

Sir,

I am writing this on behalf of Major Pietro Scarselli, to provide information on the charges he is facing in his Non-Judicial Punishment. Although there is much I can add about the entire investigation and circumstances surrounding the investigation, I will keep the information provided to the specific charges.

Art 90-Specification I have no direct knowledge of any conversation between GySgt Buchanan and Major Scarselli. I do know that Major Scarselli called all the SNCO's and Officers of PMO together after he found out an investigation would be conducted and told everyone to cooperate fully. During this meeting, he stated that it was the responsibility of the SNCO's and Officers to ensure all Marines arrived at their scheduled appointments on time; he also generally encouraged everyone that everything would be fine. He told the Marines to remain watchful of the morale of the Marines because of the investigation and he made it clear there would be absolutely no loyalty oaths. This meeting, in no uncertain terms, set the tone to cooperate fully with the investigation.

Art 92-Specification 1. Any allegation of adultery was looked into and as appropriate, personnel outside of PMO (G-7, Company, HRO) were notified of the allegations. Every instance amounted to insufficient evidence, uncooperative witnesses or merely gossip; nothing that would substantiate or warrant any further inquiry. Each and everytime an allegation of adultery or any type of misconduct was brought to Major Scarselli's attention, it was handled promptly, carefully and accurately. Major Scarselli had no tolerance for dishonesty and would not fail to investigation such claims, however he would not intentionally damage a Marine without substantial evidence.

Specification 2. Because of the huge rate of turnover of personnel in PMO, to ensure all Marines qualified with the rifle and pistol, we decided to use Barstow Rifle and Pistol range for annual qualifications. This was done in conjunction with sending personnel to 29 Palms Rifle and Pistol Ranges. Headquarters Battalion personnel were briefed prior to PMO utilizing Barstow for qualifications and did not object; in addition, request for ammunition, transportation, and medical support were sent through S-4/S-3. The ranges at Barstow were conducted by qualified Range Personnel assigned to Barstow. I witnessed Marines firing the rifle at these ranges and nothing I observed appeared abnormal. I was not there for every evolution nor was Major Scarselli, but we had no reason to expect Marines were not properly qualifying with rifle. Even to this day, I do not know what the exact accusation is, but I do know that myself and the Major were both under the impression this training was approved by higher and conducted in accordance with applicable orders.

Specification 3. As with every PMO I ever worked in, occasionally there were Marines who committed infractions that prohibited them from carrying a weapon and working as a Military Policeman. The vast majority of the Marines in PMO worked 12-14 hour shifts

standing on their feet all day. Marines that could not work in a regular shift took care of police call and clean up of the building. Also, during this time frame, the Base SgtMaj distributed a map that detailed units' responsibilities for certain areas to be kept clean. These Marines would be used for this as well. These tasks took no more than a few hours of work and was better completed by a Marine that was already at PMO rather than by a Marine returning from the gate after 12 hours of standing in the heat. These Marines were also tasked with administrative duties. Some were sent to the Vehicle Registration office to fill in while those Marine were fulfilling annual training requirements, etc. These Marines were also occasionally tasked with completing morning colors. All of which was during their normal 8 hour work day, with a 1 1/2 hour lunch break provided; less work than Marines who had not committed any infractions at all. Point being, these Marines were not asked to do anything any other Marine would have been asked to do before or after his/her shift. They were not made to stay late or come in early by PMO. Myself and the Major did not believe that was hazing or improper punishment, on the contrary, I think the Marines who were not in trouble and standing duty thought it was just and fair. I do know that Major Scarselli is the last Marine who would ever condone hazing in anyway.

Specification 4. We did have Unit Functions on training Tuesdays at PMO. During this time, I was not aware that any Marine under the legal age had consumed alcohol. I have since learned that an underage Marine drank beer on one occasion at one of the unit functions. I do know that Major Scarselli or myself never would condone underage drinking. Major Scarselli would brief every new join one on one on do's and don'ts at PMO. One of his main points was focused on not drinking and driving and his strict policy against that and also that if the Marine is underage, that he or she could not drink at all. When we conducted our annual Mess Night's he ensured the seats of the underage Marines were marked so that the club staff would know who not to serve. I am confident that had we known that an underage Marine slipped through the cracks at a unit function, Major Scarselli would have come up with something to prevent that from ever happening again. That is the only information I can provide to this specification.

Art 134-Specification. Fraternization. My wife and I were having issues and decided to separate. I had to pay two mortgages plus find a place for me and my son to live. I asked Major Scarselli if he would share a house with me and he said he would. During my initial phone call to him we talked about any potential issues. We both felt that it was not fraternization. He said since I was the only Master Gunny he reported on so he could not show any favoritism, and I told him that when I was deployed to Iraq, I lived with my Captain and the SgtMaj lived with the Lt Col and if it did not have an affect on good order or discipline in a combat environment it certainly would not have an effect in garrison. Additionally, we were both due to PCS the upcoming summer. I would not have jeopardized my career nor would Major Scarselli over this issue. At no time did my relationship with Major Scarselli become "unduly familiar". We away spoke professionally, I called him Sir and he called me Master Guns. He always took me to task when things did not happen right at work, as a matter of fact, I would say they he held me

even more responsible than what would be necessary. My son and wife always called him Sir or Major as well.

In my opinion the 29 Palms PMO was a very effective unit. We always met any type of mission assigned to us and usually exceeded expectations. I was proud of what we accomplished...from numerous upgrades in equipment for the Marines, to exceeding civilian hiring goals and being singled out by HQMC for our superior performance in this area, opening the Vehicle Registration office 24 hours a day, increasing, streamlining and tightening the standards for processing role players for pre-deployment training, to mention just a few. I feel that our PMO was an exceptional unit. There were issues, but none that exceeded what I experienced in any other unit I was assigned too. If I was on the outside looking in, I would too assume the senior enlisted Marine in a unit to think that he was part of an efficient unit. However, I can only state that in our defense, Colonel Ablitt, the Chief of Staff pointed us out as the finest PMO he had ever worked with. This was done verbally and also documented on fitness reports.

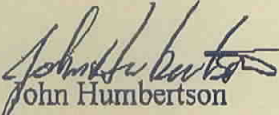
Although my retirement from the Marine Corps did not happen exactly as I had hoped, I still love and respect the institution that was part of my life for 24 years. I know that some of the charges brought about by this investigation have a ring of truth to them, but I also know that viewed in proper context that they are not as bad as they seem. I also know that because of his 17 years of selfless devotion and service to the Marine Corps and Country and his character as a man, that Major Scarselli should be allowed the chance to recover from this incident and retire as a Marine.

In closing, I have a very high opinion of Major Scarselli. Point blank, I have never met a better person in my life or a more dedicated Marine. He is a gentleman in the truest sense of the word and has nothing but compassion and love for his fellow Marines, fellow man, and country. I have never seen a Marine who has garnered as much loyalty of other Marines that he has served with throughout his career. I saw him receive phone calls and visits from Marines he had served with at previous duty stations everyday. They all hold him in the highest regards as a leader and a mentor. I have met some dynamic leaders over the years, but nobody quite like Major Scarselli. Every waking moment of the day is dedicated to accomplishing the mission, improving on operating procedures, serving the community and making sure the Marines are taken care of. I used to think that I was a compassionate leader who truly cared about his Marines. It was actually maddening sometimes on the lengths he would go to ensure Marines were taken care of. For example, we ate at the chow hall every day for lunch. If he saw a Marine that was a Private, he would go out of his way to speak to the Marine and find out why he was still a Private and if it was because of an administrative oversight, he would personally contact the Marines unit to ensure they got their due promotion. As the Provost Marshal, when he reviewed the blotters, he took an interest in any Marine that was accused of wrongdoing by the Military Police. He always wanted to make sure the Marine got the benefit of the doubt, that the MP's acted according to policy, and that the Marine listed as a suspect truly deserved that distinction. He knew that sometimes during an investigation, the investigator would sometimes focus on proving a Marines guilt and ignore

circumstances and information that may tend to cast doubt upon the case. Nonetheless, he always ensured that type of information was included in briefings and reports. He knew a Commander needed that information in order to make an informed decision on how to discipline a Marine or to not discipline at all. And above all, he knew that investigations generated by PMO needed to look into any information that may lead to proving the innocence of a Marine, not just their guilt. A Marine deserves that.

It would be unjust if the Major did not get the same benefit.

Respectfully Submitted,


John Humbertson