

STEPHEN P. KARNS

ATTORNEY AT LAW
EXPRESSWAY TOWER
6116 N. CENTRAL EXPRESSWAY, SUITE 450
DALLAS, TEXAS 75206
stephen@karnslawfirm.com
www.usmilitarylawyer.com

TEL (214) 750-9010 · FAX (214) 750-8881

September 28, 2011

Bill Murphy, Jr.
Stars & Stripes
529 14th Street NW, Suite 350
Washington, D.C. 20045-1301

RE: Discrimination against injured soldiers

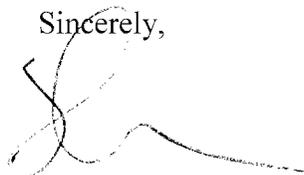
Dear Mr. Murphy:

After comparing my clients' cases with those of other Soldiers stationed at Ft. Carson, it is patently clear to me that commanders at Ft. Carson are manipulating the system to deny injured Soldiers the benefits they have earned. More specifically, commanders are treating Soldiers who have engaged in minor misconduct differently based on whether or not they are pending a medical evaluation board (MEB). If the soldier is pending an MEB, the command is separating the Soldier from the Army without any benefits. If the Soldier is not pending an MEB, the Soldier is retained or given a better discharge.

This pattern of discharges is so clear that I can only conclude that commanders are using the system against injured combat veterans who have engaged in minor misconduct in order to save the government money by cutting off their hard-earned and much needed medical and financial benefits. This is a shameful practice. Most veterans count on their benefits to help them transition back into civilian life, especially in this economy. Our country is better off if our Soldiers receive their justly earned benefits so that we avoid what happened to many of our veterans during the Vietnam era.

The commanders claim they are trying to maintain good order and discipline, but both the magnitude and prominence of the pattern belies this explanation. Commanders have come up with an unscrupulous way to circumvent the MEB process, and I challenge the commanders to go through each one of their cases and come up with a rational and credible explanation for their actions. I hope Congress or the President will look into these cases which I'm sure exist at other installations as well. They would be shocked to find out how our Heroes are being treated. I will be more than willing to explain and share with anyone concerned exactly what the commanders are doing to our Soldiers.

Sincerely,



Stephen P. Karns