



**Garry E. Hall**  
Rear Admiral, United States Navy (ret)

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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to address Michael Little's medical fitness for full military duty. I have been the Executive Director at the Association of the United States Navy since June of 2015. During that time, I have been able to get to know Aviation Boatswains Mate Hander 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Petty Officer (ABH2) Michael Little on a Professional and Personal basis. While I am aware of the letter my predecessor sent regarding the status of ABH2 Little, I feel it was written with what he thought was in the best interest of ABH2, and not so much what the reality of war does to an individual.

During my 35 years as a Naval Aviator, I worked directly with Aviation Boatswains Mates on the flight line as well as at sea on the flight deck as a Helicopter Pilot, Air Boss and Commanding Officer of the USS Tarawa (LHA 1). I am fully aware and fully understand the requirements of an enlisted Sailor to perform his duties as an ABH and feel I am an expert in these matters.

Over the past 6 months of close observation and knowledge of Petty Officer Little, I have seen firsthand the debilitating effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Depression Disorders, and Anxiety Disorder; I have also seen the side effects and time requirements of medically approved treatments of these disorders. These disorders and their treatment have manifested themselves in lost work days, severe headaches making it to where I had to allow ABH2 to work from home, an exceptional practice for his circumstance. I have personally helped him through panic attacks, depression, and disorientation, on many occasions, all of the which effect his performance. I have happily accommodated Petty Officer Little's treatment, and these episodes of inability to preform, because he is representative of this generation of Warriors that has sacrificed so much over the last 14 years, many of which I commanded during my time as a Expeditionary Strike Group Commander. While I am 100% supportive of his continued employment here at AUSN, I cannot see him medically fit to serve our Navy on Active Duty in the Regular or Reserve Component. Other civilian employers would not be as accommodating as I have been, and would simply let him go, due to the need for continuous productivity.

Based on my 35 years of operational leadership, which includes 5 operational commands, it is my expert opinion that Petty Officer Little is not fit for continued military service or world wide deployment, and given his combat related injuries should be Medically Retired from the Naval Service. While not visible, his wounds are real, and treatable. We need to focus on his treatment and healing so he can lead a productive post Navy life. Continued Naval Service would only hurt this Sailor's chance at a productive future. To declare Little medically fit for full duty, is to ignore the effects of PTSD and its treatment on his ability to perform on active duty.

Feel free to contact me if you need further information; do not hesitate to contact me at

Garry E. Hall