

# **Enclosure 55**

May 23, 2023

Hon. Christine E. Wormuth  
Secretary of the Army  
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Washington, DC 20310-0101

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Honorable Christine E. Wormuth:

I am writing you about my husband. I decided that you were the right official to write, after I saw the pinned Twitter post you made on October 14, 2022, that said, "There has been confusion on an issue where there should be none. So let me be clear: I expect @USArmy leaders to stand up for women—and all Soldiers—who are unduly attacked or disrespected." I am very worried about the situation he is facing, so I'm hoping that writing to you, woman-to-woman, that you would be willing to look into his situation. I feel you are about to read a horrible series of events.

My husband, SFC Michael J. Forbes, of 528th Sustainment Brigade (Special Operations) (Airborne) has been retaliated and reprised against by his BDE CDR through and with his Unit Psychologist's help. They both have broken laws and conducted a series of unprofessional actions to attempt to entrap my husband and end his career. They have failed thus far, but I feel, given the BDE Commander's (CDR's) most recent action of a recommended GOMOR, that they will not stop this behavior. I'm reaching out to you because I do not know what else to do.

Let me start at the beginning. On November 28, 2022 My husband came home and told me that he could not watch the news with me (as we always do) because he had to read the terms of service of an online corporation that he was being required to participate in and answer questions about how he deals with conflict. It was called Strength Deployment Inventory (SDI). For two nights, he was in our office reading about what seemed to be some sort of mental evaluation (at least that is how I understood his comments to me). The day after that, he came home upset that he had been called into the BDE CDR's Office and scolded for asking questions to the unit's Psychologist about the online program that he was being ordered to participate in. After that (Thursday, December 1) he told me he got a reply to the long email he sent his BDE CDR and that he did not have to participate in that BDE event anymore. He was relieved.

The day of the offsite event above (Friday, December 2), my husband told me that his boss sent an email about another phone app from a 3rd-party about suicide prevention. He was upset again and did not know why this was happening so soon after being released from the other

one. He was afraid to ask anyone about being excused from this one because of what happened the last time. He told me it was mandatory, but he also told me they were not allowed under the law to make it mandatory. This one was called Health, Performance and Wellness (HPW).

A week later, he told me that he went to a meeting during his PT hours and found out they were encouraging Soldiers to use phones in his secure building to put 3rd party apps on the Soldiers' phones in support of HPW. He said it was brought up because of the Health Program they were starting. He went on to tell me that it included more behavioral health questioning being forced on Soldiers without proper consent. This sounded so strange to me. I have been married to him for almost 8 years and he is an intelligence Soldier. I've been to his buildings and no one is allowed phones inside. He was stressed this week, as his job makes him responsible for this. My husband tried to stop Soldiers from bringing phones in the building by putting up signs; they were ripped down in one day. The Company Commander ripped his signs down (and my husband has proof).

After that, at the next Monday morning formation, my husband called me at work and informed me the BN CSM had put his hands around his neck and forced him back into formation while he was trying to tell the formation that phones are not allowed in the building. The CSM assaulted my husband. I have no idea how my husband controlled himself and didn't fight back.

My husband told me later that he couldn't believe no one stopped the BN CSM's assault and, even worse, that he was counseled not to correct people when he catches them with phones. Two days later, my husband couldn't sleep and went to the PMO to report the assault. He told me that morning that the BDE CDR and BDE CSM were both present during the assault and for two days just ignored that my husband was assaulted. A week later my husband was removed from his job as a BDE NCOIC.

Here is a complete list of what my husband's leaders have done to him over the above information (we have pieced this together by now):

- 1) An Army Psychologist reported my husband was angry because he asked questions about the first program,
- 2) A Company Commander ripped down the phone-signs that my husband went in early to post,
- 3) My husband was humiliated and assaulted during a BN formation,
- 4) He was removed from his BDE NCOIC job and assigned to a subordinate BN (389th),
- 5) The Psychologist lodged a complaint 6-weeks after the SDI event claiming that my husband disrespected her when he asked about the first program,
- 6) My husband was put under investigation by the BDECDR (but wasn't told about it until weeks later),
- 7) The STB Co. Commander called my husband in on 17JAN2023 and released him, upon realizing he was assigned to 389th BN (another BN in the BDE),
- 8) The next day my husband was ordered to meet with the STB Company CDR again after the BDE Commander revoked my husband's orders to 389th and put him back under STB Co. Commander,

- 9) During this meeting with the STB Company CDR and while we were in-the-dark about the BDE CDR's investigation of my husband, the STB Company CDR ordered my husband to be escorted to Womack for an emergency mental health evaluation,
- 10) The FB Form 1462-e the STB Company CDR stated his "future plans" for my husband were, "Removal from USASOC/levels of responsibility,"
- 11) My husband wasn't notified of the investigation for three weeks; he was finally notified on 7FEB2023 when he was flagged,
- 12) Yet, my husband has told me he still has never been flagged per IG and administrative Soldiers in S1
- 13) My husband notified me 3 weeks ago that the 389th CO. 1SG recommended him for a LOR,
- 14) My husband notified me last week that the BDE Commander is recommending a GOMOR,
- 15) As far as I know, investigation is still ongoing for an allegation of being toxic and disrespecting that Psychologist.
- 16) My husband has put in USASOC FOIA requests and was told he needed to contact the Pentagon,
- 17) My husband asked for an open-door meeting with the USASOC General and got one that will be after the GOMOR decision is made.

I feel this BDE Commander (that my husband had previously received excellent commentary on his NCOERs from) is coming after my husband for doing his job, which conflicted with the BDE Commander's disregard for regulations in order to put out his programs, as well as my husband's willingness to report violations of law and regulations by the command. Unfortunately the BDE Command is more focused on protecting bad actors (including the Psychologist, BN CSM, STB Co. Commander) rather than in actually remedying the situations.

Please help by stopping these people from railroading my husband's 16-plus year, unblemished career. We just want to PCS, as ordered, to his last duty station where he will finally get the opportunity to teach Soldiers in his job at Fort Huachuca. He doesn't deserve this for doing his job and doing it well. Please help us; they are hunting him!

With hope,

  
Sabrina B. Forbes