

To: Jennifer Pennington

29 July 2011

United States Office of Special Counsel

From: James Parsons

Ref: Case #DI-10-2151

This is my response to the findings of case # DI-10-2151.

I would like to express my concern and dismay over the findings of this report. It appears that the report was going in the right direction until the conclusion. I believe this report was written to make sure the US Air Force was in no way liable for any of the actions, or lack thereof, taken by Mr. Keel or Mr. Dean.

The report is very clear that every embalmer the investigators spoke to said they would have asked the next of kin about cutting off the bone and they would not have removed it without prior consent from them.

If the Dover Port Mortuary is held to the highest standard as stated, then even if one State Board of Embalmers says it is illegal, immoral or unethical to remove a body part without the expressed written permission of the family, then The Dover Port Mortuary and its employees should be held to the same. (The Oklahoma State Board of Embalmers stated that any embalmer holding a license in their state would have had their license revoked for removing a body part in the manner that this young Marine's arm bone was removed.)

I am requesting a public hearing by Congress on the Gross Mismanagement under the leadership of Col Edmondson, Mr. Dean and Mr. Keel.

The remains of this Marine were in a mutilated condition and by regulation should have been a full body wrap. Restorative art can be used to make human remains viewable but in this case restorative art was not used. Webster's Medical Dictionary's definition of the word "restorative" is: "a returning to a normal or healthy position". According to this definition, nothing was returned to a healthy condition. What was done was just the opposite. All that was done was to cut off the bone using a cross cut saw. Reset was another term I have seen used in the report by Mr. Keel. The definition from Webster's for "reset" is "to set again or anew." It would obvious to anyone reading the report that there was no resetting done to the Marine's arm bone. "Remove" would be a better word. I believe that Mr. Keel and Mr. Dean use the regulations to suit their needs and to hide behind them when needed. Just because the investigators could not find anything in the regulations that said that the bone could not be cut off does not make it right.

Hm1 Marsh stated that the remains were charred and this is not true. The autopsy photos will confirm this, as it confirms the actual length of the arm bone when it was in tact. HM1 Marsh believes that we can do as we please because the family has given permission to embalm, but the Marine Corps and Navy Liaisons will not even shave a fallen Marine or Sailor without permission from the family.

The phrase "lack of candor" is being very kind when describing Mr. Keel and Mr. Dean. They lied under oath. If I would have been accused of the actions of Mr. Dean and Mr. Keel for lack of candor and gross mismanagement, it would have resulted in my termination. They are left to perform their duties in the same positions as before the report, but it is clear from their actions that they are not qualified for those positions.

Mr. Keel and Mr. Dean gave evidence of text books by Mr. Mayer but I didn't see anything in the report that the investigators ever spoke with him about restorative art or if cutting off a bone is considered restorative art. It seems that any questioning that would have resulted in a negative finding by the investigators was overlooked.

Would you like this to be done to your loved one without your permission? Do we treat them like they are a piece of government equipment or like the true fallen heroes that they are; with dignity, honor and respect?

Since I have filed this compliant, Mr. Garza has been promoted to a higher position within AFMAO that does not require him to embalm.

On September 9th of 2010 Mr. Quinton Keel issued me a Notice of Termination that was overturned by Headquarters Air Force District of Washington. I believe that this was retribution for testifying against him with the US Air Force Inspector General.

I have been actively looking for other employment within the US Government. The US Air Force has continued to let the lack of leadership skills from Mr. Dean and Mr. Keel preside over the Port Mortuary and I can no longer trust them to do the right thing when it comes to the treatment of our fallen.

James G. Parsons Sr.

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