



August 19, 2014

United States Army War College  
Attention: Colonel Deborah Hanagan  
Academic Review Board  
Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania 17013-5217

Dear Academic Review Board Members,

This letter is personal testimony as to the stalwart character of John Walsh.

As a military professional I have known John Walsh for thirty-two years; I was John's tactical officer while he was an officer candidate, subsequent we served together in the 163<sup>rd</sup> Armored Regiment followed by assignments in the G-3. John followed my duty assignment as the Commander of the 208<sup>th</sup> Regiment and then as the J-3 of Joint Force Headquarters-Montana. I had the distinct honor to work for John as his Director of the Joint Staff (DJS) while he served as the Montana Adjutant General (TAG). On a personal level John and I are friends; we socialized, biked, skied, and raised our families together.

In the thirty-two years I have known John, not once did I observe him deviate from the Army values. Integrity is the value he personified in word and action. As an example – while serving with John, as his DJS, he received a request from a senior officer to be extended past his mandatory removal date ... the regulations allowed this to occur "if" the Adjutant General would write a letter to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau stating the officer was "indispensable". John convened a meeting with his senior command team because he was struggling with the indispensability statement; in good conscience – in spite of how valuable the officer was to the National Guard – John's impeccable values would not readily enable him to state the officer was "indispensable". This was one of countless events I observed while working closely with and for John; I never saw him make a decision or take an action contrary to the values of the United States Army.

Serving for thirty-two years with a Soldier you acquire an accurate knowledge of their strengths and weaknesses. I will state that John was never a stellar academician and thus can readily conceive he may have erroneously extracted an author's work and through academic ineptness failed to cite the reference accurately. After knowing John for thirty-two years I cannot accept he would intentionally commit plagiarism. That singular possibility, in a lifetime of committed service to this Nation, does not compute with either the professional military officer I served with or the good friend I know.

Very Respectfully,

Joel Cusker  
Brigadier General (Retired)  
Deputy Director



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