discipline, and military bearing. While deployed to Iraq, a commander bears witness to an improper personal relationship between his Soldier and a nurse.

## Notes:

- Why did the commander walk the company area?
- How was the custom of walking the company area intended to affect the organization’s morale?
  - Why is it important for professionals to see and speak with their leaders?
  - How does this action denote consideration for the Soldiers?
- The Soldier and the nurse in bed acted against Army traditions against adultery and sex in theatre.
  - Why are these POSITIVE traditions?
  - How do these traditions affect group *esprit de corps*?
- The battalion CDR suggests simply counseling the Soldier. How will setting a unit standard contrary to tradition – not to mention general orders – affect the organization?
  - Ask the group to write down one way they’ve seen a leader use a negative event to bring a group together – to build cohesion or *esprit de corps*. Share & discuss responses.
  - How could a leader use ceremony or “events” to build *esprit de corps* using these traditions?