



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CITY HALL
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

August 1, 2012

Lt. General Daniel B. Allyn
XVIII Airborne Corp.
Office of the Commanding General
Building 1-326, Macomb and Armistead Sts.
Fort Bragg, NC 28310-5000

Dear Lt. General Allyn:

We are writing to ask you to use your authority as Commanding Officer at Fort Bragg to impose an appropriately serious punishment on Sgt. Adam Holcomb for his abusive treatment of Private Danny Chen. Specifically, we request that you immediately initiate proceedings against Sgt. Holcomb to dishonorably discharge him from the Army. We believe the punishment proposed by the jury in this case is too lenient and would send the wrong message to the nation's armed forces and to our country as a whole: that the United States Military tolerates this condemnable conduct. We are asking you to impose a more meaningful punishment that makes clear that the Military will not tolerate racism, bigotry, or bias.

The evidence presented in the trial of Sgt. Holcomb demonstrated that Private Danny Chen, who was courageously serving our country, was subjected to unacceptable racially-charged hazing and bullying. We expect an officer to provide leadership for his battalion and to support his troops. Instead, the jury found that Sgt. Holcomb personally engaged in behavior that debased a private under his command and now Private Chen is dead. We believe that Sgt. Holcomb's conduct licensed others to similarly target Private Chen, degrading the entire unit and tarnishing the reputation of the United States Military.

We know that our Military stands for honor, ethics, courage and integrity. Sgt. Holcomb's conduct stands in direct conflict with these values and he should no longer be allowed to serve in the United States Military. The removal of Sgt. Holcomb from the Army is necessary to honor the service of Private Chen, to appropriately condemn the treatment of Private Chen, and to ensure those who serve in the Military that they should expect to treat and be treated with respect and dignity.

Thank you for considering our views on this very important matter. To discuss our concerns further, please contact Council Member Margaret Chin directly at (212) 788-7259.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Chin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Margaret S. Chin
New York City Council Member
District 1, lower Manhattan

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine C. Quinn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Christine C. Quinn
Speaker
New York City Council