

In December of 2010 my daughter married her high-school boyfriend, gave up a full scholarship to a private university, and relocated with him to a military base on a remote Pacific island. After only weeks on the island she would truly get to know the person she married, as this person would turn her from his wife – into a statistic. Just weeks into the marriage and arrival on the island she was physically abused by her husband, and so began the cycle of domestic violence that would follow her from that day on with him; a living nightmare in which she was kneed, pushed, choked, hit and raped by a person that was overshadowed by his own insecurities and demons.

Several months into this isolated nightmare she became pregnant, a pregnancy that was not planned – and would soon become feared; feared because she would not only need to fear for her own life and safety, but too for the life and safety of the child growing within her.

As luck or fate would have it, my wife, her mother – flew out to the island to be with our daughter during what we thought, or rather hoped, was a difficult pregnancy... my wife would soon find out the reason for the calls back home that were filled with tears and sorrow. Our daughter broke her silence and spoke of the physical abuse she had endured at the hands of her husband. With a support system now in place, our daughter then did what she thought was right and went to military officials and described the abusive events that had taken place – only to feel further humiliation as her cries for help appeared to fall on deaf ears. My daughter and wife left the island and returned back home to the mainland.

It wasn't until she spoke to the right people within NCIS that things began to happen. Through thorough investigative work charges were finally brought against the person that she called her soul-mate, and that the U.S. military called a Marine... which in reality he was neither, as he was really a coward and a fraud.

Even so, now began the difficult task of compiling a case and going to trial to prove without a doubt what had happened to her. This is where my daughter came to know the military team that would become her saviors – the Marine prosecutor, the NCIS investigators, the Marines victims' advocate, and especially the Marines victims' legal counsel. This team helped to build her case, restore her dignity, protect her rights, and ultimately through the military judicial process – secure her future. The Marines victims' legal counsel (VLC) proved to be extremely helpful to my daughter. The VLC was available through the entire process to answer questions, provide guidance, and ensure my daughter's best interest and rights were being maintained. I recall my daughter telling me many times how happy she was to have someone (the VLC) that truly cared about helping her every step of the way. I myself recall how useful the Marine VLC was and the important role he fulfilled in representing my daughter during the court martial.

My daughter's now soon to be ex-husband was found guilty of multiple charges of assault and rape, was dishonorably discharged from the Marines, convicted and sentenced to several years in a military prison.

As a father – I will forever hold a special place in my heart and prayers for this group; a group who truly represent what it means to serve God and country... that live up to the moral code of the military branch for which they make their own personal sacrifices.

I am so grateful for what they've done for my daughter, and what they have given back to her -- a life.

May God bless this group of special individuals, the US military, and the United States of America...

Amen, and Oorah !!!

Thank you...

Most sincerely,