

Customs, Courtesies, and Traditions: “Earned and Given” Video Case Study

Facilitator: This is a two-part video. Watch each part, asking the associated questions after the correct segment. Remember that SFC Thompson volunteered to share this story and is proud to represent the profession of arms as a Drill Sergeant training future Army Professionals.

Video summary: Courtesy among members of the Armed Forces is vital to maintain military discipline. SFC Thompson faced a lack of courtesy first hand from a Soldier who did not believe women should be in charge.

Two parts; Length: 1:43, 1:30

Notes:

Part 1

- Military courtesy defines interactions between professionals. SFC Thompson said, “If the male drill sergeant told him to do something, he had no problem with it.”
 - What Army Value is this Soldier not demonstrating?
 - How does that discourtesy affect Trust with SFC Thompson?

Part 2

- SFC Thompson explains to the Soldier, “If everybody else can do it, you can do it. This is not your way; you gave up your way when you stepped into the Army.”
 - Ask group members to share how this statement teaches the Soldier he is now a part of a culture consisting of shared attitudes and values. Discuss.
- How do the drill instructors’ confidence course demonstrations establish *esprit de corps*?
 - How could the interaction between SFC Jackson and the Soldier affect that *esprit de corps*? How far should she go to preserve that “winning spirit”?
- What is at risk when professionals show disrespect?