

The Steve Crooks Story

April 30, 2009

Hello,

I have waited 3 years to come forward, I love this country and my 28 years of voluntary service to the Ca Nat'l Guard and 27 years serving the public as a Telephone man at the same time should show it.

I immediately pitched in after 9/11 and served state side as office manager, trainer and attended extra-voluntary events to prepare to deploy to continue to serve this country, cumulating to a 17 month deployment to KOSOVO, ending in Jan 06. At that time I came home to SOCA to my wife of 2 1/2 years and the 4th birthday of my son. After arriving home to my wife who was angry. She lashed out at me repeatedly everyday with screaming and rages that lasted 10-15 minutes, it culminated in slapping, scratching and breaking my reading glasses as she attacked me in the afternoon of the third day me arriving to my home in front of my 4 year old son and her 13 yr old nephew. I was approached the next morning at 7 am by the Sheriff's Deputy's and arrested for Terrorism, Brandishing a weapon and DV-or Child abduction- I have yet to understand the specific allegations- However: last week my son's mother, admitted to me that she lied to the Sheriffs because she did not want to "go to jail", stating to the Deputy's that I hit her.

Even though in my defense of my innocence I related to all the authorities that I had absolutely nothing to gain from attacking her, and in fact I have pictures of injuries incurred by her from 4 years prior.

In further defense to my lack of motivation to create a disturbance; I was ready to retire from both the Nat'l Guard and the telephone company. With financial security- a nearly \$400k lump sum buy out, I felt I would be able to bring this episode to a quick close. And a secure Plan for the future that would move us out of California, closer to her's and my own family, (much closer to her's) which just weeks prior she showed interest in.

All of this was not even considered by the DA and the judges. I presented all this information to the DA and they let everything drop without an explanation and curtsy to a loyal and dedicated citizen- not that I suggested I receive any special treatment- but they need to know I am 'not the enemy'. To no avail. The State of California 'got me' my money and future. It seems that they were determined to destroy me and have done such.

Now, after using all my money to provide a home for my son and try to re enter the job market, I have done neither. I am struggling, CSS took \$4k last November and after 3 court dates they have yet to even explain why they took the money, and I have paid them every fee and payment that they have requested-immediately. I have made myself available to my son and during the summertime and I was not able to keep my son at home. He was put in Day care with the Government's money. Time and time again I was threatened of my jeopardy of losing

my right's to see my son. Losing Joint custody after following the advice of the Unified School District to enroll my soon in speech therapy on MY time!

Would you like to know what I did all those years at work- many with perfect attendance? I was a repairman and installer for Corporate Exec's/highest security level for the Verizon telephone company in Laguna Beach, CA Huntington Harbor and Los Alamitos CA. I was on Special Staff for the 40th INF Div, from 1992-2006 serving as an Assistant Inspector General, Master Fitness Instructor (for Generals Staff, and 24,000 men Div) and NCO of Information and Operations and Sr Battalion Advisor to the Commander for 2BDE in KOSOVO for 10 months-in KOSOVO (NATO mission with US Army). I have held a Secret clearance since 1978.

My career progression halted at these false allegations and arrest. Even though many in my Company had almost identical experiences, they were young and determined to 'over come' the difficulties- I was almost at the end of my career, at that time-about 8 years shy and really devastated with these charges.

They were all dropped at the arraignment; but the damage done to my career and total humiliation was insurmountable- you see once accused- there is no way to be exonerated in the eyes of my superiors- at this level.

I am now 57 years old (I was 53 at the time of the incident). I have suffered from sleepless nights, inability to cope with minor work, lack of concentration and just recently gotten to a 1/2 way functional state.

Every mandatory and voluntary counseling session I attended was designed to bring the implied guilt and wrong out of the man, but in my case(and I found in many other's) this is counterproductive)- this Industry is designed to squeeze money and valuable resources out of men (and only men at this point)- assuming that they are guilty of something. I am sure it works. Time and again I presented myself willing to 'get better' but only 'got worse'. Confused and not being believed by the counselors. It just did not fit, they have all been so programmed to not believe the man in this instance and with my police report, I just was not believed. I could not understand their refusal to believe my motivation or my persistence in a relationship that seems so obviously terrible.

I was finishing a successful 30 years of life and looking forward to retiring and enjoying life with family and friends; with very few incidences of even raising my voice,,,then why would I strike out-let alone say or do negative things to someone who I loved and harm the children I loved. I could go into detail how I have handled stress in the past- after all I have run marathons, Triathlons, climbed Mt Whitney 3 times, hiked the Grand Canyon 3 times, snow camped, desert camped, gone through Officer Candidate School with the Army, and numerous other examples of endurance and inner fortitude. But Family courts have brought greater men than I to their knees and deaths.

The ANSWER:

As I have found out that Ca Health and Safety code #124250 states that the only victim of Domestic Violence are woman and children. It makes no mention of woman even being capable of abuse towards a man. Thank God that study has shows this is not the case.

That responding Deputy's are mandated to 'mandatory incarceration' and 'no drop' policies.

I am a shadow of the man I was when I arrived at San Diego Airport, News cameras 'a hero's welcome' and days later I would embark on a path that has driven me to the point of ruin. Slow methodical assassination of a man that devoted most of his entire adult life helping others and now, near homelessness and without hope that things can really turn around for the better.

Please tell my story; it has been played out 1,000 fold with much dire consequences. I have finally found solace and some comfort meeting other's of my same plight. An incredible number with more bizarre stories than mine. I have reached out- I find them in my church, army groups, work groups and really any group I am with if I start talking about it someone-if not several chime in with the total frustration and anguish that is demonstrate on their faces. My heart sinks as my knowledge increases that this is a National epidemic started by 1/2 truths given in the past 40 years by those wanting to cause change- which has occurred- but has now become a monster of its own- out of control and does not look this out of control blaze that is fueled by inaccurate reporting by the news and politicians that benefit from this.

I challenge YOU, when you are in your trusted circle of friends to quiz what I say, and find out for yourself the devastation created by the Family or Divorce courts, Child Protective Service or Child Support Services.

Why do judges have to be escorted by the Secret Service in Cook County (and possibly other counties)? Why is there so much homelessness by men of broken families and why the laws are so harsh on men that are just struggling to pay the child support payments that are so out of proportion.

When/and if/ you take my challenge, you might believe my story.

I am open, willing and ready to come forward after 3 years, because no matter how hurt I am from this country's laws and injustice, I was brought up to defend her. Call it stupid, naive and it makes no sense. There is nothing else but my faith and this country. I pray for it all the time and it hurts me to finally all the people that 'knocks' this country for its evil deeds, have something that I have lived through.

Sincerely,

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