



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HHC 56TH THEATER INFORMATION OPERATIONS GROUP
BUILDING 54, SERGENAT MAJOR DRIVE
CAMP MURRAY, TACOMA, WA 98430-5051

NGWA-IOG-IO

1 August 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Support for Staff Sergeant Robert Bales

1. I am writing to support the best possible outcome for SSG Bales who, having pled guilty to multiple charges of premeditated murder, is scheduled to be sentenced by court-martial in August 2013.

2. I served 7 years on active duty, including three combat tours as a Forward Observer deployed with infantry units. I have served in many capacities in my time in the military. I have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in capacities as wide ranging as Training NCO for an IA battalion (as a Military Transition Team member) to Intel and Information Operations positions. Currently I am serving in the WA National Guard as a Systems Integration NCO. Despite the injuries I sustained in training that make me ineligible to continue serving as a Forward Observer, I continue to serve in the Guard as an Information Systems Specialist and I was the only person in my IO Group to graduate from the Electronic Warfare course

3. I first met SSG Bales when I arrived at 2/3 Infantry and served with him for several years as his platoon's Fire Support Specialist, including a 15 month deployment to Iraq (19 June 2006-22 September 2007) and several live fire training events.

4. SSG Bales is a professional Soldier, exemplary in his behavior and professionalism. He treated superiors, peers, and subordinates with respect at all times. He always worked to train his soldiers to the highest standards of proficiency and professionalism. When on garrison duty, I trusted SSG Bales at all times to do what was right and to do his best to improve his Soldiers, the unit, and himself. While deployed with him I could, and did, trust him with my life on many occasions and knew he would never fail any of us in doing the right thing. His conduct was always dependable and professional.

5. His ability to be rehabilitated is beyond any doubt to me. If given the chance, he would be a true asset to his community and I sincerely hope that he is given that chance. Despite the events that he has pled guilty to, I know that Robert Bales is a good man, a great Soldier, and a true friend.

5. I can be reached at [REDACTED]

V/R,
SSG Joshua Gordon
56th IO Group Data Integration NCO