

Military Expertise: “Life Out of Reach” Video Case Study

Facilitator: This is a two-part video. Watch each part, asking the associated questions after the correct segment. Remember that SFC MacDonald volunteered to share this story and is proudly serving in our profession.

Video summary: SFC MacDonald’s Military Expertise is displayed when he is faced with a conflict between his desire and duty as a medic to treat a detainee who was bleeding out on the other side of the fence and his duty as a medic and Soldier to not enter the perimeter until it is secure. This conflict reflects his certification as an Army professional.

Two parts; length: 2:37, 1:59

Notes:

Part 1

- As Army professionals, we are placed in situations requiring us to make decisions based on our Military expertise. What are some of the challenges SFC MacDonald is faced with?
- Concerning whether an injured person is a Soldier or detainee, SFC MacDonald said, “As a medic it’s your challenge, you’re fighting death.”
 - What does this statement say about SFC MacDonald’s competence? His character?
 - How is SFC MacDonald committed to the mission?
- The American people expect an expert and ethical Army professional in this situation, what did you see?
- How is expertise in this situation linked to trust?

Part 2

- How did SFC MacDonald perform his duties?
- How do his actions fit within the moral-ethical field? How does the Army Ethic help professionals make decisions?
- What examples do you see of “Military Technical”, “Political Cultural” fields of knowledge?
- How did SFC MacDonald and his Soldiers operated cross-culturally?
- How did SFC MacDonald demonstrate Military Expertise as both a Soldier and Medic?