

The Defense of Jisr Al Doreaa
Practical Exercise 9 “Responsible Leadership”
(Instructor Notes)

Practical Exercise Guidance

In the beginning of the book 2LT Connors is focused on getting his CAB and seeing combat. At the end of the book he states “Bidding goodbye to Doreaa, I realized that war isn’t about glory and Silver Stars it’s about bringing home Soldiers alive and making responsible decisions. Getting in firefights and raiding buildings is exciting but creating a lasting stability is real victory.” Why did his focus change? Is responsible leadership important?

Task: Discuss your thoughts on the role of the Platoon Leader in combat

Conditions: Given the same mission and troops that were available to 2LT Connors.

Standards: Discuss the difference between a “glory seeking” leader and a responsible leader in combat.

Discuss why young leaders sometimes fail to make responsible decisions.

Talking Points

Using your own experiences discuss the need for responsible decisions. Discuss the weight of responsibility placed on a platoon leader.