

Case-Ex: Unshielded Bravery (CPT Jackson)

Example Questions

Part 1

[Watch Part 1 of “Unshielded Bravery”]

1. While describing the situation, CPT Jackson reflects, “Was I going to run across the road and try to help provide first-aid and some cover fire, or was I just going to sit there against the humvee and wait for some more guys to come out to reinforce us? I had a decision at that point.” What decision(s) is CPT Jackson facing and what are the options available to him?
2. What are the potential outcomes of each decision he could make and how does he weigh the risks associated with each choice?
3. What are the ethical and moral implications of each choice and what impact could this decision have on the unit and mission at large?

Part 2

[Watch Part 2 of “Unshielded Bravery”]

4. Why did CPT Jackson decide to provide aid to his fellow Soldier rather than seeking cover for himself?
5. Would every Soldier be able to commit to the same decision if they faced a similar scenario? Should the Army expect each Soldier to make the same decision as CPT Jackson? Why?
6. What aspects of CPT Jackson’s identity and moral character affected his decision making process? What personal experiences and professional competencies drove him to make the decision he did, and why?

Part 3

[Watch Part 3 of “Unshielded Bravery”]

7. Recalling SSG Newlin’s actions, CPT Jackson says, “I became at peace with what he was going to do. He was going to do exactly what he needed to do. He was dedicated to duty and to help his comrades.” Why do Soldiers need to have trust in the competence and commitment of their fellow Soldiers in combat? How do we see this trust exhibited in CPT Jackson’s story?
8. What do SSG Newlin’s actions illustrate from a leadership perspective about a professional Soldier’s ability to respond to adversity and take charge of a situation?
9. What might have been the outcome had SSG Newlin or another junior leader not taken charge?

Part 4

[Watch Part 4 of “Unshielded Bravery”]

10. How does a Soldier develop the character and level of commitment required to put the safety of others before his/her own?
11. CPT Jackson says, “It’s easy to live the Army values when you’ve got people that surround you that live those every day—that do extraordinary things in combat.” He notes that Soldiers should, “have faith in people and see that all the way through the end.” What does this statement say about the trustworthiness CPT Jackson had in his fellow Soldiers, and how did this have an impact on his decision making?
12. What do SSG Newline’s actions reveal about the loyalty he had towards his leaders and fellow Soldiers?
13. Reflecting on the event, CPT Jackson says, “It wasn’t so much of what I did in Iraq, but a representation of what everyone did in our unit.” What can we infer about the esprit de corps and cohesion of CPT Jackson’s unit based on this statement?
14. How can you measure the bonds developed between soldiers in combat, and how important are these bonds in allowing the Army as a whole to overcome adversity and accomplish the mission?
15. How do the bonds of loyalty and trustworthiness amongst Soldiers vary—if at all—in a peacetime garrison scenario compared to a unit actively engaged in combat operations?