

Case-Ex: “A Vulnerable Unity” (SSG Bell)

Example Questions

Part 1

[Watch Part 1 of “A Vulnerable Unity”]

1. What decision(s) does SSG Bell face? What are the ethical implications of each decision?
2. SSG Bell says, “We try and train our Soldiers to first secure the area and then go and get your fallen comrades. Don’t go rushing into the kill-zone because then you’re just going to be a casualty as well.” When the SOP does not explicitly cover a certain course of action, how does a Soldier commit to a decision and act?
3. What prepares Soldiers to have the competence and character needed to make these decisions in combat?
4. What experiences and expertise can SSG Bell draw from to make an ethical decision?

Part 2

[Watch Part 2 of “A Vulnerable Unity”]

5. SSG Bell makes the choice to help the ANA Soldiers. What motivated SSG Bell to sacrifice his personal safety and security?
6. How has SSG Bell’s experience likely affected his professional character?
7. SSG Bell says, “A lot of people believe that because you’re [Afghan] that you’re part of the Taliban. I think I demonstrated that we were a unified team. We were working together regardless of the fact that we were from two different worlds.” How does SSG Bell’s commitment to the Army Profession and loyalty to the mission affect his decision making process?
8. What would be the possible outcomes had no American troops supported the stranded ANA soldiers? How could those outcomes have impacted the overall mission?
9. SSG Bell says, “I had to be able to risk my safety to make sure someone else was going to be able to come home.” How could SSG Bell’s beliefs and his personal motivation to act influence his fellow Soldiers? What effects could that have on unit cohesion and trustworthiness?
10. If the individuals stranded in the kill-zone had been U.S. Soldiers, how would that change the moral and ethical considerations of the situation?
11. If SSG Bell and additional U.S. forces had been injured or killed as a result of his decision, how would that change the ethical implications in retrospect?