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STATEMENT BY

COLONEL(P) JASON T. EVANS
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, HOMELAND DEFENSE,
AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SECOND SESSION, 112TH CONGRESS

FRAUDULENT AWARDS HEARING

29 FEBRUARY 2012

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Chairman Issa, Representative Cummings, distinguished members of the Subcommittee, thank you for providing me the opportunity to appear before you on behalf of America's Army. It is a privilege to be here today to present our system of military awards to you. The Awards and Decorations Branch is the centerpiece of the Army's Military Awards Program. Our awards system recognizes the distinguishing acts of valor and bravery for our Soldiers, and when needed supports internal and external agencies with verifying cases of possible fraudulent awards. There is no greater act of heroism than serving this great country in uniform and there should never be a time when a member's service is compromised by those who misrepresent their service to this great nation and fraudulently receive awards. In that, we make it a priority to support agencies who request our support and expertise to verify awards for those suspected of and charged with making fraudulent award claims.

The Army's Ability to Maintain Adequate Databases/Systems to Track and Verify Army Awards

The Army uses multiple databases and a systematic process to protect the integrity of our awards system and to verify awards information on its Soldiers past and present. The Army verifies a Soldiers' awards record through internal personnel databases, official military record files, microfiche and other historical and records cache resources which require research and analysis. At the request of internal and external agencies, we use all those systems and have been able to support or deny suspected fraudulent award claims. Upon receipt of a request, we make it a priority to conduct thorough research and analysis and provide timely feedback to the requesting agency.

A Soldier's period of service will impact the timeliness of our feedback. In many cases, for a Soldier who served during a past conflict, we request the Soldier's personnel records from the National Personnel Records Center to assist in the process of validating approved awards. When validating an award request, the Army takes great care not to deny a valor award solely based on the omission of records. Record losses stemmed from the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center, additionally, errors may

have been made in recording the award, or records have been lost entirely through no fault of the Soldier

The Army will exhaust all available resources before stating we cannot confirm the individual was awarded a valor award. This process may take 6 months or more.

We routinely assist the Inspector General, Federal Bureau of Investigation, judge advocates as well as the Army Board for Correction of Military Records, Veteran's Affairs, Congressional Members, and Army units. Over the past 3 years, we are aware of less than 20 fraudulent award cases. In each case we have assisted in providing valuable information to these organizations which prompted the need for further investigation or prosecution by the appropriate authorities.

Conclusion

While service organizations play a critical role in assisting veterans to receive retroactive awards, we are aware there are illegitimate online services which claim to provide Army awards and decorations. However, those illegitimate resources are not supported by the Army as a reliable resource for verifying award information. The Army awards system contains numerous checks and balances which include endorsements from various levels of the chain of command and human resources elements for ensuring the appropriate level of recognition is warranted for each Soldier.

We will continue supporting all legitimate agencies to protect the integrity of the Military Awards Program for our men and women who honorably serve this great nation.

Once again thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to answering your questions.

Colonel (P) Jason T. Evans was born in Baltimore, Maryland and was raised as an Air Force dependent. He attended Wentworth Military Academy where he earned an Associate Degree in Business Administration. He completed his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Bellevue University, Bellevue, Nebraska. He holds Masters Degrees in Business Administration and National Resource Strategy.

Colonel (P) Evans served in command and staff positions in the continental United States, Italy, Somalia, Kosovo, Germany, and Iraq with the 13th Corps Support Command, III U.S. Corps, 510th Personnel Services Battalion, 1st Personnel Command, USAREUR, Installation Management Command, Multi-National Force – Iraq, and Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army.

His key assignments include: The Adjutant General; Executive Officer, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Manpower and Reserve Affairs; CJ1, Multinational Force – Iraq, (Director Personnel); Commander, United States Army Garrison, Fort Monroe, VA; Chief, Department of the Army, Secretariat for Officer Centralized Selection Boards; Commander, Task Force 510th Personnel Services Battalion (Kosovo); Commander, 510th Personnel Services Battalion, 1st PERSCOM; Military Assistant to the G1, Deputy Chief of Staff Personnel, HQDA; Deputy Chief, General Officer Management Office, Office of the Chief of Staff, Army; Majors/Lieutenant Colonels Assignments Officer, HQDA, PERSCOM; Executive Officer, 502d Personnel Services Battalion, 3rd Personnel Group; HHD Commander, 502d Personnel Services Battalion, 3rd Personnel Group; G1, Joint Task Forces Logistics Command (Mogadishu, Somalia); Chief, Strength Management, G1, 13th Corps Support Command and Executive Officer, United States Army Element, Allied Forces South.

Colonel (P) Evans is a graduate of the Adjutant General's Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms Staff Services School, Command and General Staff College, the Army Resource Management Course, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Colonel (P) Evans' awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Achievement Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Parachutist Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Colonel (P) Evans is married to the former Machele Handford who was born at Clark Air Force Base, Philippines and was raised as an Air Force dependent. They have three children, Nachelle, Jason II, and Julian and two grandchildren, Ta'myah and Rodney II.