

30 August 2010

Reuben K. Byrd
Sr. Vice President Operations
Grand Bahamas Shipyard
The Fishing Hole Road
P.O. Box F-42498-411
Freeport, Grand Bahamas

Mr. Byrd,

I am a retired Lieutenant General in the U.S. Marine Corps and, like all honorable Marines, I protect with considerable vigor the integrity of the Corps. If the information in my possession is correct, you do not.

If the evidence that I have is correct, you have represented that you served in the Marine Corps with distinction (including acts of bravery) and attained the rank of lieutenant colonel. The truth, as you know, is that the Marine Corps found you to be substandard after two years of service and discharged you for obesity. You never served at a higher rank than lance corporal, you never served overseas, were never wounded in combat, and you never received direct orders from General Al Gray.

While the mistruths and bombast in which you appear to have represented yourself are grave offenses to the honor of the Corps, in fact the misrepresentations may be a good deal more serious. The Stolen Valor Act of 2005 makes it a federal crime to represent that you received awards that you didn't earn. If you ever indicated that your invented exploits resulted in an award, you have violated federal law. If in fact you exaggerated your service, there are multiple organizations and individuals who would relish in taking your case to court.

You will cease representing yourself as a Marine that you were not, or I will turn your case over to the organizations and authorities who would pursue legal action. If I do not hear back from you to this effect, I will assume that you have elected not to comply, and I will take action. You can, of course, deny any and all of the accusations against you. If you can corroborate your statements, then I will compare them to the statements I have and will turn them over to other agencies to review.

G. S. Newbold
LtGen USMC (Ret) ...