

Senator Ben Cardin  
509 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

February 10, 2018

Dear Senator Cardin,

I, (Retired Captain Gary Mason II), served as a US Army Infantryman for 14 years, entering as an enlisted Specialist and then accessioned as a Commissioned Officer serving as a Chaplain Candidate, Infantry Officer and functional area Public Affairs Officer. I am a three combat tour veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. I was forced to medically retire from my active duty military service to our Nation on January 15, 2015.

I am now writing to request full compensation and restitution for the remainder of my 20 year contract that I signed as an Indefinite Commissioned Officer in the US Army. My family and I suffered tremendous attacks verbally and physically by my former command and commanders while serving at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Fort Shafter, Hawaii, Fort Lee, Virginia and the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

In November of 2008, I was assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, 4<sup>th</sup> US Cavalry, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. While deployed to Balad Air Base, Logistical Support Area Anaconda, I and several other African American service members were subjected to racist images referring to black men as 'Niggardly'. On November 14, 2008, I was physically assaulted by the Operations Sergeant Major. I made the chain of command and commanders aware of both incidents in writing and requested a formal counseling be administered to correct the violations of those involved in accordance with the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Instead of receiving support from my chain of command, I received threatening emails and threats of bodily harm from those serving with me in my unit. As a result, I was sent back to Hawaii and threatened with removal from the military for exposing the events that occurred in Iraq.

For the next several years while assigned to Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, I was removed from all assigned career-building billets/assignments and sent overseas on Individual Assigned Tasks, to Japan, Korea and 2 tours in Afghanistan. Once I returned, I was denied my combat award and military award from my units in Hawaii. Further harassment came in the form of being falsely accused of being AWOL twice while assigned in Hawaii. I filed complaints with the Inspector General, Equal Opportunity Officer, Senator Mazie Hirono, the Late Senator Daniel Inouye, the Military Police, the local police department and the FBI. My wife and I continued to receive threats from other military service members for reporting the violations against us by members in my unit.

In June of 2012, I received orders to report to the Captains Career Course in Fort Lee, Virginia. My family and I were harassed at the Honolulu International Airport by service members in civilian clothes. My ticket to Virginia was illegally cancelled while my families' tickets were not. Had I not bought another replacement ticket out of my own pocket, I would have been considered AWOL to the Captain Career Course. The 'soldiers' who were supposedly sent by the General to detain me could not provide any documentation departed the airport in their "Aloha" shirts once they realized I saw through their lies.

I had properly cleared the post and they knew it. I cannot describe to you the extreme stress this placed on my wife and children-let alone the humiliation for me to be harassed until the very moment I left Hawaii.

After arriving on time to Fort Lee, I discovered that my TS clearance had been illegally suspended by former commanders in Hawaii. False allegations were uncovered by the Central Clearance Facility and Command at Fort Meade, in Maryland. They also found numerous improprieties and federal offenses had been committed by those who illegally 'revoked' my clearance. My clearance was restored and I now hold a TS SCI with CI Poly. To this day, no one has been held accountable for making false statements and illegally suspending my clearance.

After presenting all evidence and facts to the military chain of command at the Pentagon IG Office and the Commanding General at Fort Lee, I was informed that my claims were unfounded and not substantiated. I was then forced to undergo a series of illegal and unauthorized mental health exams and psychological evaluations. The goal at this point was to discredit me in order to cover up crimes I was exposing.

During my tenure at the Army Logistics University, Captains Career Course while stationed at Fort Lee, I obtained leadership honors and received the Demonstrated Senior Logisticians Award-all while under extreme duress and having to place my family in a safe house out of concern for their safety.

While at Fort Lee as I was awaiting both a transfer into the US Army Chaplain Corps and a forward Command assignment to Fort Hood in Texas as a Public Affairs Detachment Commander, I was informed that a General Officer Reprimand was placed in my permanent military record file based on false allegations.

I filed an Article 138 against the Fort Lee base commander with irrefutable evidence to refute all false allegations made against me by my former command and commanders in Hawaii. The Fort Eustis Commanding General in Virginia promised to act in response to the Article 138, but never responded or followed up. The Fort Lee's Judge Advocate General, Inspector General and Battalion Commander refused any assistance involving my matters. The Garrison Commander personally called the Chaplain Recruiter in Maryland and recommended denying my qualifying transfer packet to the Chaplain Corps.

In 2013, while assigned again without a career billet or assignment, I lived in my vehicle for a time because the garrison commander and the command refused to pay or offer housing. I assume the motivation was to continue to try and stop me from exposing the trail of illegal acts against me (and others).

My wife and I filed a complaint with the Department of Justice in 2012 for Hate Crimes committed against us by the military and military members. Not surprisingly, I began having chest pains due to the stress I was under. I filed numerous requests for your assistance commencing in 2013. After 2 years of correspondence with your office, I was denied any restitution or relief from the Army.

For my last years of service to our great Nation, I was assigned to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Wounded Warrior Brigade in 2013 for a medical review board.

While assigned there, I realized that another African-American Captain assigned to Fort Lee was also undergoing the same type of retribution, retaliation and harassment from the same base commander as I. While supporting one another at Walter Reed, I found out that he in fact was being forced out because he reported that his general officer in Korea was having an affair with his wife. When he reported the incident to the chain of command, he also was forced into the mental health program and illegally forced to take psychological exams as well. He was then threatened by our commanding officers and chain of command at Fort Lee to keep his mouth closed about his affairs.

Once he reported the situation, he was then raped by 4 contractors that worked for our commanding general at Fort Lee in 2013. He informed me about this incident in his hospital room while assigned to Walter Reed. He was then visited by the battalion commander of the ALU at Fort Lee who advised him to keep quiet and that they would offer him 100% disability for his silence on the matters.

I was informed by my colleague to keep quiet or they would do the same to me.

I filed a complaint and reported the threats and incidents to the Walter Reed Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the US Army Fort Meyers, Criminal Investigative Services. We were both ignored and denied protection or due process. Out of fear for my safety, I also reported the incident to the Montgomery County Police Department in Bethesda, Maryland.

Soon after, my fellow Captain was removed from Walter Reed and placed in a psychological institute in another state.

A year later he returned and we reconnected. I became his Non-Medical Attendant while he underwent a medical board for retirement. During that time, he was highly medicated by his doctors and he shared with me that he was being sexually abused in the psychiatric ward by the head director and neuropsychiatrist at Walter Reed. His family and I filed a Walter Reed complaint with the Wounded Warrior Brigade Commander, the Inspector General, the Patient Administration, the Nurse Case Manager, the Social Worker, the Brigade 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant, the Wounded Warrior Cadre, the Walter Reed Police and the Walter Reed Naval Military Police. To this day, we have been refused follow-up status or response to our complaints and crimes against us both.

While my fellow Captain was being treated at Walter Reed, someone stole over 150,000.00 from his bank account at Navy Federal Credit Union. Apparently, Warrior Transition Brigade staff were involved in the theft while my colleague was hospitalized. A Fort Myer JAG attorney contacted me in November of 2017 regarding the prosecution of a sergeant who allegedly stole this money. I found out that this sergeant told the Captain whose money was stolen that "If my family (Cpt Mason's) and I are caught at Walter Reed, we will be killed." Additionally, this sergeant made false allegations about me being somehow involved. I assume this was another ploy to discredit me because I had exposed toxic leadership, federal crimes committed against myself and other soldiers, as well as egregious soldier abuse going on at WRNMC .

I again filed another police report to the Naval Police Department at Walter Reed in 2016, listing the beatings, rapes, physical assaults and threats made against us. Today, we have been refused any responses, adjudication, follow-up or solutions to our serious concerns.

We were both discharged honorably with 100% disability benefits, but denied our due process, protection and rights. We were also denied the right to finish out our tours of duty, and our basic human right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I am requesting your support in helping us obtain restitution in the form of wages lost due to careers cut short, due process, and payment for our pain and suffering. The US Army and Pentagon should offer a sincere apology in writing, correct our military records and all restitution properly deserved.

As a US Army Veteran with Honorable Service to our great Nation, my family, friends and I have been deeply saddened and greatly impacted by the persecutions of those who remain as toxic leaders in our Nation's military. My hope and prayer is that these men will be stopped from committing further horrific, unimaginable crimes against innocent service members and their families.

Finally, remember the service of my wife in support of me while on active duty, her own four years of Army service, my children's service to our Nation and the service of those who would defend our Nation into the future as you contemplate what you can do to rectify these wrongs.

Please reach out to us by contacting us by phone or email. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Retired Captain Gary Mason II (US Army)