

Standards & Discipline: “Accountable Justice” Video Case Study

Facilitator: This is a two-part video. Watch each part, asking the associated questions after the correct segment. Remember that 1SG Kurica volunteered to share this story and is proudly serving in our profession.

Video summary: 1SG Ernie Kurica is faced with a decision to make – whether to promote and regulate good order and discipline through enforcement of statutes, or entice a Soldier to resist temptation and choose the harder right. 1SG Kurica has an unknown criminal in his company’s ranks. A Soldier removed a 9mm pistol from the Company Arms Room. After locking down the Company, questioning suspects, and checking paperwork, 1SG Kurica and his commander must make a decision: Choose to pursue justice and risk not recovering the weapon, or offer amnesty to the criminal to secure a lost weapon?
Two Parts; Length: 1:58, 4:21

Notes:

Part 1

- What standards must 1SG Kurica weigh while he considers his courses of action?
- What is at stake in this situation – with the community and with the organization? How would you resolve a similar situation in your own organization?

Part 2

- How did 1SG Kurica’s decision to offer and uphold amnesty show discipline? What does 1SG Kurica’s decision say about his character and adherence to Army standards?
- Why did the promise of amnesty allow the Soldier to trust in his command to do the right thing?
 - How might the “amnesty policy” have been abused in this situation?
 - How might CH Lowthian’s relationship with the Soldier involved affect his ability to uphold the standard?