

Trust: “The Two Soldiers” Written Case Study

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

Facilitator’s Summary: While deployed, LT Taggart and his platoon sergeant must use their military expertise to accomplish two Army missions, while protecting their fellow Soldiers and maintaining the trust between Soldiers and between leaders and Soldiers.

Notes:

- How does mission command relate to this situation?
 - Why does the success of mission command depend on an Army culture of trust?
- Should LT Taggart allow the platoon sergeant to question the prisoner? Why or why not?
 - What is the correlation between trust and effective leadership?
- In regard to a possible rescue mission, LT Taggart will probably have to split the platoon to accomplish both purposes.
 - How is trust developed between leaders and Soldiers?
 - How does the level of expertise in a unit relate to how well the unit’s Soldiers and leaders trust one another?
- Discuss how a unit’s climate and culture will can develop and sustain the bond of trust.
 - How can trust between Soldiers, and leaders and Soldiers, influence this situation?
- How can the demonstrated Competence, Character, and Commitment of LT Taggart and the platoon sergeant sustain trust necessary to accomplish both missions?
- What are the possible consequences of distrust between leaders and Soldiers?