17/11/2012

Dear Sir/s Madam/s,

I am probably reiterating what has been said by many others with regards to this matter. More than a year ago, I submitted my story to DLA Piper. Since then there has been a distinct lack of communication from the government and the Department of Defence. Initially, I did not even know and was not informed that I should put forth a claim for compensation through the Department of Veterans Affairs. I did so and it is under consideration at this point (And has been since July) . I only knew to do that as the address was attached to one of the Auto-replies from DLA-Piper.

The incident that occurred to me happened over 20 years ago, when I was 16. Briefly, I was given a direct, lawful order to stay at the house of a paedophile who subsequently drugged and raped me. After attempting to commit suicide by hanging from the second story of the barracks (The cord from the iron that I used for this snapped), and subsequently being disbelieved about the attempted suicide; the only way that I got out of the army was to have my parents withdraw their consent, because after almost two years in the army, I was still under the age of consent.

After leaving, I was still suicidal and became a drug-addict (LSD, Cannabis) and suffered psychotic episodes that were Misdiagnosed in this order: Drug Induced Psychosis (Actually this was the most accurate diagnosis, but failed to take into account the reason for it), Schizophrenia, Schizo-affective Disorder (Then subsequently were added the words “Chronic” and “Acute”), then Bi-Polar Disorder, Then Schizo-affective Disorder with a Differential Diagnosis of Bi-Polar Disorder. All of my episodes of Psychosis were from PTSD lack of sleep and drug abuse. After enduring over 17-18 Years of harsh, physically sickening, mind-slowing and credibility destroying anti-psychotics, anti-depressants, mood-stabilizing elements and drugs for the side-effects of the previously mentioned agents, and being told I was born with a mental illness (Strange that I would pass the psych test to get into the Army at 14 in the first place then isn’t it?), I do not take any medication and have not for the last 18 months and I am completely fine, coherent and reasonably well-adjusted considering how my life has been thus far. I was told emphatically that I would never be able to function without the tranquilizers and mentally disabling chemicals that the doctors of the mid-90s prescribed and regulated me to suffer through.

I reported my story first in 2008 to a government agency that told me that since it was not someone that was in the Army and that since he was probably deceased, that I had no case. I content that the Army completely neglected its duty of care in this matter and was directly responsible for what happened and indirectly responsible for what transpired after that.

It has been 20 Years. I have suffered years of sub-standard, poverty-stricken and credibility-stripped existence. I fail to understand how any of you in the government can pretend that this matter (And so many other cases similar or even worse) is not a shameful and detestable situation that requires immediate redress for the sake of some kind of justice.

I implore you all to consider carefully how soon “Soon” would be if this had occurred to you or your family.

With Respect.
Paul Andrew Hazel