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ATG
4 Feb 11

From: Major Pietro P. Scarselli XXX XX 4846 USMC
To: Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command
Via: (1) Commanding General, MCCAGC/MAGTFTC
(2) Commanding General, Training and Education Command

Subj: REBUTTAL STATEMENT TO NOTIFICATION OF SEPARATION PROCEEDINGS

Ref: (a) Ltr, LtGen Flynn, dtd 18 Jan 11
(b) SECNAVINST 1920.6C

1. I have received and fully understand reference (a) and that I have been directed to show cause for retention. I am submitting this rebuttal statement to respectfully request a personal, private audience with the show cause authority, LtGen Flynn. I understand that the trip would be at my own expense.

2. The following is provided as a read ahead for the General, as I am aware that he has an extremely busy schedule and many demands for his time.

(a) My request for a personal audience with my show cause authority is to personally present myself before the General and respectfully request him to reconsider the decision for me to show cause and in its stead direct my retention on active duty.

(b) The request to reverse the show cause decision is not rashly made, nor is it based on emotion. It is firmly rooted in the bedrock of the five pillars of our ethos: Warfighting, People, Core Values, Education and Training, and Naval Character.

(1) I am not now, nor have I ever tried to shirk my responsibilities as the officer-in-charge. As expected of any good leader, I have accepted full responsibility for the actions of my Marines, the events which took place on my watch, and the ramifications of all lapses in good judgment on my part. I have shouldered the ruinous humiliation and punishment of my relief, the withhold/delay of my LtCol selection, NJP, and a letter of reprimand while enduring a stressful legal process for 17 months. Notwithstanding, I kept my pack strapped on tight and continued to contribute to the warfighting efforts of our Corps, in an enthusiastic, motivated and professional manner, as indicated by my current superior officers. This episode is an anomaly in my otherwise unblemished 17 years of service. I ask you to deem the aforementioned disciplinary actions as sufficient, fair and scrupulous for same.

Subj: REBUTTAL STATEMENT TO NOTIFICATION OF SEPARATION PROCEEDINGS

(2) For the past 17 years I have lived by, stayed true to, and upheld the Core Values of our institution; as an enlisted man and as an officer; while Making Marines or Winning Battles. I humbly call your attention to the fact there has been no previous misconduct. Additionally, the ultimate resolution of this case showed that while I failed to supervise my subordinates and be the best leader that my Marines deserved, at all times I preserved my integrity and honor. I have never led by situational ethics or morality. I believe that the events corresponding to the articles, which carry a maximum punishment of confinement of six months or more; went to NJP because they were not of the nature in my case that would ordinarily warrant more serve punishment than that of NJP. Given this is the only incident in my record, I ask for leniency and that I not be required to show cause.

(3) By the time a Board of Inquiry is convened, I will have less than 35, and possibly less than 34 months before I am eligible to honorably retire from our Corps. My current superior officers, have provided verbal testimony on the record as to my continued and future value to our Corps in the NJP transcript. Particularly, they said that the for the past 18 months since this incident, I've behaved and preformed in a superior manner consistent with our high standards. I ask that their testimony along with that of the many others who have written, and or will write on my behalf, be given close attention at your level vice at a Board of Inquiry. I have already applied the hard lessons learned from this entire experience and believe I have become a better leader. I recognize the importance of mission accomplishment and true troop welfare as opposed to merely improving morale. Directing my retention rather than to show cause would enable me to move on to whatever assignment given and would spare me further strife, cost and hardship. I would actively seek out the most difficult and challenging post to prove my continued value to our Corps. I am committed to continue to serve with passion, fervor and untiring tenacity, living up to the character and reputation that precedes me. I only seek the opportunity to do so.

3. I want to assure you, in no uncertain terms, that despite the negative impact of this episode on me personally, the fire of my devotion to our Corps and Country still burns brightly inside me. There is no greater honor or privilege on Earth than to wear this uniform and lead and shape the young Marines of our Corps. I ask only for the opportunity to continue to do so. If I were allowed to serve beyond 20 years, even as a Major and despite service limitations; I would readily do so. I am very thankful for and appreciative of the opportunity to address the show cause decision and request permission to fly out to Quantico at my own expense to make a personal appearance in front of the show cause authority in furtherance of this request.



PIETRO P. SCARGELLI