



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
3d SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE)
111 ENDURING FREEDOM DRIVE
FORT BRAGG, NC 28310-9110

AOSO-SFT-CO

5 DECEMBER 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR U.S. Army Human Resources Command, ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A, 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Department 480, Fort Knox, Kentucky 40122-5408

SUBJECT: Rebuttal to the revocation of the Distinguished Service Cross to MAJ Golsteyn, Mathew L. SSAN: XXX-XX-5598

1. I strongly non-concur with the action revoking my interim Silver Star and the Distinguished Service Cross. The memorandum received on 21 November 2014 noticeably lacked expository statements for the action. Thus, my rebuttal responds to a 'just because' reasoning that bases the revocation simply on the fact that an unproductive, yet exhaustive two-year investigation occurred. By this characteristic alone, the action finds common ground with the actions revoking my Special Forces Tab and filing a General Memorandum of Reprimand in my permanent personnel record. I base this rebuttal on the same verifiable substance on which I have based the previous rebuttals: the character and content of my service to the United States Army, the Special Forces Regiment and the citizens of Iraq and Afghanistan.

2. I have delivered the highest caliber of leadership, ethical decision-making, fidelity to my obligations and compassion on the battlefield. My service has met the expectations of my training from West Point to the Special Forces Qualification Course. This finds no dispute among those who served with me whether: in garrison or combat; an American or foreign national; a member of Conventional or Special Operations Forces; and Army or Marine. The seven enclosures, five previously submitted, one from the award's author and one from Congressman Hunter are a small sample of many others available to substantiate this claim. Further substantiation can be found from the testimonies which blanket the two-year investigation from cover to back; exculpatory evidence for my honorable conduct under the most extreme of conditions is amply provided and readily available. I have acted to protect the innocent from violence, liberate the oppressed and preserve the lives of my men. Unfortunately, these facts are either insufficiently known or lack the power to overcome the maliciousness of innuendo and risk-aversion in a bureaucracy. This action against me, as with those preceding, finds no justification in my conduct nor in the groundless suppositions of investigators who are embarrassingly dependent on a book, "The Wrong War" by Bing West and shockingly short on facts.

3. The Distinguished Service Cross is the institution's award to give and to take away; this I do not dispute. Its removal, while personal in nature and painful, no more affects my honor and conduct as did its presentation. I am reminded of Proverbs 27:2, "let another praise you and not your own lips;" and Proverbs 25:27, ". . . nor is it honorable to seek one's own honor." Whether on or off the battlefield, honor is earned and it is awarded by the recognition of one's comrades in struggle. I was honored in this way long before an award was ever issued and humbly continue to receive it now. The issuing of awards, and now the revocation awards, says far more about the level of integrity and moral courage in operation within the institution than it says about the individual awarded.

4. I am grateful that my grandfather, who was both my childhood mentor and a veteran of the invasions of Sicily, Salerno and Italy passed on earlier this year. While a personally difficult loss, the injustice and betrayal inherent in this action would have broken his heart and I am grateful he is not a witness to it. It is my sincere hope that you will reconsider the wisdom of this decision and the message it sends to thousands of American service members; past, present and future. We face brutal adversaries and actions like these induce unnecessary shortages in the quality of men our nation needs to face them. Regardless of the outcome, I will continue to conduct myself with integrity in service to our great nation as I have always done. I bear no ill-intent towards the Special Forces Regiment or the United States Army; rather I am humbled and grateful for the education, training, and opportunities that enabled me to lead our nation's finest during a period of great need.

5. I request an audience with the Secretary of the Defense to address these matters directly. The point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned COM'L 910-580-3504, or matt.golsteyn@us.army.mil.

7 Encl

MAJ Mathew Golsteyn