

AFFIDAVIT

AFFIANT voluntarily says of his own personal belief:

Col Stephanie Smith is my Battalion Commander.

I am a career planner at MCRD San Diego. I knew that recently Col Smith was attempting to void the MOS of a career planner at MCRD, a Staff Sergeant Cleary who had previously worked as the H&S Battalion career planner and had worked with me at the RTR as my assistant career planner. I'm aware that he worked in the law center's VITA in early 2010 too.

I believed that that Staff Sergeant was competent at this job and didn't deserve to have his MOS voided. I wrote a letter of recommendation that SSgt Sergeant Cleary was proficient at his job and that he should keep his MOS.

I pulled my letter of recommendation for SSgt Cleary when I was directed to do so by my superior. The next thing I know, Col Smith called to berate me and then she sent me an email telling me that I showed no personal loyalty to her by writing a letter of recommendation against her personal wishes.


I was threatened with NJP, including NJP for wrongfully impeding an investigation by writing a letter of recommendation against the wishes of my Battalion Commander. I was intimidated by Col Smith's threats via her email.

I am a 20+ year U.S. Marine Gunnery Sergeant. I believed that I was being unjustly intimidated by Col Smith for writing a letter of recommendation for a Marine in an adverse administrative hearing. I felt so strongly that my situation was wrong by Marine Corps standards that I made an IG complaint against Col Smith.

I few weeks after I made my complaint I was notified that ALL charges against me were dropped, although I never received anything in writing.

I swear that the above voluntary official statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I've attached Col Smith's email to this affidavit.

Pedro A. Navaronzalez  
Print Name

  
Signature

10/01/19  
Date

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

From: Smith Col Stephanie C

Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 2:09 PM

To: Navagonzalez GySgt Pedro A

Cc: Myers CIV Clifford O III; Jones SgtMaj Donald

Subject: RE: Meeting

Signed By: stephanie.smith@usmc.mil

GySgt:

I accept your apology but I think this situation is far from over. Given what I know of the situation with SSgt Cleary and what others are saying that they told you prior to your sending that endorsement speaking for the Depot, I could not in good conscience allow you to represent my BN in front of the officers and SNCO's of the Depot for the HQBN sponsored PME last Friday. You still seem to fail to realize that, even if I take your rationale at face value that you did not know it was the Depot level staff that wanted his MOS revoked, you failed to come to me or anyone on my staff to get the evidence requested regarding counselings that was relevant to the Depot level recommendation. I get it that you are sorry about this. But in order for you to have done what you did with your endorsement, you demonstrated no loyalty to me whatsoever and you disrespected my judgment rendered in the adverse fitrep and the upholding of that fitrep via the 3rd officer sighting. The idea that you did not ensure the P11 that you witnessed the counseling and issuing of (the counseling you witnessed when you were checking into the BN in Alphas) got included in the information supporting the RELM makes me question your judgment and your integrity. You told me numerous times in my conversation with you last week you were unaware of the DEPOT WIDE effort to have SSgt Cleary's MOS revoked, but numerous people state they specifically made you aware of that fact well before 16 August. Yet, you chose to certify in your endorsement that this was all the derogatory information available to you and SSgt Cleary's rebuttal to missing the training was personally investigated by you and deemed factual. That too is ridiculous given what I know about his time at the tax center. All these things have caused me to lose trust and confidence in your ability to represent my BN's interests from a CRS perspective. I have an absolute open door policy and you are free to stop by anytime.

S/F

Col Smith

PS SSgt Richard did a great job at the PME.

-----Original Message-----

From: Navagonzalez GySgt Pedro A

Sent: Monday, August 23, 2010 14:41

To: Smith Col Stephanie C

Subject: Meeting

1000  
cp  
26 Aug 10

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

From: Gunnery Sergeant Pedro A. Navagonzalez 8333/4821 USMC  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps, (Code: MMEA-6)  
Via: Master Sergeant Donald Bird, 4821 Monitor

Subj: ENDORSEMENT IN THE CASE OF STAFF SERGEANT NATHAN CLEARY  
NATHAN

1. I request to "Officially" remove my recommendation provided on Staff Sergeant Cleary's statement dated 16 Aug 10 attached to RELM# TFRS-87EMWQ. When I prepared my endorsement I was unaware of the multiple verbal counseling that SSgt Cleary had received from MSgt Cook and others.



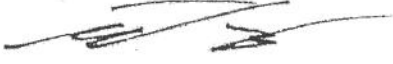
PEDRO A. NAVAGONZALEZ

ENCL (1)

16 Aug 10

From: Staff Sergeant Nathan Cleary  
To: Master Sergeant Bird  
Via: Gunnery Sergeant Navagonzalez

1. MSgt, per GySgt Navagonzalez' request, this is my statement regarding Career Planner training that had occurred while I have been at MCRD San Diego. On March 6 2009 I attended training. On April 17 2009 SSgt Richard attended while I worked Bn Career Planning issues. On April 24 2009 we did not attend, but I do not recall the reason why. On May 15 2009 I attended training while SSgt Richard worked Bn Career Planning issues. On May 22 2009 SSgt Richard attended training while I worked Career Planning issues. From January 4 2010 to April 24 2010 I was unable to attend all training due to being TAD to the Tax Center. On June 10 2010 I was unable to attend training due to being at the rifle and pistol range. The only inspection SSgt Richard and I have been given was on May 19 2009, where we were found Mission Capable, with minor discrepancies.



Nathan P Cleary

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ENDORSEMENT

From: Gunnery Sergeant Navagonzalez  
To: Master Sergeant Bird

1. I verify the information above is correct. I have purged thru the Depot files personally and the attachments are the only documents available for review.
2. My strongest recommendation that Staff Sergeant Cleary remain in the Career Planning Force and orders to another unit where he can continue serving Marines. I feel that he is a competent career planner and just needed a good Mentor/Mentee relationship with a senior Career Planner to bring out the best in him. Under my personal mentorship he has excelled in all aspects of career planning and has developed into a strong leader and more experienced career planner capable of handling the billet of Depot Assistant SNCOIC.



Pedro A. Navagonzalez  
Depot Career Planner SNCOIC  
Marine Corps Recruit Depot, SD  
(619) 524-8818

ENCLOSURE (2)