



## Honorable Service & Stewardship: “Haditha, Iraq” Written Case Study

**Facilitator:** This two-part case study promotes discussion about Honorable Service and Stewardship. Part 1 is the situation. Part 2 is a news article written after the final trial. Reading each part of the Case Study twice often ensures that participants are prepared to discuss the issues. Additional questions for discussion follow the conclusion.

**Facilitator’s Summary:** During a routine resupply mission on 19 November 2005, Lance Corporal Terrazas was killed and two other Marines were injured when their vehicle was struck by an IED in the city of Haditha. Soon after the IED attack, 24 Iraqi men, women, and children were killed by Marines who were in the same unit as Terrazas

### Notes:

### Part 1: Situation

- What factors cause Soldiers/Marines to kill unarmed non-combatants? Why didn’t the NCOs take proper action in this situation? Why didn’t any of the Company’s Marines speak up?
- Describe the type of climate/environment that existed in Company. Who is responsible for that climate?
- Were the Marines in the Company *servng honorably*? Why or why not?
- Is there a conflict of Values in this situation? Explain.

### Part 2: News Article

- Why did the other seven Marines have their charges dropped? Is “just following orders” a valid excuse?
- Part of Stewardship is regulating members and holding them accountable. What message does the result of this trial send to all those involved: to SSG Wuterich, to other Marines, to the Commanders, to Congress, to the American public?
- How should Civilians in countries which are under combat conditions be treated? What are their expectations of military forces who are there to “liberate” them? What message did this event send to the Iraqi people? What might be the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> order effects of that message?