

Customs, Courtesies, & Traditions: “Really Bad Timing” 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 in command, a commander's 1SG is accused of having an affair. This act is unbecoming and inconsistent with good order and discipline.

Notes:

- The Army traditionally supports marriage and enforces regulations against adultery. How do both sides of this tradition affect an organization’s *esprit de corps*?
 - Why does Army tradition support marriage?
- The *esprit de corps* was high; the captain “had a great command going,” for which he credited his 1SG.
 - How did tradition and regulation place the CPT in a difficult position?
 - Where did the CPT’s loyalty lie?
- Having a command team that works well together creates a positive environment, which fosters *esprit de corps*.
 - Discuss how the news of adultery can affect the command climate in this situation?
 - What Army courtesy or tradition could the CPT have used to work against such problems occurring? Events with the USMC detachment? Right-arm night?
- How do the 1SG’s actions – even if he did not commit adultery – counter to Army courtesies and traditions?
 - How did he uphold the NCO creed?
- Army Values are reminders of traditions, which bind us.
 - If a similar situation occurred in your organization or unit, what Values would be most important?