



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

IN REPLY REFER TO:
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OLAC-5K
15 Oct 10

The Honorable Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator
517 East Wisconsin Avenue
Room 408
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Attention: Hilary DeBlois

Dear Senator Feingold:

Thank you for your letters of February 23 and September 14, 2010, on behalf of Reverend David C. Couper, a former Marine. He has concerns about the validity of the contents of the book "Shadow of the Sword: A Marine's Journey of War, Heroism and Redemption," written by former Staff Sergeant Jerimiah W. Workman, U.S. Marine Corps. I regret the extended delay in formally responding to your inquiry. We have checked within Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps and have been unable to confirm that the Commandant's office received Reverend Couper's personal letter.

We appreciate your concern in this matter. May we also extend our sincere gratitude to Reverend Couper for his dedicated service to the Marine Corps and our Nation. We are especially proud that the leadership skills he developed as a Marine Staff Noncommissioned officer have served him well as the Police Chief of Madison, Wisconsin, and a priest in the Episcopal Church.

Reverend Couper wants to know if the contents of former Staff Sergeant Workman's book are valid with respect to alleged improper conduct of Drill Instructors by mistreating recruits to the point of self destruction. Reverend Couper should rest assured that the Marine Corps values have not changed since he served on active duty nor will they ever change. He can remain proud of the Eagle Globe and Anchor. Our motto "We Take Care of Our Own" is as strong now as it was when he graduated from recruit training and it will remain so for many years to come.

Plainly stated, the allegations contained in this book are unequivocally not Marine Corps policy. The Marine Corps has no control over what a former Marine contends transpired while on active duty or in the Reserves. Furthermore, due to the Privacy Act, we cannot discuss former Staff Sergeant Workman's assignments, performance or overall service. The treatment described in this book would certainly be considered as hazing and the Marine Corps has a zero tolerance policy for hazing, as such actions will not be tolerated under any circumstances. If a Marine presents such

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allegations to their chain of command, they are expeditiously investigated per the Judge Advocate General Manual and, if substantiated, action is taken as appropriate.

The only authorized billets for the drill field are Series Chief Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor and Drill Instructor. However, our Recruit Depot Leadership informed us that under the overarching regulations regarding treatment of recruits, Depot Order P1513.6B (Recruit Training Order), any personnel engaging in recruit maltreatment are subject to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice as an order violation. Drill instructors attend a twelve week course to prepare for this unique duty. During the course, the importance of safeguarding the health and welfare of recruits and the expected standards of conduct are constantly reinforced. The current program of instruction dedicates 198 academic hours to the study and mastery of the Recruit Training Depot Order.

In conclusion, Marines are, and have always been our greatest asset and their safety is paramount. Our Leaders fully understand that ultimate success at accomplishing our mission depends on our junior Marines. They continue to consistently display the knowledge, maturity and warrior spirit that has been the hallmark of our Corps for more than two centuries as proven during our Overseas Contingency Operations.

We appreciate Revered Couper taking the time to bring this matter to our attention. I hope you find this information helpful in responding to your constituent. If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. A. Sapronetti", with a stylized flourish at the end.

M. A SAPRONETTI
Assistant Head
Office of Legislative Affairs
Correspondence