

MILITARY #5



NEW MEXICO STATE CONFERENCE

LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS

LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO April 28, 2007

RESOLUTION

U.S. Army Discriminatory Search of New Mexico National Guardsmen Fighting in Iraq

WHEREAS, In May of 2006 at a base in Kuwait, 60 members of a New Mexico National Guard unit were ordered to remove their shoes, socks and shirts in order that military investigators check for **Gang Tattoos**

WHEREAS, Members of the Rio Rancho New Mexico based Task Force Cobra were searched with alleged racial profiling and discrimination due to the large number of Hispanics

WHEREAS, A New Mexico soldier said in regards to the search, "...that I didn't feel like an American today." Another soldier said, "It reminds him of a similar incident that occurred when he was younger because he was Hispanic."

WHEREAS, On May 26, 2006, Agent Paul McGuire with the Army Criminal Investigation Command, conducted the check at the Ali Al Salem base in Kuwait was confronted about his expertise in identifying gang tattoos when he was informed by a lieutenant with the Task force Cobra that the platoon's sergeants were in law enforcement and would know of gang activities.

WHEREAS, McGuire said, "During the viewing, there was high tension among the troops who related that they felt as though they were being picked on...because they were Hispanic and National Guard."

WHEREAS, Six of the fifty-eight soldiers initially refused to be searched but complied after being threatened with arrest and charges by the investigating agent.

WHEREAS, Commander, Capt. Ivan Forrest Salkin, ordered that there would be no more checks until the agent produces a search warrant. He also added that he had no idea that the tattoo check was an issue with his soldiers. He objected to his soldiers being threatened with the arrest for refusing to comply.

WHEREAS, The checking and discriminatory search was based on an uncorroborated allegation made by a Wisconsin soldier that the Task force Cobra was rife with gang members.

WHEREAS, New Mexico League of United Latin American Citizens State Director, Paul Martinez said, "Racial profiling is reprehensible and should not be tolerated in the U.S. Armed Forces."

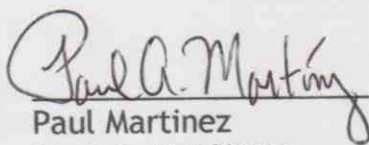
NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT: The New Mexico League of United Latin American Citizens demand a congressional investigation on the alleged discriminatory and profiled search of Hispanic military soldiers serving in Iraq by the U.S. Army.

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The U.S. Army present personal apologies to each and every soldier searched for tattoos

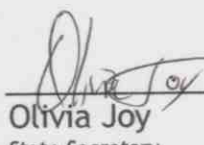
THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The U.S. Army not retaliate against military personnel who protested the search and check of the New Mexico National Guard for gang tattoos

SUBMITTED BY: Alfredo Lugo, Member New Mexico Council 120

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand for the League of United Latin American citizens, New Mexico this 24th day of April 2007



Paul Martinez
New Mexico State Director
League of United Latin American Citizens



Olivia Joy
State Secretary

