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ADVOCATING FOR MILITARY JUSTICE REFORM AND EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

FALSELY ACCUSED, WRONGFULLY CONVICTED, PROSECUTORIAL MISCONDUCT



U.S. Army Specialist Ricardo Morales The “girlfriend” trap

Ricardo’s case serves as another example of the dangers faced by military men having any kind of relationship. In September 2014 a female Army soldier made an allegation of sexual assault against him. Her motives were clear, she wanted to be near her married lover who had just been reassigned to Japan. She asked for an expedited, 10-day, transfer to Japan claiming she was a sexual assault victim. An assignment of choice is one of the many “victim” benefits for false accusers in the military.

Ricardo’s entire life was now put under a microscope in the “guilty until proven guilty” culture of today’s UCMJ. During the long extensive investigation, two more women contacted by Army investigators (CID) alleged they also were victims of sexual abuse. (It is a common tactic of investigators and prosecutors to use victim benefits to try and instigate additional allegations to strengthen their chances in court).

The second new accuser was Specialist Morales ex-wife who was blackmailing him for full child custody. Her email, submitted to the court, stated *“I’d be willing to take away child support and remove the assault charges...If you would grant me full guardianship of the children.”* The third accuser was a married woman trying to cover up an affair she was having. The third woman later dropped her accusation but was still compelled to testify. A defense witness proved her testimony was false.

Prosecutors used these other women as a “propensity of evidence” argument. They alleged Specialist Morales had a history of prior sexual abuse based on these additional “victims.” Ricardo was later found guilty of one charge of sexual assault, but fully acquitted of the added charges from the other two women. This was despite the fact that the first accuser perjured herself numerous times during the trial and many of her own friends contradicted her testimony.

In November 2017 Specialist Morales won an Appeal based on the “propensity of evidence” argument. Ricardo however lacked the funds for a civilian attorney and he was then retried and reconvicted on 31 May 2018 in a judge only re-trial. Ricardo will have to register as a felon and sex offender for life. He is trying to appear on the Dr. Phil show so that he can take a polygraph to confirm his innocence and confront his false accuser.

Testimony of accuser’s best friend discussing the fall of 2013

1 A. We had been talking about what we had been up to, you know,
2 the week prior or whatever, and what was new, and she mentioned that
3 they had gotten-- not gotten back together, but had sex together or
4 hooking up.