

# Customs, Courtesies, and Traditions: “Real PTSD” 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 that prescribe what is expected and what is inconsistent with good order, discipline, and military bearing. A "courtesy" reflects our Army Value of Respect, which represents appropriate regard to our superiors and consideration for our subordinates. As a company commander, consideration is given to the Soldiers while in command and after; however, a Soldier takes advantage of the commander's courtesy and is inconsistent with good order and discipline.

## Notes:

- The commander says, “I have never had a problem helping these great Soldiers who deserve the best I can give.”
  - What does this statement say about the commander’s courtesy towards his Soldiers?
- How does the commander demonstrate his bond of loyalty and pride to the Soldiers?
  - How does this behavior sustain *esprit de corps*?
  - How does the commander steward the Army’s trust?
- Ask the group to write down one way in which the Soldier is asking the commander for a memo exaggerating his combat involvement to justify a PTSD diagnosis is against Army customs; share and discuss responses.
  - In what ethical and moral position is the Soldier placing his commander?
  - How is this lack courtesies between professionals?
- Army Values are reminders of traditions which bind us.
  - What Values are present in this situation?
  - List the Values with the situation that go together.
  - What do the Values you listed say about each individual’s existing personal values?