

November 18, 2015

Annette Holmes
2390 Baker Hospital Blvd F-101
North Charleston, SC 29405

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Honorable Nikki R. Haley,

I will appreciate if you would take the time Sir to review the information enclosed among it you will find that my was an outstanding and dedicated Solider before he got ill. The Army has destroyed my son's life mentally and emotionally, as a result his future is very dim. He is currently suffering from severe PTSD/Bipolar.

He requested a speedy trial for a 2013 Court Martial for alleged assaults brought against him a month after he reported his former wife Specialist Jessica Barton for adultery with several men in their unit. She was never investigated or charged for adultery and was reassigned. However my son was flagged and denied the opportunity to be reassigned to another unit.

She mentioned in a text that Master Sergeant Powell, who served in the 602nd company with them as one of the men that she had inappropriate relationship with. She have a DUI in Marysville Ohio, tested positive for Cocaine while deployed in 2014, but is being rewarded instead of punished.

They scheduled a date for October 26, 2015 for the Court Martial then cancelled at the last minute claiming a conflict of interest. The military appointed attorney at the time told my son that she was making a motion to have the charges dismissed. Before that could happen they took her off my son's case. The longer they delayed it my son sunk deeper into depression.

Although the PTSD was triggered initially by combat in Afghanistan my son was doing well with counseling until his former wife Spc Jessica Barton maliciously arranged a premeditated plan to take his son across state lines on February 14, 2015.

Her intent was to destroy my son because he wanted the divorce and the Army assisted her in doing so. The same day she took the child she lied to get the Military to place a protective order against my son alleging that my son threaten her, and it was granted. She was relocated to Alabama. She was not in fear for her life at all it was a way for her to hurt my son since he wanted a divorce. A person in fear for their life wouldn't post their location on Face book.

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Although my son knew where she was almost immediately, before the bogus protective order was in place he never attempted to contact her or her parents. He trusted his Command to resolve the issue, but they failed to do that.

They preferred the alleged **October 18, 2013** assault charges against him in March 2015 a month after she took his son. They gave her the obvious exaggerated charge sheet so she could get a protective order from the courts in Alabama. However, they told my son the military didn't involve themselves with civil cases when he was asking for help to see his son.

I spoke with a Captain Dover of the 53rd Quarter Mate in Killeen Texas regarding them enforcing the court order Divorce Decree. He was very sarcastic and rude. He promised to call me back after he got out of his meeting and never did. Additionally, the day after speaking with him my son was called in to be drugged tested. Just for the record sir my son was fit to care for his son before all this injustice.

My son kept their child the entire time she was deployed in 2014 and he lived primarily with my son since their separation in 2013. She lied about not knowing about the divorce, but agreed in a signed statement on July 9, 2014 before her deployment to help pay for it.

He provided the Command with the Final Divorce Decree and her signed notarized Waiver of Service documents as evidence showing that he was given exclusive rights over their child. They rejected it as they did the evidence he try to submit about her violation of Article 134. It is evident in my son's case General Dunford that the Military Justice System is corrupt.

My son never had the opportunity to defend himself against his former wife Jessica Barton's allegations. He showed up for the protective order hearing in Killeen Texas, she didn't. My son drove from Texas to Alabama for a hearing only to find out it was cancelled as the court martial was. She intentionally sent the cancellation notice to the wrong address. He was hoping to get that resolved so he would then at least get to see his son.

My son found out on November 7, 2015 through one of her followers on Instagram that his son had surgery; therefore he asked his chain of Command if they could get information about his child's condition. They won't respond to his request, only stated he would have to go back to court. My son was so devastated by all of this that he became suicidal and resorted to self-medicating to cope with the PTSD/Bipolar. Additionally, not knowing what his son's condition was and feeling rejected by the Army as they believed his former wife's malicious lies.

The Army knew my son was hospitalized in June 2015 and diagnosed with PTSD/Bipolar after his son was taken away from him unjustly. I had to make several calls to Red Cross and Killeen police for well checks. It is the most terrifying feeling being over a thousand miles away from my child, hoping and praying that he want take his life. Thank God my son didn't commit suicide or got gunned down as a result of their negligence in resolving the issues promptly and fairly.

They added pressure to an already stressful situation? That's just cruel. Now that my son's condition have got worse they want to drag him through a Court Martial hearing and a motion hearing. He was only given a week notice for the Motion hearing, and it was not until I

spoke with his first Sergeant that I found out it was one scheduled. The lawyer then went to visit with him about twenty minutes later to inform him.

We would like to be there with our son as he is not emotionally stable enough to handle any type of hearing right now. I requested for it to be postponed until my son has treatment but was told it is virtually impossible.

If treating your soldiers the way my son has been treated is the proper way then I clearly understand why the suicide rate is so high among Army combat veterans. When these Congressional complaints are simply passed on to the unit it is used to retaliate against the soldier that made the complaint.

Therefore, I ask that you Honorable Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch, please help my son!! I don't want to bury my child. I need your help to put a stop to the injustice being demonstrated towards my son. I will appreciate a full investigation. My son is still considered Active Duty at 53rd Quartermaster in Killeen Texas.

Please look beyond where my son ended up Sir and investigate how the Military can resolve issues such as my son's in a more effective way. Perhaps that would spare the lives of many PTSD/ Bipolar Combat Service members. Grateful that my son is still alive in spite of the pitfall he is in right now and hope our story would make a difference to bring positive change.

My son has been detained in Bell County detention Center since November 7, 2015 the same day no one would even attempt to get information about his son's surgery. He is shattered by the way they have treated him. He told me it "feels like he was thrown to the dogs after giving himself to serve our country. Felt taunted, and terrorized by his Command as they believe his former wife's malicious lies." Told his dad that he was going to get high and commit suicide the night he got arrested.

Sincerely

Annette Holmes