

The Order to Jump

Awhile back, in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, a likely clerical error sent a supply clerk with the 82nd Airborne Division out the door of an airplane on his first parachute jump without any formal training.

Army Specialist Jeff Lewis, 23, who landed unhurt, said he was just doing what a good soldier is supposed to do when he made the jump: Follow orders.

“The Army said I was airborne-qualified,” Lewis related. “I wasn’t going to question it.”

The story says a lot about this soldier’s trust in the military and the chain of command. It also commends his characteristic of obedience.

But it raises a question about his understanding of an assignment and his readiness for it. It is all right to ask a question about a task that is directed in the workplace.

A good supervisor will be certain that an associate is ready for the job at hand, and will show the individual how it should be done, if necessary.

Most of the initiatives we undertake don’t have life-and-death consequences for us in the centers of Life Care and American Lifestyles or in the work of Life Care at Home. For us, that is. But the work that we do directly impacts our residents, and can bring serious results for them if we are not careful.

Prudence is the watchword in the important mission in which we are engaged.

--Beecher Hunter