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From: Captain Kristopher J. Knobel, USMC, XXX-XX-3569/5803
To: Commanding General, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command

Subj: STATEMENT IN THE CASE OF MAJOR SCARSELLI'S ARTICLE 15, UCMJ, HEARING

1. I worked for Major Scarselli as his Operation Section OIC from April 2007 to September 2007, then as his Deputy Provost Marshal from September 2007 to October 2008, and for a couple weeks in August 2009 that ended when he was relieved of his duties. I have 100% confidence in Major Scarselli's abilities as an Officer of Marines, and his worthiness to be promoted. He is one of the best, if not the best, Marine Officer I have had the pleasure of working with, and is directly responsible for my decision to stay in the Marine Corps. Major Scarselli is a strong charismatic leader that develops and empowers his subordinate leaders. He is completely devoted to the Marine Corps and its core values, and worked hard to instill the same values in myself. Based upon my knowledge of the events that happened while I was at PMO, and my knowledge of Major Scarselli as a leader, I believe there should be leniency toward him for the charges he is facing at NJP.

2. Major Scarselli never attempted to debrief me after my interview with the Inspector General. Major Scarselli has always been very concerned about the well being of his subordinates, and has very keen sense for when someone is troubled. Him asking "How'd it go?" and "Are you OK?" to me would have been interpreted as him taking an interest in something that was bothering me and possibly interfering with my work, as opposed to him trying to get details. There were many times he would ask me similar questions because he believed there were personal issues which had been bothering me.

3. There were several times that allegations of adultery were brought up. In those circumstances he would ask the Provost Sergeant to look into the allegations and brief him on the details. The allegation against Master Gunnery Sergeant Humbertson had first come to my attention after an HSSI employee who was being terminated made the claim that Master Gunnery Sergeant Humbertson was having an affair with a civilian employee. Both the Master Gunnery Sergeant and the civilian employee denied this. The HSSI employee did not have any details and had never even been in the same room alone with either of them, so the allegation did not have much weight. The adultery allegation against Sergeant Ellestad was brought up by another Marine at PMO who claimed Sergeant Ellestad was having an affair with his wife. After the Provost Sergeant had looked into it, the wife refused to provide any details and Sergeant Ellestad denied the allegation. The allegation against Civilian Police Lieutenant Daly was in a different category than a service member. In the initial stages of the integration of civilians into PMO, we were told that the civilian police officers were not subject to the UCMJ. As a civilian employee there was no recourse against him for adultery. There was one incident of adultery that was substantiated while I was at PMO, and in that incident the Staff Sergeant was sent to Battalion NJP by Major Scarselli.

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4. I was very surprised when the implementation of the rifle range became an issue. The Provost Marshal prior to Major Scarselli implemented a training plan of conducting all pistol qualifications at the Barstow range, executed by PMO training staff. Major Scarselli continued to execute this plan. When rifle qualifications were no longer waived for Head Quarters Battalion personnel in FY 2008, the PMO Training SNCOIC, who had previously been the SNCOIC of the Barstow ranges while he was stationed Barstow, said it would be possible to qualify all the Marines on rifle at Barstow. All coordination was conducted through Head Quarters Battalion, and the Barstow range personnel assisted in the execution of the qualification courses. All scores were run through Head Quarters Battalion. After Major Scarselli was relieved in August 2009, Colonel Green, who had assumed the duties of Provost Marshal, was briefed on the next upcoming PMO rifle range at Barstow and had no objections.

5. Major Scarselli empowered his SNCOs and encouraged things to be handled at the lowest level. Unfortunately in a few instances SNCOs improperly punished their Marines. Major Scarselli always stressed that everyone should be handled with dignity and respect, and made it clear that any kind of maltreatment would not be tolerated. During the time that I worked for him, he had sent two different Marines to NJP for Hazing.

6. PMO was a unique blend of 58XX MPs, 03XX FAPs, and Civilian Police Officers all working together to accomplish the same mission. At times there was a "grunt" vs "POG" dynamic, and when the civilians integrated there was a definite Marine vs Civilian dynamic in the PMO. A way that Major Scarselli brought everyone together was through unit functions after training on Tuesdays. There was alcohol there for the of age Marines and civilians, and water and soda for those underage. For the approximate year these functions were held, there was only one incident of a Marine under the age of 21 drinking an alcoholic beverage, and this was never brought to our attention until the IG investigation. The NCOs and SNCOs were expected to police there Marines to ensure no one under 21 drank. During the same period, I recall several incidents of underage Marines being apprehended for drinking in the enlisted club, which shows that even under that strict supervision it is still possible for a minor to get alcohol. Had it come to Major Scarselli's attention that an underage Marine had consumed alcohol at a unit function, I am confident that he would have taken action against the Marine and taken a look at how alcohol was managed at the functions.

7. Major Scarselli always kept everything professional, whether it was at work or after hours. On several occasions Major Scarselli invited myself, Master Gunnery Sergeant Humbertson and his oldest son out to dinner. On those occasions Major Scarselli always referred to Master Gunnery Sergeant Humbertson as Master Guns, and the Master Gunnery Sergeant would always refer to Major Scarselli as Sir. Even Master Gunnery Sergeant Humbertson's son would refer to Major Scarselli as Sir. Based upon my daily observations of how they interacted, I can not picture an unduly familiar relationship developing. While Master Gunnery Sergeant Humbertson was staying with Major Scarselli, I have no doubt that Major Scarselli was able to maintain a professional working relationship with his senior enlisted advisor.

8. Major Scarselli was a pleasure to work with, and I would seek out opportunities to work with him again. Under his leadership many things were accomplished at the PMO. He was responsible for not only the sunshade being installed at the main gate, but the misters as well. He worked hard to push those projects through to better the work lives of his Marines. Another example of his initiative is when he directed that the vehicle

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registration/visitors center be open 24 hours a day, possibly making it the only one in the DoD with such hours. Major Scarselli fostered a command climate of taking initiative and also responsibility. He held his subordinate leaders to high standards, and held them accountable when they did not act in good faith. An example of him holding his subordinate leaders accountable was when he sent a Sergeant, who was the vehicle registration center NCOIC, to Battalion NJP for failing to follow the Combat Center Orders in how vehicle passes and installation ID cards were issued. Major Scarselli is an outstanding Marine Officer that is an invaluable resource to the Marine Corps. It is in the best interest of the Marine Corps and the Military Police MOS that he be retained and be eligible for promotion.



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