AXL

Army Excellence in Leadership
2003-2010

AXL provides an engaging and memorable way to transfer tacit knowledge and develop critical thinking through case-method teaching, filmed storytelling and interactive training. AXL includes filmed cases created in collaboration with Hollywood talent to address specific leadership issues and an easily modifiable website, AXLnet.

It is estimated that over 10,000 Soldiers trained using AXL video. They have been shown to West Point Cadets. A business ethics version was developed for the USC Marshall School of Business.

Filmed Cases

ICT has developed five filmed leadership cases addressing complex decision-making skills for the U.S. Army. The films, all based on real-life situations, were brought to life by experienced Hollywood screenwriters and professional Hollywood actors. The first case, *Power Hungry*, a 13-minute film set against the backdrop of a food distribution operation in Afghanistan, addresses lessons on how to think like a commander. *Trip Wire* uses the leadership challenges posed by the threat of IEDs in Iraq to consider the balance between force presence and mission accomplished, and *Red Tight* addresses interpreting threat levels in a Patriot battery operation. Working with the U.S. Army Chaplaincy, ICT developed *Fallen Eagle*, a two-part film series for squad level training told from the perspectives of both enlisted and officer ranks. It focuses on moral and ethical decision-making on the battlefield.

AXLnet

AXLnet provides a dynamic and interactive experience for students and easy-to-use tools for instructors to author customized lessons. The system draws on ICT's research in natural language processing to allow students to interview characters from the cases through free-text questions. The system can also provide feedback and tailor the learning experience based on student responses.

External Collaborators

U.S. Army Research Institute Leader Development Research Unit, USC Rossier School of Education, U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School, U.S. Corps of Chaplains, United States Military Academy, USC Marshall School of Business

At the University of Southern California Institute for Creative Technologies leaders in artificial intelligence, graphics, virtual reality and narrative advance low-cost immersive techniques and technologies to solve problems facing service members, students and society.