

Trust: “CPT Erik Peterson” Written Case Study

Facilitator: Reading the Case Study twice often ensures that participants are prepared to discuss the issues.

Facilitator’s Summary: Trust is essential for successful accomplishment of all our missions. CPT Peterson displayed trust between himself and his Soldiers when making the decision to save a young Iraqi girl’s life, risking those of his Soldiers.

Notes:

- What Army Values are present in this scenario as the company commander faces the dilemma of putting his Soldiers at risk in order to save the life of an Iraqi child?
- Why is it important to uphold Army Values?
- How does honoring Army Values in our decisions and actions sustain mutual trust between Soldiers?
- CPT Peterson was faced with the “fine balance between protecting civilians and protecting [his] Soldiers.”
 - How is trust developed between leaders and Soldiers?
 - What is the correlation between trust and effective leadership?
- CPT Peterson took a chance to do the right thing.
 - How do his actions reflect moral-ethical expertise?
 - How is trust sustained between leaders and Soldiers?
 - What are some ways Soldiers develop trust?
- Consider leaders you admire. How do they decide which approach is best for any given situation? How can trust affect how decisions are made?
- How does the level of expertise in a unit or organization relate to how well the unit’s Soldiers and leaders trust one another?