

# Customs, Courtesies, and Traditions: “Color Safe” Video Case Study

**Facilitator:** This is a two-part video. Watch each part, asking the associated questions after the correct segment. Remember that SGT Briggs volunteered to share this story and served admirably and heroically in combat.

**Video summary:** SGT Briggs’ developed character enabled him to adhere to the Army’s customs when deployed. While performing guard duty in one of the perimeter towers, SGT Briggs observed a local national waving a white flag and motioning. The man jumps over the perimeter wall into the American outpost. Penetrating the perimeter is considered a hostile act and the Rules of Engagement clearly allow SGT Briggs to take the shot. SGT Briggs has a split second to decide whether this man lives or dies.

Two parts; Length: 2:09, 3:15

## Notes:

### Part 1

- After SGT Briggs noticed the Iraqi waving the white flag, his response was “continue to observe and keep eyes on.”
  - What are the rules of engagement in this situation?
  - How should a professional respond when custom opposes standard and regulation?
  - How does honoring a custom like the “white flag” affect the Army’s built-up trust?

### Part 2

- SGT Briggs states, “Militarily and legally, I could’ve shot a man with a white flag.” What might have resulted from that action?
  - What value does the custom of “honoring a white flag” support and reinforce?
  - Ask the group to write down one value or standard they would support with a new Army custom or a new tradition. Share and discuss ways to put into action.
- The officer in charge of SGT Briggs said, “Good job.” How will SGT Briggs’ decision, and this leader’s reaction, affect future decisions made by members of this *unit*?