



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Combat Leader Convicted of Murder of Afghans Who Died in Firefight Asks Civilian Court to Toss Military Conviction

TOPEKA, KANSAS – Attorneys for former Army First Lieutenant Clint Lorance, convicted by a military court-martial of murder relating to a firefight in Afghanistan that occurred on July 2, 2012, have asked a Kansas federal district court to toss out the conviction. In July 2012, Clint Lorance was an infantry platoon leader in the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, leading his paratroopers on a patrol in an area known for frequent attacks on American Soldiers, one of which resulted in Lorance's predecessor being severely wounded. During the July 2, 2012 patrol, when a member of Lorance's platoon saw a fast-approaching motorcycle with three riders nearing the patrol, the Soldier identified the vehicle as a potential threat and shot at it, but missed. Lorance, in a split-second decision, ordered another member of his platoon manning an automatic weapon from a better vantage point to fire on the vehicle. Two of the riders were killed, and the third escaped.

Lorance asserted that he ordered his paratrooper to fire to protect his Soldiers; but the Army, already facing a public backlash over unrelated deaths of Afghan civilians, charged Lorance with changing the rules of engagement on his own, and with murder and attempted murder. Lorance was acquitted of changing the rules of engagement, but convicted of murder and attempted murder. He is now serving a 19-year sentence in the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He has exhausted his military appeals and now seeks relief with the civilian federal courts.

In a 76-page petition for writ of habeas corpus filed Tuesday with the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas, Lorance's attorneys argue that the conviction and sentence should be thrown out. They cite misconduct on the part of prosecutors, missteps and lack of preparation on the part of Lorance's trial attorneys, and an appeals process facilitated by military officials whose efforts to uphold the conviction at all costs resulted in Lorance's appeal process being biased and unfair, to the point that it deprived him of his Constitutional Due Process rights. In the petition, Lorance's attorneys explain that the prosecutors failed to turn over DNA and fingerprint evidence that would have identified the motorcycle riders as known bomb-makers, rather than the "civilian casualties" they had been portrayed as.

The petition also details public comments made by the then-Chief Judge of the Army Court of Criminal Appeals in which he accused Lorance of giving his Soldiers false information about what the rules of engagement actually were, despite Lorance being acquitted of that offense. The petition also describes similar

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comments made by The Judge Advocate General, a three-star general who was the Army's top lawyer, to a member of Congress. The petition describes an entire process geared toward creating the public impression of an Army that takes a hard line against Soldiers whose actions in combat result in civilian casualties, but meanwhile sacrifices principles of due process, fundamental fairness, and common sense, resulting in a Soldier convicted of murder for doing nothing more than protecting his troops in combat.

A copy of the petition is a matter of public record and is available [by following this link](#). The proceedings have been docketed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas, Topeka Division, under Docket No. 5:18-cv-3297. The case has been assigned to the Honorable John W. Lungstrum, who was appointed in 1991.

Lorance is represented by: John N. Maher, of Maher Legal Services PC, Chicago, Illinois; and by Christopher Joseph and Diane Bellquist, of Joseph, Hollander & Craft LLC, Topeka, Kansas. Questions regarding this release may be directed to Lorance's lead counsel, John N. Maher (phone: (708) 468-8155 / email: johnmaher@maherlegalservices.com).

Clint Lorance has received overwhelming public support for this and other efforts to secure his release, led in large part by United American Patriots, a non-profit organization that provides support to American warriors by raising awareness for challenges facing them, helping them reintegrate into society after experiencing combat, and funding legal representation. More information about UAP can be found at www.uap.org.

Additional information about Clint Lorance can be found at <https://www.uap.org/copy-of-1lt-clint-lorance-faqs> and at <http://www.freeclintlorance.com/>.

