

Student Handout #3

Sexual Assault Case Study

The story in this exercise explicitly describes a sexual assault. It is based on real events and victim testimony. It is included in this lesson as an example of the devastating and violent nature of the sexual assaults that some victims endure. It is recommended that anyone who feels uncomfortable with this subject matter avoid participation in this exercise.

Sergeant (SGT) Corrine Corey's evening had started peacefully. With her friend Staff Sergeant (SSG) Kyle English, another Army recruiter, she had been preparing for a promotion board and decided to take a break. They decided to go to a party a couple of blocks away thrown by some friends in their recruiting station. They just wanted to blow off some steam. It felt good to get away from the field manuals and the regulations.

They left the party around 1:30 a.m., walking down the street. They were heading home when a white van pulled up next to them. Someone from inside the van yelled out to them.

"I did not hear what they were saying," SGT Corey later explained, "so I turned my head and asked what they said."

To her surprise, she felt a gun pressed against her head. Another man grabbed her arms and pulled her into the van by her neck. SSG English grabbed SGT Corey's feet, but the men pointed a gun at him and drove off with SGT Corey. SGT Corey was gone. SSG English ran to find the police.

The men drove around for about 20 minutes, according to SGT Corey. Then they stopped.

"I just thought to myself, 'Just give them whatever they want so they do not kill you,'" she later said.

The three men removed all of SGT Corey's clothing and jewelry, but they did not stop there. At that moment, time seemed to stop as the men had sexual intercourse with SGT Corey.

The gun was against her head the entire time and she kept expecting to hear the sound of a shot. She said she felt helpless. She felt weak. She had no control over what was happening.

As the men attacked her, she saw other women's shoes in the van. Her immediate thought was that the men had done this before, and she was not their first victim.

"I want to live," she remembers thinking. "I want to survive."

She tried to separate herself from the body they were attacking, but one of the men—"the worst one," according to SGT Corey—forced her to kiss him. She looked into his eyes.

"They were empty and dark," she said. "You could not see a person in them—like a stone face." SGT Corey kept looking for the gun at all times, but after a while, the men taped her eyes closed.

"I felt like it was hours, days," she said. "Every second was so long." The van door opened. The men pushed her out of the door and said, "Run."

Officer Dan Tuckett of the Bon Temps Police Department was on patrol in South Bon Temps when he received a call to be on the lookout for SGT Corey. He saw a girl with blonde hair roaming the streets looking tired and scared. He pulled up about a block away and held his badge out so she could see that he was an officer. SGT Corey did not believe him at first.

She had been gone for 1 hour and 20 minutes.

Exhausted and in shock, with duct tape in her hair, SGT Corey was taken to a local hospital. Around 4 a.m., SSG English arrived. SGT Corey was finally safe. Almost immediately, she tried to gain control of her situation.

1. What measures should have been applied to prevent SGT Corey's abduction and sexual assault?
2. What did SGT Corey and SSG English do wrong that led to the sexual assault?
3. Was SGT Corey's rape preventable? If so, who is responsible for its prevention?
4. What options are available to SGT Corey?
5. As a leader, what assistance can you provide SGT Corey?