

# SAVE OUR HEROES<sup>®</sup>

ADVOCATING FOR MILITARY JUSTICE REFORM AND EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

## **Sent Via Priority U.S. Mail, Tracking & Delivery Confirmation**

**17 September 2018**

**Admiral John M. Richardson  
Chief of Naval Operations  
1200 Navy Pentagon  
Washington DC 20350-1200**

**Re: Vice Admiral James Crawford**

**Admiral Richardson,**

Save Our Heroes is a non-profit organization, formed in 2015, devoted to ensuring fairness in the military justice system, that those within the system are afforded the presumption of innocence, constitutional and due process protections and that leadership are held accountable for their failures. Save Our Heroes is a team of over 100 volunteers from a wide variety of professions; including current, former, and retired military members from all branches.

These volunteers dedicate their time and talents to helping others and in a cooperative effort with similar organizations, advocate on pending cases, support service members and their families, and work towards fact and evidence-based solutions to reform the military justice system and most importantly, prevent future injustices. You can learn more about our activities and objectives by visiting our website at [www.saveourheroesproject.org](http://www.saveourheroesproject.org).

SOH has closely monitored the wrongful sexual assault conviction case of U.S. Navy Chief Special Warfare Operator Keith Barry. We are aware that his conviction was recently dismissed with prejudice, as a result of Unlawful Command Influence on the part of the Navy Judge Advocate General, Vice Admiral James Crawford.

It has been reported by the Navy Times <sup>1</sup> that Admiral Crawford has been allowed to retire, effective 12 September 2018. Justice demands that Vice Admiral James Crawford be ordered back to Active Duty for a court-martial. Our service members and the American public deserve reassurance that the military justice system and the UCMJ apply equally to all.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2018/09/06/the-navys-top-lawyer-unlawfully-scuttled-a-seals-case-court-rules/>

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In two separate military judicial hearings; a Dubay hearing and a decision by the Court of Appeals of the Armed Forces (CAAF), ruled that Admiral Crawford was guilty of violating Article 37 of the UCMJ. A sworn affidavit by Rear Admiral Patrick Lorge, the convening authority in Barry's case, which was part of both of these decisions, stated that his decision to uphold the wrongful conviction of Barry was due to the unlawful command influence exerted upon him by Admiral Crawford as well as pressure the military has been subjected to by former President Obama and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.

As such, Chief Barry, an innocent man, served time in a military prison, was dishonorably discharged, had his entire military career derailed and his professional and personal reputation decimated, entirely due to the CORRUPT illegal actions of Admiral Crawford.

In approximately three years of operation, SOH has received approximately 300 cases, most involving some type of sexual misconduct offense. Most of those cases have been vetted, and the injustices that have been discovered would shock the conscience of the average person. The damage done to falsely accused and wrongfully convicted service members and their families is beyond description. Besides negative career implications, personal, family, and financial ruin, some sadly, have taken their own lives.

SOH has repeatedly observed the military abandoning its duty to the accused service member, when investigating allegations of sexual misconduct to do so in an unbiased manner. Instead, it appears the military has succumbed to pressure from some in the legislature and extremely vocal special interest groups with the objective to ensure a conviction by any means necessary, irrespective of facts, evidence, and rule of law when allegations of this type are reported.

Most of the cases we review stem from a contentious family law and child custody proceedings, a short term relationship that abruptly ends, or cases that involve alcohol consumption in which only one gender is held responsible. As you can imagine, when dealing with circumstances noted above, many of these cases are lacking in facts, evidence, and are emotionally charged. This should place an even greater burden at all levels of the military justice system to ensure that the rights of all people involved; the accused and the accuser are protected.

Service members deserve due process and constitutional protections. These protections have been slowly and significantly reduced, and service members have a nearly impossible task to offer a viable defense. Their lives have been committed to serving this Nation and protecting our rights and freedom, and they should be afforded the same rights. The fair and equal administration of justice should not be dictated by 'mob' rule.

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This case is an aberration and a travesty of justice, but sadly is not unique. In fact, travesties of justice such as this routinely occur. In this scenario, it is abundantly clear through evidence beyond any reasonable doubt that the corrupt, intentional, and malicious actions of Admiral Crawford demand a court-martial and that he is disbarred from the practice of law by the State Bar Association of North Carolina.

SOH has already filed a state bar complaint in the State of North Carolina. We are aware that a case number has been assigned however we are not aware of any recent developments regarding the inquiry. SOH has also notified the Senate Armed Services but have received no reply. We have posted the letters and pertinent information to our website <sup>2</sup>, which can be linked below.

Justice demands that Admiral Crawford to be ordered back into the Navy to face a court-martial of all of the appropriate violations of the UCMJ. It has been proven beyond any and all reasonable doubt that Admiral Crawford intentionally and maliciously sent an innocent man to jail. It is our strong belief, holding Admiral Crawford accountable for his actions will help restore credibility to the current flawed military justice system.

As a matter of normal business practice, SOH respectfully requests a response to this correspondence including any actions taken or anticipated.

**Respectfully,**



**Doug James, COL. (Ret.), USAF  
President & Chairman of the Board of Directors  
Save Our Heroes' Project  
San Antonio, Texas**

DJ/mc

cc:

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<sup>2</sup><http://www.saveourheroesproject.org/save-our-heroes-project-files-state-bar-complaint-and-notifies-senate-armed-services-committee-re-unlawful-command-influence-of-navy-judge-advocate-general-admiral-james-crawford/>