



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
1189th Transportation Surface Brigade
Joint Base Charleston, SC 29406

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

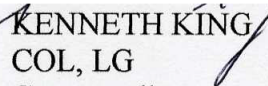
AFRC-SLA-DSNC-CO

1 MAY 14

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: ABH2 Michael Little Letter of Recommendation

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to document the high moral character and professionalism of ABH2 Michael Little, and my endorsement of his exemplary service while deployed to Camp Bucca from August 2008 until April 2009.
2. ABH2 Michael Little performed in an outstanding manner during his deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, as a Compound Guard for my Military Police Battalion. His actions emulate the Army Values, and he could always be relied upon to provide superlative results. During our deployment to Iraq, ABH2 Little was subjected to numerous dangerous situations in close proximity to some of the most dangerous terrorists in the Middle East, and he has always prevailed flawlessly with polished professionalism.
3. Deploying as one of my key operational leaders, and responsible for approximately 60 soldiers and sailors, he executed his duties with precision and discipline rarely seen below the strategic level. Michael was a disciplined, experienced, proficient sailor, who was a mentor and coach for younger sailors to emulate.
4. It has been an honor to serve with ABH2 Little, and I consider myself privileged to have had sailors of his high moral character under my command. I look forward to the next opportunity to serve with him. I trust him implicitly and consider myself fortunate to have him within my ranks. Point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned,


KENNETH KING
COL, LG
Commanding

May 12, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I was quiet dismayed, annoyed actually, to hear of the navy's treatment of Petty Officer Michael Little's treatment at the hands of the navy.

As Petty Officer Little's Executive Officer in Camp Bucca Iraq from May 2008 to April 2009 (May to July in Ft. Dix NJ for training) I witnessed and handled the administrative results of assaults on Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion FIVE (NPDB-5) sailors from August 2008 to April 2009. I personally viewed video tape of an assault on our sailors in the December 2008, January 2009 time frame, and processed a number of incidents of assaults on the Sailors of NPDB-5 almost daily from March to April 2009.

Now I'm not aware of ABH2 (AW/SW) Little's experiences in Afghanistan, but I can tell you he witnessed or was a victim of assaults by the detainees while in Iraq with NPDB-5. The same detainees that are now running ISIS (ISIL), who at the time were on Death Row or were to be imprisoned for life under the Iraqi government.

It is a travesty that the navy has not adequately investigated the incidents at Camp Bucca Iraq, nor sought out additional information from more reliable sources.

If further information regarding Petty Officer Michael Little's character or performance as a sailor in NPDB-5 is desired contact me through the information provided below. I'm happy to answer question about any of the sailors who performed magnificently under the harshest conditions at Camp Bucca Iraq and NPDB-5.

Very Respectfully,

William J. Maslanka III
LCDR USN (Ret.)

William J. Maslanka III



Charles W. Malone
CDR, USN (Ret.)

May 12, 2016


To whom it may concern,


I had the pleasure of serving as Commanding Officer of Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion FIVE, at Camp Bucca, Iraq in 2008 and 2009. Additionally, I served as a Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer (V-1 and V-2 Division) onboard the USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63) from 1998-2000. Because of these two positions I've held, I am uniquely qualified to speak to both what happened at Camp Bucca, and whether resulting trauma from that position could impact future capability on the flight deck. More specifically, having known ABH2 Michael Little from day one of training for NPDB-5, and having led numerous Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handlers) in my career, I can speak more accurately than most anyone as to what his performance was like as a guard, how it affected him personally, and whether he could continue to serve as an ABH as a result of his diagnosed PTSD.

During our time at Camp Bucca, ABH2 stuck out as a performer, a hard worker, an optimist and a highly capable Sailor. He never shirked from his duties or waived despite fecal attacks, attempted assaults, or from highly planned, attempted escapes. I can speak with certainty that the men and women who guarded detainees were continually under threat. I specifically remember two major escape attempts, where lives were specifically threatened. I can speak to the daily stresses of mind-numbing duties of guards working through the relentless targeting by detainees, hell-bent on exploiting Sailor weakness. The constant contact with the enemy, at times, had debilitating affects on very good Sailors. This threat would have been heightened for ABH2 Little as the Compound Section Leader overseeing "death row" inmates who were guilty of particularly egregious crimes.

Prior to assuming command of NPDB-5, I read a behavioral study, which spoke to the level of PTSD of detainee guards, and how they often suffered with a quicker onset of PTSD than Soldiers in the line of fire. As a result of this study, we took significant measures to combat the problems associated with PTSD. Despite our efforts, we struggled daily with their affects. The battalion prior to our arrival had experienced one suicide during the deployment, and our command experienced one at home, following deployment. Though NPDB-5's mission was to guard the most dangerous and violent detainees within Camp Bucca, the mission of the senior staff was to lift up the Sailors who did the guarding. Out of the 400 Sailors in the command, ABH2 Little stuck out as a solid performer who had endured significant harassment. Having heard of how he has suffered since his return, and having read some of his diagnoses, I can say without question that while he performed his duty admirably, that duty impacted him considerably. With this in mind, knowing the danger and exhaustive nature of the ABH's work, Petty Officer Little, in no way, belongs on the flight deck. His continued service, especially in his rate, would put other lives in peril.

ABH2 Little has been a strong and memorable Sailor. He has done his duty and has paid the price for doing it. He deserves full respect and benefits from the Navy for a job well done.

Very Respectfully, 

 C. W. Malone