

Re: Further update
Nizich mniz@gci.net
Sat 2/18/2012 5:20 PM
Koch Family

just so you know I am receiving your messages. I got a call from Matt wanting to me to send an acknowledgement.

From: Koch Family
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2012 8:37 PM
To: mniz@gci.net
Cc:
Subject: Further update

Sir,

Maybe I should have waited a day so that I don't keep cluttering up your email, but things started turning viral and I just got wind of it today. Our Recruiting and Retention Commander (R&R CMDR) mentioned in a previous email for the misuse of a government credit card to the tune of over \$200,000 according to experts who've talked with me and other chaplains as well as leading a command known to have ties with the illegal drug trade and many of the sexual assaults our young women have endured, has just been given a plumb assignment as our senior operations officer as of 1 June. Of course, this was orchestrated by MG Katkus who has the documented proof of the credit card fraud sitting on his desk, so I'm told. As one officer put it, "Now we are putting criminals in our senior positions." This move was begrudgingly approved by our Army Guard CDR and our Army Chief of Staff who's hands are tied by Katkus. The activities of the R&R CDR and many within his command are being watched by outside law enforcement and auditing elements from JBER and the Active Army. The R&R CDR and a few others like him seem to be the exact kinds of persons Katkus likes to put into key positions.

The sense of rage has started to boil over on the Army side and I think the option of "going nuclear" has been accelerated. I am out of the office on Monday and have no idea what will be waiting for me on Tuesday. I will keep you informed. There's a lot more I wish to tell you, but cannot commit it to writing for security reasons. (Let's just say that we are starting to attract some serious attention from outside.) Only a face-to-face meeting will do, though I believe you already have much to work with from me and others, I can give you more if we meet and that is, of course, subject to your discretion. I submit all this with the utmost humility.

V/r,

CH (LTC) Rick Koch
State Command Chaplain AKNG

Sir,

I'm at a conference in Atlanta for senior chaplains and my phone lit up today with texts and calls from chaplains back in Alaska. Short story, the environment in the Air Guard has become very toxic; to some degree in both wings, but mostly in the 176th. Col. Lincoln has been severely marginalized and

belittled. He can only call you if he asks permission to call "up" the chain of command. That permission would come from TAG and he won't go there. If you call him directly, he can fill you in on the facts (). It would also work if you request him to call you through another person, like Matt or me, though I trust Lincoln has your number as I don't. (Matt, feel free to jump in here with any ideas, as I am pretty much out.)

Things are really getting bad. Trust is virtually gone. A little more than a month ago I tried, once again, to talk to TAG about the poor "trust" climate and he spent the whole time deflecting the issue instead of confronting with me the core of the matter. I've never had a commander do that when I brought them a weighty issue.

Apologies for the less than stellar news.

I submit this with all humility and respect, yet with truth.

V/r,

CH (LTC) Rick Koch

Sir,

I've been traveling TDY quite a bit these past weeks and in some ways catching up. Met with TAG last week and was informed of the latest activity. Can't say I was surprised, but saddened nonetheless.

TAG thinks it's just a few problem people. I try – really gently – to convince him there are major trust issues and much more of a ground swell, but he thinks I'm wrong.

I'm sure, as I look back, there are things that I and the other chaplains could've done differently and/or more smoothly, but none of us is adept at these big time political games; we are probably clumsy at those kinds of things. But we are sharp at the truth and God keeps pointing us in that direction.

Can't add anymore to what you already know. The underground messaging around here remains the same; "The beatings will continue until morale improves."

God bless.

V/r,

CH Rick Koch