

Customs, Courtesies, and Traditions: “Letting Go of the Reins” Written Case Study

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

Facilitator’s Summary: Creating a positive environment fosters *esprit de corps*. A leader shapes the environment in which the leader and others operate. *Esprit de corps* is a characteristic that is reflected by maintaining courtesy through due consideration for our subordinates. Due to a lack of courtesy and consideration for subordinates, a new commander loses one of his Soldiers to suicide.

Notes:

- How important is one person to a group’s morale?
 - How did the commander’s involvement with SPC Albright affect *esprit de corps*?
 - What is the traditional role of an Army leader in another professional’s personal life?
 - What role should a leader play after he or she leaves the group?
- Share with the group how your leaders shape the *esprit de corps* within your unit.
- *Esprit de Corps* within units and the morale of each Army professional is essential to an effective team.
 - How did the new commander continue the customs and traditions of this unit?
 - How did the behavior of SPC Albright under the new command affect the organization?
- The tradition of loyalty from commander to Soldier can exist past the change of command – how could the organization positively use that bond of loyalty?
 - How does the new climate affect the Soldiers?
- How does your organization create a positive culture to foster *esprit de corps*? Share with the group how the organization’s *esprit de corps* affects you.