

## FAX MEMORANDUM

Total number of pages: 15

Date: Thursday, October 29, 1992

From: Maj Jerry Broeckert, Marine Corps Public Affairs Office, /B  
Los Angeles  
Phone: 310-575-7272  
FAX: 310-575-7272

To: BGen T. V. Draude, Code PA

Copy: Mr. Phil Strub, OASD (PA) (SAAV)  
LtCol Jim Vance, Code PAO

SUBJ: PROPOSED PAG FOR CASTLEROCK PICTURES "A FEW GOOD MEN"

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General,

Attached is:

- (1) Copy of Daily Variety article from 30 Oct 91
- (2) Copy of CMC msg for Technical Assistance for A FEW GOOD MEN
- (3) Proposed PAG for A FEW GOOD MEN

Enclosures (1) and (3) are provided to refresh what's been printed and what we've already said; I'm assuming you have readily available Phil Strub's letter to Jeff Stott.

In the preparation of the PAG, I:

- (1) Purposely avoided mentioning any producer or any cast member by name; think that would only fuel a fire and may be perceived as some type of personal attack that would open the door for the mentioned person to play the PR game for publicity exploitation. (For example, if we say we met with Rob Reiner, they'll go directly to him to get his reaction.)
- (2) Went into more detail that I originally had thought I would on the Q's and A's. Feel that the information is not so technical that command spokespersons would get in trouble but gave them enough information that they can articulate sufficient information to minimize the need to refer queries. The more "matter of fact" they can be in their responses, the better they can satisfy the media's curiosity. Also, I think it will give our Marines more peace of mind in the security that they better understand why we (the Marine Corps) did what we did with the movie (that we did withhold the big ticket items) and, as many still do with a certain Clint Eastwood movie, won't wonder why the Marine Corps supported it.
- (3) Wrote it with the expectation that the media will get a copy wanted to diffuse the publicity that it's "the movie DOD wouldn't support". DOD did in fact support it; we gave it courtesy support

# Pentagon Thinks 'Good' Bad Picture Of Marines

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The U.S. Defense Dept. has refused to endorse "A Few Good Men," currently lensing film about Marines starring Jack Nicholson and Tom Cruise, calling it inaccurate and negative.

The film is a courtroom drama about two Marines stationed at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba who are accused of killing a fellow Marine.

The Pentagon's rejection means that the film cannot be produced on any military installations. Camp Pendleton, located about 40 miles north of San Diego, was being considered as one of four potential production sites.

## Court TV Founder Predicts Success

WASHINGTON — Courtroom Television Network founder Steven Brill predicted success for his fledgling cable channel yesterday, claiming that viewers are yearning for "something that's real, nonpseudo-reality television."

Brill, in an address before the Washington Metropolitan Cable Club, said Court TV will engage in an "untelevision kind of television" and not the "garbage" of docudramas or reenactments seen on shows such as "A Current Affair."

"Our strategy is to use the notoriety of the case as an opportunity for education — not as an excuse for exploitation," said Brill. "We may end up expanding — even redefining — the rest of the media's mission in covering trials so that they, too,

"The current script reinforces the conclusion that not only is criminal harassment a commonplace and accepted practice within the Marine Corps, but that it requires a sister military service to uncover the wrongdoings and bring the perpetrators to justice," a Pentagon letter to the film's production company said.

A spokesman for the production company, Castle Rock Pictures Inc., said the company was not surprised by the military's rejection.

"As we adhere to the artistic and dramatic merits of the film, we understand the Marine Corps has their criterion, which determines their level of involvement," the spokesman said. "We went into that with our eyes wide open. It is certainly not a recruiting film."

Also starring in the movie, which began production last week in Washington, are Demi Moore, Kevin Bacon, Kiefer Sutherland and Kevin Pollack. The film is scheduled for release in late 1992.

Marine Maj. Jerry Broeckert, an ombudsman to the entertainment industry, said the Defense Dept. must approve all scripts if the military is asked to help with production.

The military will endorse a script if it is authentic, has informational value, has potential to enhance recruitment and retention, and does not endorse themes that run counter to U.S. policies, Broeckert said.

"We don't expect each and every military character to be a role model or recruiting advertisement, but we are convinced that a balance of positive and negative characteristics — the principal Marines would

## TBS C

(Continued from Page 5)

In exchange, Warner Bros. will receive \$24 million for the GACC live-action film (which includes "San Francisco," "Cannon" and "The Untouchables" as well as the feature "Man," "Ironweed" and "Monday Night Football"). GACC's Hamilton is handling merchandising.

Turner said the purchase price of \$32 million plus \$40 million in cash payments expected over time as certain definitive agreements are reached.

GACC will pay \$10 million in net cash and will be used primarily to pay remaining debt of \$700 million, a woman said.

She noted that

## Gibraltar 'Okavango'

Gibraltar Entertainment completed production of the family series "Okavango" and the series in Spain and America. Set to air last Spring to many.

The show will be turned into a TV series by Joel Levine and will have a studio syndication rights.

The series will be produced by

we didn't give it full support for the reasons mentioned. Interestingly, in Phil's letter, he never says he won't support, he says he can't "provided the military assistance requested." I'd like to think that once that message gets out it will become just another movie. We didn't give this movie any more (or less) consideration that we give any other project we review.

This PAG impacts on more than just the Marine Corps. Before releasing any PAG it's important that we review and discuss with Phil Strub and CHINFO. Since there are multiple services involved, Phil should provide us DOD PAG on which to issue USMC PAG. I've sent him a copy of this and will provide a copy to Cmdr Shrout here at NAVINFOWEST.

LOS ANGELES  
EASYLINK SERVICES  
FREETOWN, VA. 22645  
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1-000353A292-001 10/19/91 ICS DODCRSB ABN LASA  
00484 DOD CRC ALBANY GA 190633Z OCT 91/292

MARINE CORPS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
11000 WILSHIRE BLVD STE 1100  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

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R 181954Z OCT 91 ZYB  
FM CMC WASHINGTON DC//PA//  
TO AIG SEVENTWO  
INFO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//ASD/PA//  
RUENAAA/CHINFO WASHINGTON DC  
ACCT NA-CRARHQ  
UNCLAS //N05720//  
SUBJ: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR MOTION PICTURE--A FEW GOOD MEN  
MSGID/GENADMIN/CMC//

RMKS/1. CASTLE ROCK PRODUCTIONS HAS BEGUN FILMING A FEW GOOD MEN, DIRECTED BY ROB REINER, BASED ON A BROADWAY PLAY OF THE SAME NAME. THE PLOT OF THIS LARGE-BUDGET PROJECT INVOLVES TWO MARINE SENTRIES STATIONED AT GUANTANAMO BAY WHO ARE COURT MARTIALED FOR KILLING ANOTHER MARINE. THE BARRACKS XO GOES UA AND LATER COMMITS SUICIDE. THE MOVIE STARS JACK NICHOLSON AS THE BARRACKS CO, A MARINE COLONEL, AND TOM CRUISE AS A NAVY PROSECUTOR. DOD, DON, AND HQMC HAVE REVIEWED THE SCRIPT AND HAVE DETERMINED THAT THE PORTRAYAL OF THE MARINE CORPS CHARACTERS IS INACCURATE AND CONSISTENTLY NEGATIVE. ACCORDINGLY, OFFICIAL MILITARY SUPPORT FOR THIS MOTION PICTURE WILL

PAGE 02 RUEACMC8997 UNCLAS  
NOT BE AUTHORIZED.

2. CASTLE ROCK HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT WHILE LOCATION FILMING ABOARD DOD INSTALLATIONS IS NOT APPROVED (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A BRIEF EXCERPT AT NAS POINT MUGU), THE PRODUCERS WILL BE OFFERED INFORMATION AND ROUTINE FORMS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE FOR COMMANDS OR INDIVIDUAL MARINES CONTACTED FOR ASSISTANCE ON THIS PRODUCTION:

- A. ACTIVE DUTY/RESERVE PERSONNEL MAY PARTICIPATE AS PAID EXTRAS ON THEIR OFF-DUTY TIME (LEAVE OR LIBERTY). HOWEVER, AUDITIONS/TRYOUTS WILL NOT BE HELD ABOARD USMC INSTALLATIONS.
- B. ACTIVE DUTY/RESERVE PERSONNEL MAY WEAR THEIR OWN UNIFORMS. THIS RULING PERTAINS ONLY TO THIS FILM AND DOES NOT IMPLY THAT MARINES WHO APPEAR AS EXTRAS IN ANY OTHER PRODUCTION NOT OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED DOD MAY WEAR THEIR UNIFORMS ON CAMERA.
- C. UNIFORMS MAY NOT BE PURCHASED THROUGH THE MCX BY AUTHORIZED PATRONS FOR CASTLE ROCK FOR USE IN THIS PRODUCTION.

3. FOR REQUESTS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THIS GUIDANCE CONTACT MAJ J. BROECKERT, USMC, PAO, LOS ANGELES (213) 575-7272.

To reply by Mailgram Message, see reverse side for Western Union's toll-free numbers.

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PROPOSED CMC PAG ON MOVIE A FEW GOOD MEN  
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FM CMC WASHINGTON DC  
TO AIG \_\_\_\_\_  
INFO SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD/PA/SAAV//  
SECNAV WASHINGTON DC  
CNO WASHINGTON DC  
UNCLAS//NO5720//  
MSGID/GENADMIN/PA//  
SUBJ/PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE--CASTLEROCK  
PICTURES FEATURE FILM-A FEW GOOD MEN//  
REF/A/DOC/DODINST 5410.16//  
REF/B/DOC/SECNAVINST 5720.44//  
REF/C/MSG/CMC WASHINGTON DC 181954ZOCT91  
NARR/REF A IS INSTRUCTION ON DOD ASSISTANCE  
TO NON-GOVERNMENT, ENTERTAINMENT-ORIENTED  
MOTION PICTURE, TELEVISION, AND VIDEO  
PRODUCTIONS. REF B IS SECNAV PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
POLICY AND REGULATIONS. REF C WAS CMC  
GUIDANCE ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR A FEW  
GOOD MEN.

RMKS/1. THE THEATRICAL RELEASE OF THE CASTLEROCK PICTURES FEATURE FILM, A FEW GOOD MEN, CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR A FRIDAY, 11 DECEMBER 1992 RELEASE, COULD GENERATE INTEREST IN THE DOD POLICY ON SUPPORTING FEATURE FILMS AND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS USED IN THE MARINE CORPS. THE FILM IS A COURTROOM DRAMA ABOUT TWO MARINES STATIONED AT MARINE BARRACKS, GUANTANAMO BAY IN CUBA WHO ARE ACCUSED OF KILLING A FELLOW MARINE. IT IS BASED ON A PLAY INSPIRED BY AN ACTUAL INCIDENT. THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR USE.

2. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ONLY APPROVES FULL SUPPORT FOR A PROJECT WHEN IT SATISFIES ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN REF A. FULL SUPPORT ENTITLES A PRODUCTION COMPANY ACCESS TO DOD INSTALLATIONS AND USE OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT. ONLY FULL SUPPORT PROJECTS ARE CONSIDERED TO HAVE QUOTE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ENDORSEMENT UNQUOTE. THE DOD AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY DID NOT PROVIDE FULL SUPPORT TO CASTLEROCK PICTURES IN THE PRODUCTION OF A FEW GOOD MEN. THIS DECISION WAS MADE AFTER A CAREFUL REVIEW OF THE SCRIPT SHOWED THAT THE PROJECT DID NOT COMPLY WITH THE DOD REQUIREMENTS FOR FULL

SUPPORT BECAUSE THE PORTRAYAL OF THE PRINCIPAL MARINE CORPS CHARACTERS ARE INACCURATE AND CONSISTENTLY NEGATIVE. DOD AND THE MARINE CORPS DOES NOT EXPECT EACH AND EVERY CHARACTER IN ANY PROJECT TO BE A ROLE MODEL OR RECRUITING ADVERTISEMENT BUT DOES REQUIRE IN EVERY PROJECT A BALANCE OF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE CHARACTERISTICS AMONG THE PRINCIPAL MILIARY CHARACTERS. ACCORDINGLY, DOD INVOLVEMENT WAS LIMITED TO THOSE COURTESIES OFFERED TO ANY MOTION PICTURE COMPANY IN THE PRODUCTION OF A SIMILAR-TYPE PROJECT. IN THE CASE OF THIS PROJECT, COURTESY SUPPORT FOR CASTLEROCK PICTURES INCLUDED RESEARCH VISITS TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, ORIENTATION VISITS TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS BY ACTORS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH UNIFORMS AND PROPS, AND LIMITED ACCESS TO A DOD INSTALLATION. REF C PERMITTED MARINES TO PARTICIPATE AS PAID EXTRAS/ACTORS IAW REF B. CASTLEROCK PICTURES REQUESTED BUT WAS NOT PERMITTED USE OF THE MARINE SILENT DRILL PLATOON, USE OF THE MARINE CORPS DRUM & BUGLE CORPS, AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE UNIFORM ITEMS THROUGH THE MARINE CORPS EXCHANGE, AND AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT AUDITIONS ABOARD MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS.

3. LACK OF PROVIDING FULL SUPPORT FOR ANY PROJECT SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS OPPOSITION TO THE FILM OR ITS PRODUCTION. SIMPLY STATED, THE SCRIPT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW DID NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF REF A FOR FULL DOD SUPPORT SO IT WAS NOT PROVIDED. AUTHORIZED SPOKESPERSONS SHOULD REFRAIN FROM IMPLYING OTHERWISE.

4. BECAUSE THIS PROJECT WAS NOT FULLY SUPPORTED BY DOD, COMMANDS MUST REFRAIN FROM PARTICIPATING IN ACTIVITIES THAT APPEAR TO ENDORSE OR PROMOTE THE FILM. THIS INCLUDES COMMAND SPONSORSHIP OF SPECIAL SHOWINGS OR OTHER PROGRAMS WHERE THE INTENT IS TO GENERATE PUBLICITY, ALTHOUGH MEMBERS MAY, ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS, RESPOND TO PROMOTIONS CONDUCTED BY THEATER OPERATORS. REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO CMC (CODE PA) VIA THE CHAIN OF COMMAND FOR REVIEW.

5. SERVICEMEMBERS DECIDING TO ATTEND A FEW GOOD MEN IN UNIFORM MUST ADHERE TO THE PROVISIONS OF REFERENCES A AND B AND AVOID GIVING THE APPEARANCE OF OFFICIAL MARINE CORPS OR DOD SUPPORT FOR THIS FILM. FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES, THIS MEANS AVOIDING WEARING OF UNIFORMS TO SPECIAL EVENTS AND



PUBLICITY PROMOTIONS CONNECTED WITH THE FILM. IF APPROACHED BY MEDIA OR OTHERS SEEKING REACTIONS, COMMENTS SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO AND CLEARLY IDENTIFIED AS PERSONAL OPINIONS. SERVICEMEMBERS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT ANY GRATUITY OR ANY OTHER REWARD FOR EXPRESSING THEIR PERSONAL OPINIONS.

6. THE PLAYING OF A FEW GOOD MEN AT BASE THEATERS SHOULD BE TREATED AS ANY OTHER MOVIE RECEIVED THROUGH NORMAL DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS.

7. RECRUITERS AND SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF INTEREST GENERATED BY A FEW GOOD MEN AS LONG AS THEIR ACTIVITIES GENERALLY PROMOTE THE MARINE CORPS RATHER THAN THE FILM. PRACTICALLY, RECRUITERS CAN BE ACCESSIBLE TO INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS BUT SHOULD NOT PLAN, EXECUTE OR PARTICIPATE IN ORGANIZED PROMOTIONAL EVENTS. SPECIFIC GUIDANCE FOR PLANNED RECRUITING EVENTS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE RESPECTIVE CG WRR/ERR.

8. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AND QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ARE PROVIDED FOR USE BY AUTHORIZED SPOKESPERSONS ON A RESPOND TO QUERY ONLY BASIS.

STATEMENT: QUOTE THE CASTLEROCK PICTURES

PRODUCTION OF A FEW GOOD MEN WAS COMPLETED WITHOUT THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE UNQUOTE.

Q1: WHAT DOES QUOTE COMPLETED WITHOUT FULL SUPPORT UNQUOTE MEAN?

A1: IT MEANS THAT DOD DID NOT PROVIDE ALL THE SUPPORT THAT CASTLEROCK PICTURES ASKED FOR IN THE PRODUCTION OF THE FILM.

Q2: WHY WAS FULL SUPPORT NOT PROVIDED?

A2: DOD PROVIDES FULL SUPPORT TO PROJECTS THAT ARE AUTHENTIC IN THE PORTRAYAL OF ACTUAL PERSONS, PLACES, MILITARY OPERATIONS, AND HISTORICAL EVENTS; PROJECTS THAT ARE OF INFORMATIONAL VALUE AND CONSIDERED TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE; AND PROJECTS THAT ENHANCE THE U. S. ARMED FORCES RECRUITING AND RETENTION PROGRAMS. A FEW GOOD MEN IS NOT A FACTUAL PORTRAYAL OF THE INCIDENT THAT INSPIRED THE SCREENPLAY AND CONSISTENTLY PORTRAYS THE PRINCIPAL MARINE CORPS CHARACTERS INACCURATELY AND NEGATIVELY.

Q3: WHAT IS NOT FACTUAL ABOUT THE MOVIE?

A3: THE MARINE ASSAULTED DID NOT DIE (IN FACT HE WAS RETURNED TO FULL DUTY THREE WEEKS

AFTER THE ASSAULT); THE BARRACKS EXECUTIVE OFFICER DID NOT COMMIT SUICIDE AND THE BARRACKS COMMANDING OFFICER WAS NOT GUILTY OF A COVER-UP.

Q4: WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO THE MARINE INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT THAT INSPIRED THE SCREENPLAY?

A4: HE SUFFERED OXYGEN DEPRIVATION AS A RESULT OF BLOCKED AIR PASSAGES CAUSING TRAUMA TO HIS LUNGS, INTERNAL HEMORRHAGING AND TEMPORARY LOSS OF SIGHT.

Q5: WHAT WERE THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE ACTUAL INCIDENT THAT INSPIRED THE SCREENPLAY?

A5: TEN MARINES BOUND, GAGGED AND BLINDFOLDED ANOTHER MARINE AND CUT HIS HAIR TO QUOTE TEACH HIM A LESSON UNQUOTE FOR QUOTE SNITCHING UNQUOTE TO THE NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE ABOUT ALLEGED FENCELINE FIRINGS BY THE MARINE GROUND SECURITY FORCES IN 1986 AT THE MARINE BARRACKS IN GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

Q6: WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCIDENT?

A6: THREE OF THE ENLISTED MARINES INVOLVED IN THE ASSAULT WERE CONVICTED AT SPECIAL COURTS-MARTIAL; SEVEN OTHER MARINES REQUESTED AND RECEIVED DISCHARGE IN LIEU OF TRIAL BY

COURTS-MARTIAL (ALL SEVEN WERE SEPARATED WITH OTHER THAN HONORABLE DISCHARGES). THE LIEUTENANT FACED A BOARD OF INQUIRY THAT RECOMMENDED HE BE DISCHARGED HONORABLY STATING THAT QUOTE...THE COMMAND CLIMATE, CONDUCT, AND ACTIVITIES OF OTHER MEMBERS OF (THE) MARINE BARRACKS...WERE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS IN THE MISCONDUCT...UNQUOTE. A BOARD OF REVIEW CONCURRED WITH THE FINDING OF MISCONDUCT BUT DID NOT FIND THAT IT WARRANTED SEPARATION AND CLOSED THE CASE; HE IS NO LONGER ON ACTIVE DUTY. THE BARRACKS COMMANDING OFFICER \_\_\_\_\_

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Q7: WAS FULL SUPPORT DISAPPROVED BECAUSE DOD DOESN'T SUPPORT MOVIES WHERE THE MILITARY CHARACTERS ARE PORTRAYED NEGATIVELY?

A7: THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE MARINE CORPS DOESN'T EXPECT EVERY MILITARY CHARACTER TO BE A ROLE MODEL OR RECRUITING ADVERTISEMENT, BUT DOES REQUIRE A BALANCE OF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE CHARACTERISTICS AMONG THE PRINCIPAL MILITARY CHARACTERS.

Q8: WHAT SUPPORT DID THE MARINE CORPS PROVIDE?

A8: COURTESY SUPPORT INCLUDED SCRIPT NOTES;

RESEARCH VISITS TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS;  
ORIENTATION VISITS TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS  
BY ACTORS;

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH UNIFORMS AND PROPS;  
AND THE MARINE CORPS DID NOT OBJECT TO  
LIMITED FILMING ABOARD A NAVY INSTALLATION.

Q9: WHAT DID CASTLEROCK PICTURES ASK FOR  
THAT THEY DIDN'T GET?

A9: USE OF THE MARINE SILENT DRILL PLATOON;  
USE OF THE MARINE DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS;  
AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE UNIFORMS THROUGH  
THE MARINE CORPS EXCHANGE; AND AUTHORIZATION  
TO CONDUCT AUDITIONS ABOARD MARINE CORPS  
BASES.

Q10: WERE THERE ANY REAL MARINES IN THE  
MOVIE?

A10: THE MARINE CORPS PERMITTED MARINES IN A  
LEAVE OR LIBERTY STATUS WORKS AS EXTRAS OR  
ACTORS IN THE FILM.

Q11: WHY WERE MARINES PERMITTED TO BE IN THE  
MOVIE?

A11: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REGULATIONS  
CONTAIN PROVISIONS FOR MILITARY MEMBERS TO  
PARTICIPATE IN MOTION PICTURES. MARINES THAT  
PARTICIPATE IN MOVIES ARE CAUTIONED NOT TO  
PARTICIPATE IN ANY SCENES IN A MANNER THAT IS  
EMBARRASSING OR DISCREDITING TO THE MARINE

CORPS OR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

Q12: WAS THERE A TECHNICAL ADVISOR ASSIGNED TO THE PROJECT?

A12: SINCE THE SCRIPT WAS NOT APPROVED FOR FULL SUPPORT, A FULL-TIME, ON LOCATION DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TECHNICAL ADVISOR WAS NOT ASSIGNED TO THE PROJECT.

Q13: WHAT IMPACT DID THE CASTING OF CHARACTERS HAVE ON THE DECISION OF WHAT SUPPORT WOULD BE PROVIDED.

A13: NONE. PROJECTS ARE REVIEWED ON THE MERITS OF THE SCRIPT WITHOUT CONSIDERATION TO CAST SELECTION.

Q13: DID DOD OR THE MARINE CORPS HAVE ANY INPUT INTO THE SCRIPT?

A13: AS A MATTER OF ROUTINE, IN THE COURSE OF SCRIPT REVIEW DOD AND MARINE OFFICIALS MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRODUCERS ON THE ACCURACY AND AUTHENTICITY OF EVENTS AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRE-PRODUCTION PHASE OF THE PROJECT (IN THIS CASE, MORE THAN A SIX MONTH PERIOD). THE PRODUCTION COMPANY ULTIMATELY HAS TO DECIDE WHAT ARTISTIC AND DRAMATIC MERITS TO THE FILM HE IS WILLING TO CHANGE, IF ANY, TO SATISFY THE DOD REQUIREMENTS FOR FULL SUPPORT.

Q14: WHAT DOES THE MARINE CORPS THINK ABOUT THE FILM?

A14: IT'S JUST A MOVIE. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE MARINE CORPS REVIEW SCRIPTS TO DETERMINE ACCURACY, AUTHENTICITY AND WHETHER OR NOT IT COMPLIES WITH DOD PROVISIONS FOR SUPPORT; WE DON'T PROVIDE OFFICIAL REVIEWS IN THE SENSE THAT A MOVIE CRITIC WOULD.

9. COMMANDS ARE REQUESTED TO FAX COPIES OF PRINTED NEWS ARTICLES AND SUMMARIES OF LOCAL TELEVISION REPORTS TO CMC (CODE PAM) AT COMM 703-614-5147 DSN \_\_\_\_\_ AND THE MARINE CORPS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, LOS ANGELES AT COMM 310-575-7274.

10. QUERIES BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THIS GUIDANCE SHOULD BE REFERRED TO MAJ JERRY BROECKERT, MARINE CORPS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, LOS ANGELES AT 310-575-7272.//

**Steven Naplan**

**From:** Steve Naplan  
**To:** snaplan  
**Subject:** GESCAN  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 1994 4:26PM

<SOURCE> AP <DATE> 94/04/11 15:40:12  
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<VER> <REF> <FDAT> 04-11 <WC> 0565  
<TEXT>

AM-Marine's Death,0577

Mystery in Death of Man Considered Subject of "A Few Good Men"  
By JON MARCUS

Associated Press Writer

NATICK, Mass. (AP) David Cox dreamed of being a Marine forever, of one day joining the corps' elite security guard school. Those dreams were crushed by a court-martial like the one in the movie "A Few Good Men."

Cox left the Marines and worked one job after another, never really settling down. Three months ago, he disappeared, leaving behind an uncashed paycheck and the keys to his truck.

His decomposed body was found face-down April 2 on the banks of the Charles River, shot once in the back of the neck and three times in the torso. The killing has baffled family, friends and investigators.

"This guy had a very normal life," said Cox's older brother, Steven. "He was a very sociable, very outgoing guy. That's why what happened to him was completely out of character for the lifestyle he led."

Like his father before him, David Cox joined the Marines as soon as he graduated from high school. He was posted to the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

While there, he was accused along with nine other Marines of beating a comrade.

Seven defendants accepted plea bargains but Cox and two others chose courts-martial. They argued that officers had authorized illegal hazings, and were cleared of aggravated assault charges in 1987.

Cox and some of his co-defendants thought their case was the basis for the 1992 movie "A Few Good Men," in which two Marines at Guantanamo Bay are charged with murdering another recruit. The film's producers have insisted that the movie, which is based on the Broadway play, is fictional.

The court-martial delayed Cox's promotion. He went on to scout sniper school and served in Panama and Korea. But Cox's reputation followed him, and he chose to be honorably discharged from the corps in 1989.

Cox started a hauling and landscape business, sold cutlery and ran a home upholstery cleaning service. At the time he disappeared, he was working part-time during the Christmas season for United



service.

was trying to get into something he felt was a good  
," Steven Cox said. "When you come out of the Marine Corps,  
you're highly trained as a soldier, but it's not like college; you  
come out with virtually nothing applicable to the civilian world."

His disappearance was reported Jan. 4 by Elaine Tinsley, his  
21-year-old girlfriend with whom he'd been living since the summer.  
His 1985 Ford pickup was still in the driveway with the keys  
inside. No money had been withdrawn from his bank account.

"We were trying to make sense of it. We were trying to think,  
gee, maybe he just got mad at his girlfriend," Steven Cox said.

Three months later, acting on a tip from a canoeist, police  
found Cox's body partially buried under brush, a mile from the  
nearest road. He was carrying \$90 and his driver's license, and  
wearing the same clothes he had on when he disappeared: a green  
camouflage jacket, jeans and sneakers.

Cox's mother and attorney declined to comment. Tinsley would not  
return phone messages.

Nina Flaherty, a spokeswoman for the Norfolk County District  
Attorney's Office, said investigators have few leads.

"They are scrutinizing everything right now," said Steven Cox.  
"Everything is a possibility."

<TDAT> APTV-04-11-94 1541EDT

**Philip Strub**

**From:** pstrub  
**To:** pstrub  
**Subject:** GESCAN  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 05, 1994 9:18AM

<SOURCE> AP <DATE> 94/04/04 13:57:45

<TEXT>

AM-Ex-Marine Slain,0221

Ex-Marine Whose Court-Martial Case Became 'A Few Good Men' Found Slain

MEDFIELD, Mass. (AP) An ex-Marine whose court-martial case was the true story behind the movie "A Few Good Men" was found shot to death three months after he disappeared.

David V. Cox, 27, was reported missing by his girlfriend on Jan. 4. He left behind an uncashed paycheck and the keys to his truck.

His decomposed corpse was found Saturday about a mile from the nearest road, after a canoeer spotted a white sneaker on a remote riverbank.

Cox had been shot once in the back of the neck and three times in the torso, Norfolk County District Attorney William Delahunt said.

"A Few Good Men," starring Jack Nicholson, Tom Cruise and Demi Moore, was based on an attack in which Cox and several other Marines were accused of beating another Marine to death.

Seven Marines accepted plea bargains, but Cox and two others opted for courts-martial. Cox was acquitted and later received an honorable discharge.

Cox had considered suing filmmaking company Castle Rock Entertainment, his lawyer, Neil Kane, said shortly after he disappeared.

Police had no suspects. Delahunt said the motive also was unknown, but he didn't think the film had any connection to Cox's death.

## A few litigious Marines

By DAN COX

In yet another lawsuit filed against a successful pic, a few not-so-good Marines have charged the makers of "A Few Good Men" with pilfering their true story of hazing a young recruit.

Five ex-Marines have filed suit in Texas state court against Castle Rock Entertainment and other Hollywood companies linked to the boffo pic. The suit claims that "A Few Good Men" scribe Aaron Sorkin took the idea for his hit play and film from a real incident in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 1986.

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Pass to  
Phil Strub  
OASD PA  
SAAV

### Continued from page 1

Attorney Gary Patterson said his clients — former Marines Kevin Palermo, Ronald Peterson Jr., Brett Bentley, Dennis Snyder and Christopher Lee Valdez — were arrested and charged in a military court martial proceeding for the hazing of a soldier in a storyline remarkably similar to Sorkin's scripts.

In the film and the play, the story follows a trial of two Marines charged with committing a "code red," or hazing, of a fellow Marine who had broken the unofficial code of silence or loyalty.

According to the suit, Sorkin's sister, Lt. Debra Sorkin, defended one of the Marines in court and later told her brother about the case.

The case is one of several other current suits claiming that hot B.O. pic stole stories.

### Familiar rag

In each case, plaintiffs argue that the pic borrowed even the smallest details. In the "Few Good Men" case, Patterson claimed the detail of the rag that was soaked in gasoline and stuffed down the Marine's throat was taken directly from the original court-martial trial.

He also claimed the pic exaggerated the situation. Unlike the Marine in the pic, the real-life grunt did not die from the hazing ritual.

Patterson said the ex-Marine plaintiffs were asking for \$10 mil in damages from Castle Rock.

### Profits sought

"The profits made from this movie and subsequent video rentals (are) mind-boggling," said the suit. "However, plaintiffs did not give permission to defendants to make public what is a very private event."

A spokesman for the indie had no comment.

Patterson said at least five other Marines who were charged with the hazing incident are not part of the suit, including the Marine private who was beaten up.

In addition to Castle Rock, other defendants named include Rock founders Andrew Scheinman, Martin Shafer, Glenn Padnick, Alan Horn and (pic's director) Rob Reiner, playwright Sorkin, Columbia Pictures, New Line Cinema, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Sony USA, TriStar Film Distributors, Col Home Video and Triumph Releasing Corp.

**Steven Naplan**

**From:** Steve Naplan  
**To:** snaplan  
**Subject:** GESCAN  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 15, 1993 12:27PM

<SOURCE> UPI <DATE> 93/12/15 09:04:06  
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<PRIO> r <CAT> u <KEY> bc-tx-marines  
<VER> update <REF> <FDAT> 12-15 <WC> 0228  
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Five ex-Marines sue over movie

HOUSTON (UPI) - Five former Marines have filed a civil lawsuit in a Houston state district court against the makers of the 1992 hit movie "A Few Good Men," saying Hollywood made money off their story.

The five claim playwright Aaron Sorkin based his Broadway play and Oscar-winning movie on a hazing incident involving them at Guantanamo Naval Base, Cuba, in 1986.

The suit contends that parts of the play and movie included verbatim testimony from the former Marines' court martial.

Also named in the lawsuit are director Rob Reiner and his partners at Castle Rock Entertainment, Columbia Pictures, New Line Cinema, Sony Pictures and Columbia Tri-STAR Film Distributors International Inc.

A spokesman for Castle Rock Entertainment said the movie has grossed \$140 million in the United States but he declined to comment on the suit.

Sorkin's attorney Richard Heller in New York City said Tuesday he has not seen the suit but he denied the allegations, saying neither the play or movie are based on a real incident.

Attorneys for plaintiff Kevin Palermo of Houston the other Marines say they have a list of items that happened in both the movie and real life. The other plaintiffs in the suit, filed Monday, are Ronald Peterson Jr., Brett Bentley, Dennis Snyder and Christopher Lee Valdez.

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upi 12-15-93 09:05 aes

## FAX MEMORANDUM

Total number of pages: 20/11

Date: 4 November 1994

From: Major Nancy LaLantias, Director, Marine Corps Public Affairs Office  
Los Angeles

Phone: 310-575-7272

FAX: 310-575-7274

To: Colonel Peck  
Phil Strub

Subj: "A Few Good Men"



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
11000 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD  
SUITE 10117  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024  
(310) 235-7272  
FAX (310) 235-7274

IN REPLY REFER TO

4 Nov 94

From: Director  
To: (1) Colonel Peck  
(2) Phil Strub

Subj: "A Few Good Men" Chapter in a Review of Films About Law

Encl: (1) UCLA Law Professor Michael Asimow's ltr dtd 2 Nov 94  
(2) "A Few Good Men" Draft Chapter

1. UCLA Law Professor Michael Asimow is working on a book reviewing how Hollywood treats legal proceedings in film. He contacted this office for any MarCor info/PAG on the film and on the actual Gitmo incident which inspired the film (play).

2. I provided him with a copy the Broeckert/Strub-prepared PAG (in its entirety, noting intent was RTQ only, not a "press release"), several newspaper clippings, and had a brief discussion with him. He was very easy to talk to, but it was clear he had some previously determined views, based on reviews in NYT and elsewhere. However, he specifically requested our comments on the chapter.

3. Request your input, as well as HQMC SJA, on section entitled "Trial briefs--the real story" and "Legal analysis." Certainly, he is entitled to his own opinion, as expressed in "Legal analysis," but I believe some facts might alter that view.

4. Thanks for your assistance.

Respectfully,

Nancy J. LaLuntas



SCHOOL OF LAW  
405 HILGARD AVENUE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024-1608

(310) 825-1086  
FAX: (310) 206-6489

November 2, 1994

Major Nancy LaLuntas  
U. S. Marine Corps  
Public Affairs Office  
Suite 10117  
11000 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Dear Major LaLuntas,

As promised, here's a draft of the chapter I wrote on "A Few Good Men" and the two New York Times articles (one of them got messed up but is readable). If you have any comments or suggestions, I would love to receive them.

Thanks again for your generous help!

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Asinow".

Michael Asinow



lawyer in the Marines, who defended the lieutenant. Branley was called in by a Navy admiral to investigate and after a two day investigation, recommended that all the men involved go to trial. The lieutenant who allegedly encouraged the hazing incident requested that Branley represent him. The lieutenant's case was dismissed for missing the statutory requirement of a speedy trial by one day. Branley was placed in the uncomfortable position of X alleging a coverup. X Supposedly, the commanding general of the Marines Atlantic fleet met with officers in Cuba and told them that the Marines never sanctioned hazing. And that was what they were to tell any investigators who asked.

Deborah Sorkin was also one of the lawyers for the ten accused Marines; her brother, Aaron Sorkin, wrote the theatrical play and then the screenplay of "A Few Good Men."

#### Legal analysis

A recurring theme in this movie is that military justice somehow protects Jessep against being accused of any sort of wrongdoing without solid proof. Horrible things will happen to Kaffee's career if he tries to blame it all on Jessep but fails to prove it.

But there is no such principle of military law. In theory, JAG lawyers are independent and are free to conduct the defense of their clients as they see fit without concern for being blamed if they anger their superiors. Like any criminal defense lawyers, their ethical responsibility is to defend their clients--and if that means putting everybody else on trial for the crime, so be it. In practice, however, the attorneys were right to be concerned

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about going after Jessep. First, it is unlikely that the high ranking officers on the court martial panel would disbelieve someone like Jessep who was a highly regarded and often decorated officer on the fast track to becoming a general. The attorneys would have to assume that Jessep would never get so rattled that he would confess to having ordered the Code Red or to having lied about the transfer. He certainly would not have been bluffed out by the presence of the Andrews airmen behind him (he was already in way too deep to change his story). Even in the hands of a master cross-examiner like Kaffee (at his first trial, remember), this just didn't figure to happen.

Second, the Marine Corps and Naval JAGs are small clubs and it does not pay to be disrespectful to superior officers. Somehow, somebody might decide to give you an unfavorable performance rating. This was a much greater concern for Galloway and Weinberg, who were career officers, than for Kaffee who apparently was in the Service only for the short term.

The movie treats Galloway in a patronizing way. She doesn't know how to try a case, she outranks Kaffee but can't win his respect, she doesn't examine any witnesses, her judgment stinks, she makes foolish objections to evidence. Her superiors explicitly decided not to assign her the Santiago case--then she goes out and unethically solicits Downey's aunt to get on the case. Obviously, the moviemakers are telling us, it takes a real man to try a case like this. Female lawyers have every reason to be offended by the stereotypical way that Galloway is treated in this film.

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Dawson and Downey were sentenced to be dishonorably discharged from the corps. But was this fair? After all, Dawson and Downey followed Kendrick's order. It was established at the Nuremberg trials that military personnel must refuse to execute illegal orders (see "Judgment at Nuremberg"). They cannot rely on such orders as a defense to charges of wrongdoing. Kendrick's order to impose a Code Red on Santiago was an illegal order and Dawson and Downey should have refused to carry it out. But let's get real-- how can you expect Marines, so schooled in the iron discipline of the Corps, to disobey an order like that? Especially after Dawson got in trouble for disobeying a similar order from Kendrick in the past? Thus military law seems to put people like Dawson and Downey in an impossible position--damned if you do, damned if you don't.

This picture is a lot of fun to watch and the acting is great, but it falls short on courtroom realism and on fairness to female attorneys.

few.good 10/31/94

Biblio: Jacqueline Weaver, "Stage to Screen, Branford Lawyer's Story Told," New York Times, Connecticut edition, Sec. 13 CN, Page 12, Column 3 (Nov. 8, 1992). Bernard Weinraub, "FILM: Reiner's March to a Few Good Men," New York Times, Sec. 2, p. 1, col. 1, (Dec. 6, 1992). Dan Phelps, "'A Few Good Men,' Needham Times (Feb. 1993); Bill Glauber, "Ex-Marine who felt 'A Few Good Men' maligned him is mysteriously murdered," Baltimore Sun, p. 1 (Apr. 10, 1994).

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~~TOP SECRET~~  
"A Few Good Men"

Synopsis: Predictable but entertaining court martial drama. Watch brash young lawyer develop from lazy plea bargainer to master courtroom tactician in his first trial.

Columbia TriStar/Castle Rock (David Brown, Rob Reiner, Andrew Scheinman), 1992. Color. Running time: 138 minutes.

Screenplay: Aaron Sorkin. Stageplay: Aaron Sorkin. Director: Rob Reiner.

Starring: Tom Cruise (Lt. j.g. Daniel Kaffee), Jack Nicholson (Col. Nathan Jessep), Demi Moore (Lt. Cdr. JoAnne Galloway), Kevin Bacon (Cap. Jack Ross), Kiefer Sutherland (Lt. Jonathan Kendrick), Wolfgang Bodison (Lance Cpl. Harold Dawson), Kevin Pollak (Lt. Sam Weinberg), James Marshall (Pfc. Loudon Downey), J. T. Walsh (Lt. Col. Matthew Markinson).

Academy award nominations: best picture; best supporting actor (Nicholson); best editing.

Trial quality rating: 3 gavels

The story

We're at the Marine base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Pvt. Willie Santiago was desperately unhappy at Guantanamo. To get a transfer, he offered to snitch on a fellow Marine who had fired a shot over the fenceline into Cuba. Cpl. Dawson (who had fired the shot) and Pfc. Downey charge into Santiago's room to give him a Code Red (Marine lingo for severe hazing). They shove a rag down Santiago's throat and tape his mouth closed. They're enroute to give him a brillo pad shower, but unfortunately, Santiago dies. Dawson and Downey are charged with murder.

Back in Washington, we meet Lt. Kaffee, a brash young JAG lawyer, running batting practice for the JAG softball team. Kaffee has plea bargained 44 cases in a row and has yet to try one. His father was a legendary trial lawyer but Kaffee can't fill daddy's shoes. The brass assign the Dawson and Downey case to Kaffee,

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apparently in hopes he will plea bargain it.

Lt. Cdr. JoAnne Galloway wanted the case. She once took nine weeks to try a disorderly conduct case, so the brass has no intention of letting her near it. Galloway manages to weasel her way back into the case by getting Downey's aunt to appoint her as Downey's counsel. The third member of the defense team (whose only apparent function is to keep Kaffee in line) is Lt. Weinberg.

The trio don't get on at all well. They journey to Cuba where they meet the notorious Col. Jessep, evidently one of the "few good men." Jessep assures them that he ordered Lt. Kendrick to tell the men that Santiago was not to be harmed and that he ordered Santiago transferred out on the very next available flight--the next morning at 6 AM. Unfortunately, Santiago was killed the night before the transfer. Jessep even produces the transfer order. Jessep, a crusty warrior, doesn't care for lawyers like Kaffee and especially not for female lawyers. The only advantage of female officers, he observes, is the high that one can experience by having sex with them.

Lt. Col. Markinson and Kendrick confirm Jessep's account, but it is totally false. In fact, against Markinson's advice, Jessep decided not to transfer Santiago. He told Kendrick to run a Code Red on Santiago and Kendrick ordered Dawson and Downey to do it.

When Markinson vanishes, the brave defense team knows something is wrong but they can't prove it. Dawson and Downey state that Kendrick ordered them to perform a Code Red on Santiago, but Kendrick denies it. Cap. Ross offers a pretty generous plea bargain--6 months in prison and dishonorable discharge. Kaffee

loves the deal since he has no case, but Dawson rejects it contemptuously. He will not admit to having acted dishonorably and wants to roll the dice.

At the general court martial, Ross shows that Dawson had a motive to kill Santiago to prevent reporting of the fence-line shooting. Various marines testify that Kendrick told them at a squad meeting not to touch Santiago. A medical witness testifies that Santiago died of lactic acidosis which was triggered by poison on the rag stuffed down his throat.

On cross, Kaffee shows that lactic acidosis could easily be triggered by an unpoisoned rag stuffed down the throat of a person who had a coronary condition, evidenced by shortness of breath and fatigue. Santiago had exactly those symptoms. But that's about all that Kaffee can accomplish.

The defense case suffers a huge setback when Downey testifies that Kendrick came to their room at 4:20 pm and ordered them to Code Red Santiago. Ross shows that Downey was walking back to his room from a distant post at that very moment. So it's only Dawson who can testify that Kendrick issued the fateful order. We don't hear Dawson testify, but we infer that he does.

Kendrick had previously disciplined Dawson for failing to carry out Kendrick's orders in the Curtis Bell case. Bell was supposed to be starved for a week, but Dawson took pity on the poor devil and fed him. This caused Kendrick to give Dawson an unfavorable performance rating.

Markinson surfaces, telling Kaffee that Jessep never issued a transfer order. The transfer order document was fake. Moreover,

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there was a flight leaving Guantanamo for Andrews AFB at 1 AM on which Santiago could have flown, and which would have saved his life. However, Jessep has removed all evidence of the flight from the Guantanamo and Andrews logs. Markinson kills himself before Kaffee can call him as a witness.

Kaffee subpoenas Jessep--despite Ross' warning that Kaffee will let himself in for big trouble if he accuses Jessep of wrongdoing without being able to prove it. Jessep's utter contempt for Kaffee and Galloway and for the whole trial process is obvious. Kaffee gets Jessep madder and madder by asking him why he was transferring Santiago for his own protection if his orders not to harm Santiago would of course be obeyed. And he casts some doubt on Jessep's account by asking how come Santiago made no phone calls to his family and did not pack his gear if he was really leaving at 6 AM the next morning.

Then Weinberg walks in with a couple of guys from Andrews--who maybe are going to testify that there really was a 1 AM flight from Guantanamo (in fact they would have testified that they didn't remember whether there was or not). At this point, Jessep loses it and admits proudly that goddamn right, he ordered the Code Red. Then it dawns on Jessep that he has just admitted to serious crimes. He is given the appropriate warnings and is dragged off by the bailiffs. You've weakened your country today, he yells at Kaffee, who doesn't seem to mind too much.

The court martial acquits Dawson and Downey of murder but convicts them of conduct unbecoming a marine and sentences them to dishonorable discharge--just the result Dawson feared most. But at

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... Kaffee has established himself as a primo trial lawyer in his very first case, and his daddy would sure have been proud of him.

Trial briefs--the real story

"A Few Good Men" is loosely based on a real case arising at Guantanamo in 1986 that caused the Marines much embarrassment. As in the movie, Pfc. Willie A was miserable at Guantanamo and pleaded for a transfer. He threatened to report a fence-line shooting. Willie A was the subject of a "blanket party" in which 10 marines woke him up, shoved a rolled up pillowcase down his throat, and gave him a severe haircut. Willie A went into a coma but survived.

As in the movie, the Colonel in charge of Guantanamo allegedly refused to transfer Willie A and said "Let's keep him over the weekend and let him sweat." The Colonel was later transferred to another base. Although the company commander told the men not to touch Willie A, a lieutenant figured out who the snitch was and supposedly told his men: "I don't want you to touch him. I don't want you to take him to the third deck and throw him off. But if he falls down the steps in the middle of the night, oh well."

Kaffee might be based on Don Marcari, a Navy lawyer who represented one of the ten Marines who administered the Code Red. It was Marcari's first trial. Ultimately, 7 of the 10 accused Marines took other than honorable discharges. Three, including Mancari's client, refused to accept the discharges, went to trial, and were convicted of assault and sentenced to time already served. Those three were not discharged from the Marines and continued to serve.

Or Lt. Kaffee might be based on Maj. Walter Branley, a career

lawyer in the Marines, who defended the lieutenant. Branley was called in by a Navy admiral to investigate and after a two day investigation, recommended that all the men involved go to trial. The lieutenant who allegedly encouraged the hazing incident requested that Branley represent him. The lieutenant's case was dismissed for missing the statutory requirement of a speedy trial by one day. Branley was placed in the uncomfortable position of X alleging a coverup. X Supposedly, the commanding general of the Marines Atlantic fleet met with officers in Cuba and told them that the Marines never sanctioned hazing. And that was what they were to tell any investigators who asked.

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But there is no such principle of military law. In theory, JAG lawyers are independent and are free to conduct the defense of their clients as they see fit without concern for being blamed if they anger their superiors. Like any criminal defense lawyers, their ethical responsibility is to defend their clients--and if that means putting everybody else on trial for the crime, so be it.

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THIS FILM. FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES, THIS MEANS AVOIDING WEARING OF UNIFORMS TO SPECIAL EVENTS AND PUBLICITY PROMOTIONS CONNECTED WITH THE FILM. IF APPROACHED BY MEDIA OR OTHERS SEEKING REACTIONS, COMMENTS SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO AND CLEARLY IDENTIFIED AS PERSONAL OPINIONS.

6. THE PLAYING OF A FEW GOOD MEN AT BASE THEATERS SHOULD BE TREATED AS ANY OTHER MOVIE RECEIVED THROUGH NORMAL DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS.

7. RECRUITERS AND SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF INTEREST GENERATED BY A FEW GOOD MEN AS LONG AS THEIR ACTIVITIES GENERALLY PROMOTE THE MARINE CORPS RATHER THAN THE FILM. PRACTICALLY, RECRUITERS CAN BE ACCESSIBLE TO INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS BUT SHOULD NOT PLAN, EXECUTE OR PARTICIPATE IN ORGANIZED PROMOTIONAL EVENTS. SPECIFIC GUIDANCE OR PLANNED RECRUITING EVENTS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE RESPECTIVE CG WRR/ERR.

8. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AND QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ARE PROVIDED FOR USE BY AUTHORIZED SPOKESPERSONS ON A RESPOND TO QUERY ONLY BASIS:

STATEMENT: "QUOTE" THE CASTLE ROCK PICTURES PRODUCTION OF A FEW GOOD MEN WAS COMPLETED WITHOUT THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY. "UNQUOTE"  
Q1: WHAT DOES "QUOTE" COMPLETED WITHOUT FULL SUPPORT "UNQUOTE" MEAN?

A1: IT MEANS THAT DOD DID NOT PROVIDE ALL THE SUPPORT THAT CASTLE ROCK PICTURES ASKED FOR IN THE PRODUCTION OF THE FILM.  
Q2: WHY WAS FULL SUPPORT NOT PROVIDED?

A2: DOD PROVIDES FULL SUPPORT TO PROJECTS THAT ARE AUTHENTIC IN THE PORTRAYAL OF ACTUAL PERSONS, PLACES, MILITARY OPERATIONS, AND HISTORICAL EVENTS; PROJECTS THAT ARE OF INFORMATIONAL VALUE AND CONSIDERED TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE; AND PROJECTS THAT ENHANCE THE U.S. ARMED FORCES RECRUITING AND RETENTION PROGRAMS. A FEW GOOD MEN IS NOT A FACTUAL PORTRAYAL OF THE INCIDENT THAT INSPIRED THE SCREENPLAY AND CONSISTENTLY PORTRAYS THE PRINCIPAL MARINE CORPS CHARACTERS INACCURATELY AND NEGATIVELY.

Q3: WHAT IS NOT FACTUAL ABOUT THE MOVIE?  
A3: THE SCRIPT IS ESSENTIALLY A COURTROOM DRAMA BASED ON A BROADWAY PLAY INSPIRED BY A HAZING INCIDENT AT MARINE BARRACKS, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA. IN THE ACTUAL INCIDENT, THE MARINE ASSAULTED DID NOT DIE \*IN FACT, HE WAS RETURNED TO FULL DUTY THREE WEEKS AFTER THE ASSAULT\*. THE KEY DEFENSE COUNSEL WAS A MARINE; THE BARRACKS EXECUTIVE OFFICER DID NOT COMMIT SUICIDE; AND THE BARRACKS COMMANDING OFFICER WAS NOT GUILTY OF A COVER-UP.  
Q4: WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO THE MARINE INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT THAT INSPIRED THE SCREENPLAY?

A4: THE MARINE WAS BOUND, GAGGED AND BLINDFOLDED BY TEN OTHER BT  
UNCLAS //N05720// FINAL SECTION OF 02  
MARINES. AS A RESULT, HE SUFFERED OXYGEN DEPRIVATION AND INTERNAL HEMORRHAGING, BUT WAS EVENTUALLY RETURNED TO DUTY.

Q5: WHAT WERE THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE ACTUAL INCIDENT THAT INSPIRED THE SCREENPLAY?

A5: THE ACTUAL CASE INVOLVES THE ASSAULT OF THE MARINE BY TEN ENLISTED MARINES AFTER THEY WERE TOLD HE WAS AN INFORMANT FOR THE NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE. THE VICTIM HAD BEEN QUESTIONED BY NIS CONCERNING HIS KNOWLEDGE OF ALLEGED FELICINE FIRINGS BY MARINE GROUND SECURITY FORCES IN 1986 AT MARINE BARRACKS, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

Q6: WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCIDENT?  
A6: THREE OF THE ENLISTED MARINES INVOLVED IN THE ASSAULT WERE CONVICTED AT SPECIAL COURTS-MARTIAL; SEVEN OTHER MARINES REQUESTED, AND RECEIVED, DISCHARGE IN LIEU OF TRIAL BY COURTS-MARTIAL \*ALL SEVEN WERE SEPARATED WITH OTHER THAN HONORABLE DISCHARGES\*. THE PLATOON COMMANDER IS NO LONGER ON ACTIVE DUTY. THE BARRACKS COMMANDING OFFICER HAS SINCE RETIRED.

Q7: WAS FULL SUPPORT DISAPPROVED BECAUSE DOD DOESN'T SUPPORT MOVIES WHERE THE MILITARY CHARACTERS ARE PORTRAYED NEGATIVELY?

A7: THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE MARINE CORPS DO NOT EXPECT EVERY MILITARY CHARACTER TO BE A ROLE MODEL OR RECRUITING ADVERTISEMENT, BUT DO REQUIRE A BALANCE OF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE CHARACTERISTICS AMONG THE PRINCIPAL MILITARY CHARACTERS.

Q8: WHAT SUPPORT DID THE MARINE CORPS PROVIDE?

A8: COURTESY SUPPORT INCLUDED SCRIPT NOTES; RESEARCH VISITS TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS; ORIENTATION VISITS TO MILITARY

UNCLAS //N05720// SECTION 01 OF 02  
MSGID//GENADMIN//PA//  
SUBJ//PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE--CASTLE ROCK PICTURES FEATURE FILM-A FEW \*GOOD MEN//  
REF//A/DOC/DODINST 5410.16//  
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REF//C/MSG/CMC WASHDC/18195420CT93//  
RMS/1. THE THEATRICAL RELEASE OF THE CASTLE ROCK PICTURES FEATURE FILM, A FEW GOOD MEN, CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR A FRIDAY, 11 DEC 92 RELEASE, COULD GENERATE INTEREST IN THE DOD POLICY ON SUPPORTING FEATURE FILMS AND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS USED IN THE MARINE CORPS. THE FILM IS A COURTROOM DRAMA ABOUT TWO MARINES STATIONED AT MARINE BARRACKS, GUANTANAMO BAY IN CUBA WHO ARE ACCUSED OF KILLING A FELLOW MARINE. IT IS BASED ON A PLAY INSPIRED BY AN ACTUAL INCIDENT. THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR USE.

2. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ONLY APPROVES FULL SUPPORT FOR A PROJECT WHEN IT SATISFIES ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN REF A. FULL SUPPORT ENTITLES A PRODUCTION COMPANY ACCESS TO DOD INSTALLATIONS AND USE OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT. ONLY FULL SUPPORT PROJECTS ARE CONSIDERED TO HAVE "QUOTE" DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ENGAGEMENT "UNQUOTE". THE DOD AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY DID NOT PROVIDE FULL SUPPORT TO CASTLE ROCK PICTURES IN THE PRODUCTION OF A FEW GOOD MEN. THIS DECISION WAS MADE AFTER A CAREFUL REVIEW OF THE SCRIPT SHOWED THAT THE PROJECT DID NOT COMPLY WITH THE DOD REQUIREMENTS FOR FULL SUPPORT BECAUSE THE PORTRAYAL OF THE PRINCIPAL MARINE CORPS CHARACTERS IS INACCURATE AND CONSISTENTLY NEGATIVE. DOD AND THE MARINE CORPS DOES NOT EXPECT EACH AND EVERY CHARACTER IN ANY PROJECT TO BE A ROLE MODEL OR RECRUITING ADVERTISEMENT BUT DOES REQUIRE IN EVERY PROJECT A BALANCE OF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE CHARACTERISTICS AMONG THE PRINCIPAL MILITARY CHARACTERS. ACCORDINGLY, DOD INVOLVEMENT WAS LIMITED TO THOSE COURTESIES OFFERED TO ANY MOTION PICTURE COMPANY IN THE PRODUCTION OF A SIMILAR-TYPE PROJECT. IN THE CASE OF THIS PROJECT, COURTESY SUPPORT FOR CASTLE ROCK PICTURES INCLUDED RESEARCH VISITS TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, ORIENTATION VISITS TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS BY ACTORS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH UNIFORMS AND PROPS, AND LIMITED ACCESS TO A DOD INSTALLATION.  
REF C PERMITTED MARINES TO PARTICIPATE AS PAID EXTRAS/ACTORS IN REF B. CASTLE ROCK PICTURES REQUESTED BUT WAS NOT PERMITTED USE OF THE MARINE SILENT DRILL PLATOON, USE OF THE MARINE CORPS DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS, AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE UNIFORM ITEMS THROUGH THE MARINE CORPS EXCHANGE, AND AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT AUDITIONS ABOARD MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS.

3. LACK OF PROVIDING FULL SUPPORT FOR ANY PROJECT SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS OPPOSITION TO THE FILM OR ITS PRODUCTION. SIMPLY STATED, THE SCRIPT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW DID NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF REF A FOR FULL DOD SUPPORT SO IT WAS NOT PROVIDED. AUTHORIZED SPOKESPERSONS SHOULD REFRAIN FROM IMPLYING OTHERWISE.

4. BECAUSE THIS PROJECT WAS NOT FULLY SUPPORTED BY DOD, COMMANDS MUST REFRAIN FROM PARTICIPATING IN ACTIVITIES THAT APPEAR TO ENDORSE OR PROMOTE THE FILM. THIS INCLUDES COMMAND SPONSORSHIP OF SPECIAL SHOWINGS OR OTHER PROGRAMS WHERE THE INTENT IS TO GENERATE PUBLICITY; ALTHOUGH MEMBERS MAY, ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS AND IN A NON-OFFICIAL CAPACITY, RESPOND TO PROMOTIONS CONDUCTED BY THEATER OPERATORS. REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO CMC (PA) VIA THE CHAIN OF COMMAND FOR REVIEW.

5. SERVICEMEMBERS DECIDING TO ATTEND A FEW GOOD MEN IN UNIFORM MUST ADHERE TO THE PROVISIONS OF REFERENCES A AND B AND AVOID GIVING THE APPEARANCE OF OFFICIAL MARINE CORPS OR DOD SUPPORT FOR

JOINT STAFF V1

ACTION

INFO SECDEF-N(1) ASD-PA(1) USDP-DSAA(1)  
+USDP-DTSA  
+SAFE

(U, E, S, N)

3

INSTALLATIONS BY ACTORS; AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH UNIFORMS AND PROPS. ALSO, THE MARINE CORPS DID NOT OBJECT TO LIMITED FILMING ABOARD A NAVY INSTALLATION.

Q9: WHAT DID CASTLEROCK PICTURES ASK FOR THAT THEY DIDN'T GET?  
A9: USE OF THE MARINE SILENT DRILL PLATOON; USE OF THE MARINE DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS; AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE UNIFORMS THROUGH THE MARINE CORPS EXCHANGE; AND AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT AUDITIONS ABOARD MARINE CORPS BASES.

Q10: WERE THERE ANY REAL MARINES IN THE MOVIE?  
A10: THE MARINE CORPS PERMITTED MARINES IN A LEAVE OR LIBERTY STATUS TO WORK AS EXTRAS OR ACTORS IN THE FILM.

Q11: WHY WERE MARINES PERMITTED TO BE IN THE MOVIE?  
A11: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REGULATIONS CONTAIN PROVISIONS FOR MILITARY MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN MOTION PICTURES. MARINES WHO PARTICIPATE IN MOVIES ARE CAUTIONED NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY SCENES IN A MANNER THAT IS EMBARRASSING OR DISCREDITING TO THE MARINE CORPS OR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

Q12: WAS THERE A TECHNICAL ADVISOR ASSIGNED TO THE PROJECT?  
A12: SINCE THE SCRIPT WAS NOT APPROVED FOR FULL SUPPORT, A FULL-TIME, ON LOCATION DOD TECHNICAL ADVISOR WAS NOT ASSIGNED TO THE PROJECT.

Q13: WHAT IMPACT DID THE CASTING OF CHARACTERS HAVE ON THE DECISION OF WHAT SUPPORT WOULD BE PROVIDED?  
A13: NONE. PROJECTS ARE REVIEWED ON THE MERITS OF THE SCRIPT WITHOUT CONSIDERATION TO CAST SELECTION.

Q14: DID DOD OR THE MARINE CORPS HAVE ANY INPUT INTO THE SCRIPT?  
A14: AS A MATTER OF ROUTINE, IN THE COURSE OF SCRIPT REVIEW, DOD AND MARINE OFFICIALS MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRODUCERS ON THE ACCURACY AND AUTHENTICITY OF EVENTS AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRE-PRODUCTION PHASE OF THE PROJECT \*IN THIS CASE, MORE THAN A SIX-MONTH PERIOD\*. THE PRODUCTION COMPANY ULTIMATELY HAS TO DECIDE WHAT ARTISTIC AND DRAMATIC MERITS TO THE FILM HE IS WILLING TO CHANGE, IF ANY, TO SATISFY THE DOD REQUIREMENTS FOR FULL SUPPORT.

Q15: WHAT DOES THE MARINE CORPS THINK ABOUT THE FILM?  
A15: IT'S JUST A MOVIE. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE MARINE CORPS REVIEW SCRIPTS TO DETERMINE ACCURACY, AUTHENTICITY AND WHETHER OR NOT THEY COMPLY WITH DOD PROVISIONS FOR SUPPORT. WE DON'T PROVIDE OFFICIAL REVIEWS IN THE SENSE THAT A MOVIE CRITIC WOULD.

9. COMMANDS ARE REQUESTED TO FAX COPIES OF PRINTED NEWS ARTICLES AND SUMMARIES OF LOCAL TELEVISION REPORTS TO CMC \*PAM\* AT (703) 695-7460 AND THE MARINE CORPS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, LOS ANGELES, AT \*310\* 575-7274.

10. QUERIES BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THIS GUIDANCE SHOULD BE REFERRED TO MAJ. BROECKERT, MARINE CORPS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, LOS ANGELES, AT \*310\* 575-7272.// BT

BRENT BOZELL

# Oscar picks are sadly typical of Hollywood

FEBRUARY 23—It's Oscar time again. On March 29, the Academy Awards will be telecast worldwide to proclaim to humanity what the movie industry considers its best product of the year. Two of the Best Picture nominees offer depressing evidence that, sociopolitically speaking, Hollywood truly is a land of make-believe.

One offering is *A Few Good Men*, a major Christmas-season box-office smash blasting military discipline. In the movie, a Marine enlistee is killed in a hazing accident, and a team of naval attorneys (including glamourpusses Tom Cruise and Demi Moore) defend those who caused the young soldier's death. The attorneys place blame not on their clients, but on the defendants' superior officer (Jack Nicholson) and, by extension, on the disciplinary techniques of the Marine Corps.

WHILE NICHOLSON'S character admits ordering the punishment that resulted in the enlistee's death, he steadfastly maintains that such punishment — depicted as customary in the movie — is justifiable. The defendants are eventually acquitted of murder, but they are dishonorably discharged because, as one defendant acknowledges, their actions were unwarranted. In the conclusion, Nicholson — the symbol of order, discipline and evil — is led away to face his own trial in military court.

*A Few Good Men* was intended by its creators to have an anti-military theme. Aaron Sorkin, author of both its stage and screen versions, does not mask his intent to portray Marine disciplinary methods as sinister. He told the *Montreal Gazette* that the Nicholson character's "tragic flaw is that he believes that because of his position, he's entitled to get away with whatever he needs in order to achieve his objective." Rob Reiner, the movie's director, compared Marine obedience and discipline to that of the enemy in World War II. "It's the same moral dilemma the Nazis dealt with," Reiner told the *New York Times*. "We all have to make decisions about what's right and what's wrong."

*A Few Good Men* is based on a 1986 incident at the Guantanamo naval base in Cuba. This, too, is deceptive. In this incident, the hazed Marine was not killed and, in fact, eventually was restored to full duty. As Marine Col. Joe Gordon put it, "Looking at the accuracy and authenticity for a fair portrayal (in the film), it just wasn't there. ... The portrayal of the principal Marine Corps characters (was) inaccurate and consistently negative."

PERHAPS THE MOST surprising Best Picture contender is *The Crying Game*, the dramatic story of one man's break with the terrorist Irish Republican Army. After ex-

IRA member Fergus participates in the murder of a British soldier, the movie becomes a study in the nature of sexuality. Specifically, the message of *The Crying Game* is that, as one Hollywood figure said, "Love is love, and it doesn't matter if it's (between) men, women or dogs."

Honoring a promise to the dead British soldier, Fergus, having deserted the IRA, enters into a relationship with the soldier's lover; the lover is a beautiful hairdresser who, at the moment of sexual intimacy, reveals "herself" to be a man. Fergus is initially repulsed, but in time finds himself drawn, in a more-than-friends but less-than-lovers sense, to the transvestite.

Predictably, *The Crying Game* has won plaudits from gay activists who see it as a powerful blow for their moral equivalency crusade. Critics are parroting the pro-gay message. "As deeply passionate as it is unpredictable," writes Eleanor Ringel in the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*. "A stunning drama about what constitutes real courage," proclaims Gene Siskel. "It simply refuses to let any stereotype or cliché get the better of it," writes Jay Carr in the *Boston Globe*. "This grade-A sleeper sends you out with an unexpected smile," exults Mike Clark in *USA Today*.

"This is one of the most overrated films of the year," counters critic Michael Medved, "and the reason it got so many

nominations" — six, including best director, best actor and best supporting actor — "is that it has been embraced by the gay community. I've never seen such support for any film by any group, even with blacks and *Malcolm X*." The film's statement, according to Medved, is that "questions of sexuality and gender are questions we should get beyond. This is not a family values picture."

IRONICALLY, SOME OF the most popular films of the year were ignored by the Hollywood elite. *Aladdin* was megabiz, but nowhere to be found in the nominations. The same applies to films like *Sister Act* and *A League of Their Own*. But these films don't qualify for Best Picture because they don't tell "the right story." The arty denizens of Tinseltown have struck again.

BRENT BOZELL  
1993 Creation Syndicate, Inc.



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1400

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

4 OCT 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, U.S. ARMY MILITARY DISTRICT OF  
WASHINGTON PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
ATTN: COL J. WEISKOPF

SUBJECT: Motion Picture Filming at Arlington National Cemetery

As I discussed with Captain Norris on 3 October, we have been asked by Castle Rock Pictures, Incorporated, for permission to film several establishing shots of Arlington National Cemetery for inclusion in the feature motion picture "A Few Good Men." The shots are "second unit" work, meaning that there will only be a very small crew, and no actors or actresses.

While differences over the script are precluding full Department of the Defense production assistance in the film, we believe the production company's efforts to accommodate our concerns warrant approving their request to film at the cemetery. We advised the company that it is responsible for reimbursing the Military District of Washington for any civilian overtime incurred as a result of the cinematography.

We appreciate your cooperation in allowing the company to film the establishing shots. The Castle Rock Pictures point of contact is Mr. Mike Wallace, who can be reached a (202) 745-4594. We have asked him to contact you directly. If I can provide additional information, please don't hesitate to let me know.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip M. Strub", is written over the typed name.

Philip M. Strub  
Special Assistant (Audiovisual)

# Off base

4

SAN DIEGO — The Pentagon, unable to find anything good said about the military in the script to "A Few Good Men," won't allow the **Tom**



**NICHOLSON**

**Cruise-Jack Nicholson** movie to be filmed on a military base.

The movie is a courtroom drama about two Marines stationed at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba who are accused of killing a fellow Marine.

"The current script reinforces the conclusion that not only is criminal harassment a commonplace and accepted practice within the Marine Corps, but that it requires a sister military service to uncover the wrongdoings and brings the perpetrators to justice," the Defense Department said in a letter to the film's production company.

*The Capital*

*Annapolis, Md*

1551 A-23 Q

# UNCLASSIFIED

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COMNAVDIST WASHINGTON DC//O7//

CNO WASHINGTON DC//O9/O2//

CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA//NO2P//

NAVY JAG ALEXANDRIA VA//JJJ//

NAS GUANTANAMO BAY CU//JJJ//

NAVINFO WEST LOS ANGELES CA//OO//

ACCT NA-CRAXDA

UNCLAS //N05720//

SUBJ: PUBLIC AFFAIRS -- CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT MOTION PICTURE "A FEW GOOD MEN"

MSGID/GENADMIN/NAVAIR O7D//

REF/A/RMG/CHINFO WASHINGTON DC/110Z11Z OCT 91//

NARR/REF A DISCUSSES PARTICIPATION IN THE MOTION PICTURE "A FEW GOOD MEN"//

RMKS/1. ORIG INTERPOSES NO OBJECTION TO FILMING REQUEST CONTAINED IN REF A. SUPPORT OF CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT PROJECT IS TO BE UNDERTAKEN AT NO ADDITIONAL EXPENSE TO THE GOVERNMENT./ BT

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FBI - WASHINGTON	
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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1400

OCT 02 1991

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mr. Jeffrey Stott, Co-producer  
"A Few Good Men"  
Castle Rock Pictures, Inc.  
335 Maple Drive, Suite 135  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Dear Mr. Stott:

We have conducted a thorough review of the third draft script of "A Few Good Men," dated August 29, 1991. We also carefully considered the script changes you discussed with us on several occasions, in particular during our meeting with Brigadier General Draude on September 17.

After close consultation with senior representatives of the Navy and Marine Corps, we have decided regretfully that we cannot provide the military assistance you requested for the production as it is represented in the August 29 script.

Our fundamental concern has not altered since I first discussed it with you during our visit to the Washington Navy Yard on June 6, and to which we have referred in subsequent conversations with you and your associates. Simply put, it is the portrayals of the principal Marine Corps characters that we find to be to be inaccurate and consistently negative. Our regulations preclude providing assistance under these circumstances.

We don't expect each and every military character to be a role models or recruiting advertisement, but we are convinced that a balance of positive and negative characteristics among the principal Marines would be more realistic, therefore more credible and involving to an audience, and potentially more dramatic as well.

In contrast, the Marines in charge at the barracks are negatively portrayed, individually and collectively. Further, we have concluded that the current script reinforces the conclusion that not only is criminal harrassment a commonplace and accepted practice within the Marine Corps, but that it requires a sister military service to uncover the wrongdoings and bring the perpetrators to justice. As presented in the script, the guilty Marines never even understand that they have done anything wrong.

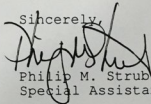
We do recognize that you have made a sincere effort in trying to reach an accommodation with us. We noted the substantive changes you made, such as changing some of the lawyers from Navy to Marine officers, placing a disclaimer at the

beginning of the film, and making the military judge a Marine colonel rather than a Navy captain.

Accordingly, we wish to acknowledge these changes by agreeing to your request to film the brief scene of the Navy lawyers arriving at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, using the Navy installation Pt. Mugu, California. We understand that this limited, courtesy assistance will only require a few days, including preparation time, and that it will not result in flying military aircraft or any additional cost to the government.

Our liaison officer for coordinating the Pt. Mugu filming is Captain Michael T. Sherman, USN, Director of the Navy Office of Information, West. Of course, we will continue to offer information regarding the military and other routine forms of technical assistance. If I can be of further information or assistance, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,



Philip M. Strub  
Special Assistant (Audiovisual)

CC:  
RADM Baker  
BGEN Draude



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380-0001

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5720  
PA

30 SEP 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

Subj: A FEW GOOD MEN - UPDATE

1. Last week's efforts to verify the studio's interest in making the hero (Tom Cruise) a Marine lawyer were in vain. It appeared that the studio was not interested in the changes we desired.
2. Today I received a call from Dave Brahms asking about our position. I read him my memo to you of 19 Sep 91 and expressed our desire to make the movie acceptable.
3. He stated that the studio is well underway to simulate the Marine Band and Silent Drill Platoon -- using Texas A&M assets. This will require contracts, money for uniforms, etc. Rehearsals start in one week; Jack Nicholson will start filming in two weeks. Therefore, he needed the Marine Corps' offer soonest if we are to reach an agreement. (He also stated that the studio may be too far along to make any changes, but he felt it was worth a try.)
4. The studio wants (wanted?) our support in three main areas: the Marine Band; the Silent Drill Platoon; use of off-duty Marines to act as "extras." (The setting will be at St. Elizabeth's Mental Hospital vice the Navy Yard for the background.)
5. I stated that the Corps' position is:
  - a. Kaffee (Tom Cruise) is a Marine and, therefore, less of a wise ass.
  - b. Markinson (the XO) is stronger in his moral confrontation with the CO (Nicholson).
  - c. We review the script changes before agreement - no "verbal agreement."
6. Dave will contact the producer who will contact my PAO in Los Angeles, Maj Jerry Broeckert.
7. All of this may be OBE, but I wanted you to know latest status.

*Va,*

*T.V. Draude*

**T.V. DRAUDE**

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## memorandum

DATE: 26 Sep 91

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: Maj Broeckert/LA-PAO

SUBJECT: Proposed DOD response to request from "A FEW GOOD MEN"

TO: BGen Draude/Code PA

General,

Attached is a copy of Phil Strub's proposed response to Jeff Stott. In discussion with Phil we agreed to route it through me with comments to you for final blessing and then back to Phil for release.

My only recommendation to Phil would be that he include a few lines to the effect that each of the services (Navy and Marine Corps) are authorized to provide courtesy support and in separate correspondence and through direct liaison will identify what that support will be. I think that would ensure the doors remain open between us and the production company and they will feel they're getting more than just a few days at Point Magu.

I'm in the process of drafting a proposed Marine Corps-position on what our courtesy support would be. It would serve as a guideline for me as to how far I can go and will help us and the production company over the next several months. I hope to have that completed by late tonight and should have it for you when you come to work tomorrow.

Today's one of those crazy (but "fun") days for me--a memorial service at 0930 for Connie Stevens' brother (died at age 46, Vietnam veteran, served in Army); noon luncheon at the Beverly Hilton for the Permanent Charities Committee of the Entertainment Industry (Richard Harris emcee) and a late afternoon reception at the Jonathan Club in honor of President and Mrs. Reagan (El Toro Band, Joint Service Color Guard-- thanks for help and approval on that). I will, however, check my recorder periodically throughout the day and will check in with Colonel Shotwell and/or Doris after lunch to see if you have anything for me.

Phil would like to get his letter out to Jeff Stott this week. Appreciate your review and comments for him.

*Jerry Broeckert*  
JERRY BROECKERT

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
(REV. 1-85)  
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6  
5010-114



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380-0001

IN REPLY REFER TO  
5720  
PA  
19 SEP 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

Subj: "A FEW GOOD MEN" - SOME HOPE?

1. Please find attached a copy of MFR prepared by Mr. Strub regarding Tuesday's meeting. The last paragraph deals with limited use of Pt Mugu. I have no objection to its use and have so informed CHINFO and Mr. Strub.
2. I have learned that the studio is willing to make a major concession regarding the movie's main character: Tom Cruise would portray a Marine lawyer vice a Navy lawyer. Such a change is designed to satisfy our demand for "balance" in the portrayal of Marines. (Cruise, a Marine lawyer, is the hero; Nicholson, a Marine Colonel, and his lieutenant, are villains; the XO tries to be a hero but fails and commits suicide.)
3. As always, there are advantages and disadvantages to their offer. My instincts tell me to go for it. We would want to devote a full-time technical advisor (probably a lawyer) to make the movie as accurate and positive as possible. There will still be things that we probably won't like -- but we're not trying to appeal to 51 year old general officers!
4. I strongly recommend that you read the attached screenplay with the following in your "mind's eye": Jessep will not get any better; Markinson may become stronger, to include a strong confrontation with Jessep on principles; Kaffee will become more "Marine-like" but will still be a brilliant but rebellious lawyer.
5. A final note. When I spoke to CMC yesterday about maintaining the hard line described in my MFR, he commented that the American public will recognize Nicholson as an aberration since they have seen on TV such good guys as Butch Neal, General Boomer, and myself(?). CMC may see this recent offer as a chance to enhance our image via Tom Cruise (a Marine not a Navy officer) destroying a "bad" colonel. (All of this will make more sense when you read the screenplay.)

*T.V. Draude*  
T. V. DRAUDE  
Director of Public Affairs



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1400

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

19 SEP 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Marine Corps and Castle Rock Entertainment  
Regarding Feature Film "A Few Good Men"

At 1400, 16 September 1991, I attended a meeting at Headquarters, Marine Corps, to discuss with the Marine Corps and the production company (Castle Rock Entertainment) the depiction of the military in the film, the resolution of which would permit DoD production cooperation. The company was requesting permission to film a few major sequences at the Washington Navy Yard; some minor sequences at Andrews AFB and NAS Pt Mugu, CA; and the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

My view going into the meeting, which I expressed to the production company on several occasions dating from 6 June 1991, was that the principal DoD objection lay in the portrayals of the five Marines featured at the Marine Barracks at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They are completely negative both individually and collectively. Not a single one of these Marines stands up for what we know to be the right thing to do. The crimes are brought to light and justice served only by the nearly accidental intervention of Navy lawyers and investigators (Naval Investigative Service).

The attendees were,

Mr. Philip M. Strub, Special Assistant (Audiovisual), OASD/PA  
BGen Tom Draude, Chief of Public Affairs, HQMC  
BGen Gerry Miller, Staff Judge Advocate, HQMC  
Col John Shotwell, Deputy Chief of Public Affairs, HQMC  
LT Lydia Zeller, USN, SECNAV Liaison, (Navy) Chief of Information

Mr. Rob Reiner, Director, Partner, and Co-founder  
Mr. Jeff Stott, Mr. Steve Nicolaides, co-producers  
Mr. John Horton, Government Liaison, Assoc. of Motion  
Picture and Television Producers  
BGen Dave Brahms, USMC (Ret), former SJA, HQMC, consultant

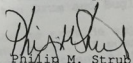
Mr. Reiner described what he believed to be serious script revisions which he undertook to balance the positive and negative elements of the overall script. These included making one of the principal Navy lawyers a Marine; making one of the ancillary lawyers and the judge Marines; placing a disclaimer at the beginning of the film to the effect that the picture is fictional and the incidents depicted are atypical of the Marine Corps; and providing a brief monologue for the Marine judge at the end of the picture in which he inveighs against the principal culprit of the film.

The Marine Corps position was articulated by General Draude and was in sync with the DoD point of view. After discussion on both sides of the issue was heard at length, it became apparent that neither side was willing or able to compromise its position.

Mr. Reiner's opinion is that by accommodating our concerns, (e.g., by making the character of the XO, Lt Col Markinson, a forceful, positive officer), the plot and characterization would change in an unacceptable way in terms of the drama, conflict, and thematic structure of the film overall.

Although the meeting concluded with the Marine Corps leaving the door open for further negotiation, I felt that Mr. Reiner and company had resigned themselves to an impasse. After all, with the talent signed on the basis of the current script, and with rehearsals to begin in two weeks, even with a firm commitment to a major character re-write, Mr. Reiner would have a serious challenge ahead of him.

As they boarded their rental van, the producers and director requested that the military at least consider granting very limited use of the flight line at Pt Mugu, to stage a brief and minor scene of Navy lawyers arriving at the base at Guantanamo. This is a matter currently under consideration by DoD, Navy, and Marine Corps.



Philip M. Strub  
Special Assistant (Audiovisual)

18 SEP 1991

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subj: SUMMARY OF MEETING BETWEEN PADIR AND MEMBERS OF PRODUCTION STAFF OF "A FEW GOOD MEN"

1. On 17 Sep I met with members of Castle Rock Productions to discuss possible Marine Corps support of the movie to be titled "A Few Good Men". Representing Castle Rock were Rob Reiner, the film's director; Jeff Stott, VP for Productions; Steven Nicolaides, producer; BGen David Brahms USMC (Ret.), technical advisor; and John Horton, who runs a local firm that assists Hollywood companies in dealing with the federal government. Also in attendance were BGen G. L. Miller, JADir; Phil Strube, OASD(PA); Col J. M. Shotwell, PA DepDir; and LTJG Lydia Zeller, CHINFO. Reiner, while perhaps best known for his role as the liberal son-in-law in the "All in the Family" series, has enjoyed considerable critical and box-office success as a director with such films as "When Harry Met Sally," "Stand by Me" and "Misery".
2. Specifically, Castle Rock would like DoD's blessing in letting them film scenes at Ft. Mugu and the Washington Navy Yard. They would also like to incorporate footage of the Silent Drill Platoon and what Reiner called the Marine Marching Band (may have been referring to the Drum and Bugle Corps).
3. I expressed our reluctance to provide any official support if the movie follows the current script. I summarized problems with the lack of balance in characterizations of Marines, the negative undertone of some sort of secret "code" of conduct, and the total lack of redeeming qualities in the character of Col Jessep, to be played by Jack Nicholson. Reiner, incidentally, sees Jessep as a solid officer who makes a mistake, whereas we view him as lacking the character and moral fibre expected of a Marine Corps colonel.
4. Reiner perceives the production to be a positive depiction of DoD in its vindication of the military justice system. While the "bad guys" in the scenario happen to be Marines, he thought that we would be placated by making the judge and the prosecuting attorneys Marines.
5. We discussed possible compromises. On their part, the filmmakers offered to change the character of a female lawyer who is one of the "good guys" from a Navy lieutenant commander to a Marine officer. I view this as a cosmetic change that would have little bearing on the overall depiction of the Marine Corps as an institution. (As a matter of additional information, this officer is played by Demi Moore, who recently gained notoriety when she was shown nude on a magazine cover while very pregnant. She provides the love interest for Tom Cruise, who plays a LTJG defense attorney.) On our part, we suggested revising and expanding the role of Col Jessep's XO, who goes UA and ultimately commits suicide in the current script draft. Reiner balked, saying that the suicide is a critical dramatic turning point in the film.



6. At this point we're at an impasse. Reiner is obviously very passionate about this film and wants our help, but he does not appear willing to make the types of substantial revisions we would require in order to give it official support. The assistance they are requesting from the Navy and Marine Corps is relatively small and not production essential. However, if we provide official support we thereby formally sanction the project. We may still be able to provide unofficial courtesy assistance in an effort to ensure that Marine Corps haircuts, uniform and jargon are reasonably accurate. However, unless major changes are made to the script, we will want to avoid the public's perception of Marine Corps endorsement.

7. Mr. Horton will be back in contact with us to see if there is a point of mutual agreement. I'll have our folks look at possible options to provide more balance and reduce the negative undertone. He is looking at changes in degree; I believe we need changes in nature in order to support this endeavor. I am not optimistic that a point of agreement can be reached--especially with shooting to begin in one month--but I'll keep talking and trying to make this work.

*T. V. Draude*  
T. V. DRAUDE  
Director of Public Affairs

Blind copy to:  
BGen Miller  
Mr. Phil Strub

A FEW GOOD MEN - WHERE ARE THEY?

This paper will attempt to point out the areas in the attached screenplay that need to be changed in order for it to be reasonably considered and subsequently supported by the U.S. Marine Corps.

My title captures the essence of the problem! Where are the "few good men"?

The screenplay (revised 29 Aug 1991) portrays Marines as anything but good men. The officers are self-serving, ambitious, hollow, weak-willed, abusive liars. (Except for the lawyers, Col Randolph and Lt Ross.) The enlisted Marines are robots who blindly follow a "code" which flies in the face of the "band of brothers" relationship among Marines -- especially those in an infantry unit preparing for combat.

Is this to suggest that Marine units do not have problems -- sometimes with its officers? No, it does not. But my experience is that bad officers are such an aberration from the norm that they are quickly discovered, rapidly removed from positions of responsibility, and dealt with through punitive or administrative means.

The screenplay's first scenes of Marines depict them mistreating Santiago. Next, we see the villain, Col Jessep, asking (about one of his own Marines) "Who the f\*\*\* is PFC William T. Santiago"? The following dialogue depicts an argument between a colonel and his executive officer, in the presence of a lieutenant. When the lieutenant leaves, he is described by the colonel as "kind of a weasel...but he's an awfully good officer." He then chews out his Academy classmate for questioning his orders in front of another officer and departs.

This first glimpse of the leadership at the barracks tells us that two out of the three officers are bad. In time we learn that Markinson, the "good" officer, will falsify a transfer order, absent himself without authority from his duty as executive officer, and commit suicide (after having "done as much as I can to bring the truth to light.")

Col Jessep and Lt Kendrick, the bad officers, become worse. Jessep lies under oath, abuses the Judge, cracks under Kaffee's questioning, and physically attacks him. Kendrick continues to act like a supercilious ass and lies under oath repeatedly.

The two enlisted Marines are discharged for "conduct unbecoming a Marine" but gain respect for Kaffee by finally saluting him.

In essence, the depiction of Marines is totally negative and, in my opinion, totally false.

General Miller's review of the screenplay reveals many errors in procedures and terms. These will be shared with the producer and director.

Attached is a copy of the DoD Instruction regarding assistance to motion picture productions. I submit that the factors listed in paragraph C. 1. a., b., and c. are not only not supported by this screenplay, they are seriously violated.

Even if the motion picture company changes the script to make certain portrayed events more "factual", all these changes would accomplish is that they would alter this morality play's tension of "good versus evil" into "good versus real" -- still with tragic results. In other words, unless there are strong, principled Marine characters to offset the other caricatures of Marines, the image portrayed of us is inaccurate and disturbingly unflattering.

I recommend that the Marine Corps provide no support to this project other than the normal courtesy of technical recommendations.

*T. V. Grande*

A FEW GOOD MEN  
CAST LIST

	Ltjg	Kaffee.....	Tom Cruise
	LCdr	Joanne Galloway.....	Demi Moore
	LtJg	Sam Weinberger.....	Kevin Pollack
*	Col	Jessep.....	Jack Nicholson
*	LCpl	Dawson.....	Wolfgang Bodison
*	PFC	Downey.....	James Marshall
*	1stLt	Jack Ross.....	Kevin Bacon
*	1stLt	Kendrick.....	Keifer Sutherland
*	LtCol	Markinson.....	J.T. Walsh
*	Col	Randolph.....	Bill Cobb
*	PFC	Santiago.....	Michael Delorenzo
*	USMC	Sergeant at Arms.....	Kierah Mulroney
	Cdr	Dr. Stone.....	Chris Guest
	USN	Capt Whitaker.....	Xander Berkeley
	Capt	Capt West.....	John M. Jackson
	Cdr	OFC Gibbs.....	David Bowie
*	USMC	Orderly Scene 17.....	Josh Molina
	Cdr	OFC Lawrence.....	Cameron Thor
	USN	Sherby.....	Geoffrey Nauffts
	USN	Spralding.....	Ayre Gross
*	USMC	Steward.....	Al Waxa
*	USMC	Guard #1.....	Matthew Saks
	Civ	Luther.....	Harry Caesar
*	Cpl	Corporal Howard.....	Charlie Walsh
*	USMC	Guard #2.....	Lawrence Lowe
	Civ	Yuppie Lawyer.....	Aaron Sorkin
	Civ	Mr. Dawson.....	Gene Whittington
	Civ	Aunt Ginny.....	Maud Winchester
	NIS	R. C. Maguire.....	Arthur Senzy
*	Cpl	Hammaker.....	T. E. Russell
	USN	Second Baseman.....	
	Civ	Agent #1.....	Frank Cavestani
	USMC	Jury Foreman.....	Jan Munroe
	USMC	MP-D.C.....	

USMC.....17

USN.....11

Civilians.... 6

\* Marine character

CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT .....	313-284-1200
107 Pac 125-285-1245	
100 N. Maple Drive #100	
Beverly Hills, CA 90210	
<i>(When Harry Met Sally - Lord of the Flies - Misery - Sibling Rivalry)</i>	
Alan Horn .....	Partner & co-founder
Bob Koster .....	Partner & co-founder
Glen Feldick .....	Partner & co-founder
Andrew Schrenker .....	Partner & co-founder
Narrin Shaffer .....	Partner & co-founder
Greg Paul .....	Sr. VP & General Counsel
Al Luster .....	CFO
Lynn Deegan .....	VP, TV Production
*Michael Blizow .....	VP, Development, Syndication & Cable
Joize DeSisto .....	VP, Publicity & Promotion
La Gloran .....	VP of Creative Affairs
Rachel Pfeiffer .....	VP, Production
Jeffrey Stott .....	VP, Physical Production
Joan Wittensberg .....	VP, Business Affairs
Robin Green .....	Dir. of Creative Affairs, TV
*Lee Rowe .....	Exec. Story Editor

**REINER, ROB:** Actor, Writer, Director. b. New York, NY, March 6, 1945. Son of actor/writer/director Carl Reiner. Worked as actor with regional theatre and improvisational comedy troupes. Wrote for the Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour. Breakthrough as actor came in 1971 when signed by Norman Lear for *All in the Family* on TV, playing Mike Stivic (Meathead). Directorial debut with *This is Spinal Tap*, 1984.

**PICTURES:** *Enter Laughing* (actor only), *Where's Poppo?* (actor only), *This is Spinal Tap* (co-wr., dir., act.), *The Sure Thing* (dir.), *Stand By Me* (dir.), *The Princess Bride* (dir.), *Throw Momma from the Train* (act. only), *When Harry Met Sally* (co-prod., dir.), *Misery*.

**TELEVISION:** Series: *All in the Family* (1971-78); Emmy Award, 1974, 1978, *Free Country*.

Dep. Sec. Sec. Klinger  
Jan

CHARLES E. WALKER ASSOCIATES, INC.  
1730 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-4787  
TELEPHONE (202) 363-4760 TELECOPIER (202) 395-5728

~~1 pg~~  
1 pg  
M. Strub  
DAS Klinger  
from C. Walker

702-695-1149

(30) 299 SA14

September 12, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. WALKER

FROM: ALICIA SMITH <sup>AMS</sup>

RE: "A FEW GOOD MEN" / DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

In follow-up to your conversation with Jim <sup>FREE \*</sup> yesterday, I list below the following information regarding the switched signals Rob Reiner's production group has received from DOD - Reiner's group is working under the auspices of Columbia Pictures. They had wanted to shoot the silent drill team, the marching band, and to shoot at the Washington Navy Yard. They are now in a bind because they have been told late that they won't be able to use the Washington Navy Yard for a shoot. If they had been told sooner, they could build a set or find another suitable location, but with such short notice this is a problem.

Their primary contact at the Marines was a fellow named Major Jerry Brockett. As you may recall, this story does involve two marine officers who go bad. However, it also shows that the Marine Corps metes out justice and weeds out the bad ones.

Initially, the Marines had indicated no problem with this project. The Navy seems delighted with it (the Navy does come off well in this story). The Marines later indicated they had some problems with the script and Reiner says the Marines were asked what revisions they would want. He made the requested revisions, including a speech by the presiding Judge in the trial (a Marine officer), admonishing the villain at the end. The film also has a Marine serving as the prosecutor in this case.

Phil Strub (pronounced "Strube") (listed in the Govt Directory as Special Assistant for Audiovisual to the Directorate for Management at Defense) has been the most recent contact and he has told them they might be able to use the silent drill team and they might be able to use the marching band, but they cannot shoot at the Washington Navy Yard. Reiner has even gone so far as to offer to run a disclaimer at the front end of the film. No go.

Is there any chance this ruling can be appealed? Reiner would be pleased to speak to Pete Williams, just let Jim know.

✓  
FREE

WP-4 Walker Associates

# DRAFT

September 6, 1991

## MEMORANDUM

From: Captain Michael T. Sherman, USN  
To: Mr. Jeff Stott, Co-Producer, "A Few Good Men"

Subj: REVIEW AND COMMENTS OF REVISION THREE

I have reviewed the third revision of the script, "A Few Good Men," dated August 14, 1991. In all, I feel the Navy portion has been strengthened sufficiently to warrant its formal submission to Mr. Strub in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs).

However, as we discussed today, there are still have some minor suggestions with regards to the professionalism of the lawyers, the accuracy of their roles and some of the script points that we already mentioned. While none of these are insurmountable, I believe they will be addressed when the Navy forwards its official position.

I do like the change recommended to have LCDR Joanne Galloway, USN, JAGC, a part of the Inspector General's staff (or "I-G" staff as we call it) that will help the credibility issue rather than have her head up some sort of non-existent "ethics desk."

At this point, there still does not exist a strong Marine character to serve as a counter-point to all the dirt bags (Dawson, Downey, Kendrick, Markinson, and Jessep). I still say that the best way to do this is to have LTJG Sam Weinberg become a Marine lawyer...then he becomes a touchstone for the audience to see what a good Marine is. It also provides much better rationalization for his ire later on when he responds so negatively to the the two enlisted men. Believe me when I say this would be well received by the Marine Corps, the Defense Department and the lawyers.

This script represents what we term "sister service" support in that it requires both U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Navy concurrence for support. Therefore, while Navy approval may be forthcoming, we await input from the Marine Corps prior to formal approval. We understand the need for expedient action and will keep the project moving on the front burner.

# DRAFT

# DRAFT

Attached are additional recommendations/comments for your consideration.

I will be available to discuss this project at any time. Please contact me either at home or at the office.

Michael T. Sherman  
Captain, U.S. Navy

Copy to:

MR. PHIL STRUB, OASD-PA  
CHIEF OF INFORMATION (DCI)  
U.S. MARINE CORPS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE LOS ANGELES

Also, Kaffee's reference to "division" might that mean "headquarters" or "Office of the JAG" instead? I've never heard of division. (Page 10 is also strange)

He don't use "officer on deck." That should be "attention on deck!"

Pg 27 - They would introduce themselves as LT Daniel Kaffee and LT Sam Weinberg.

Pg 33 - He the great each other in uniform in the open, he would salute. She would return the salute.

Pg 34 - She would probably not ask him to call her Joanne right off the bat. Consider this, he calls her Jo. she says call me "Commander" "Lt Lieutenant Commander" and then he fears his disarming threat. That seems even more effective.

Pg 37 - Believe it or not, everyone likes whites compared to the blues. They are open collar and more comfortable. Kaffee might say he doesn't like TRAVELLING in whites and Sam can respond that "Nobody likes to travel in whites..."

# DRAFT

Pg 43 - In closure that he saw Kaffee's dad would be more helpful. He says "MY DAD, I HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING YOUR FATHER ONCE. I WAS A HIGHWAYMAN WHEN HE STOPPED AT THE MOUNTAIN." That would certainly be plausible, and cover up the other scene when the Parkinson and James discuss their plots.

Pg 44 - The officer's club has waiters, not stewards. They are employed civilians, not enlisted men.

Kaffee should throw a few more "air's" into his speech around the Colonel.

# DRAFT



# DRAFT

## Other comments:

Pg 15 - He still doesn't know her well enough not to throw a few "ma'am's" into his sentences. She is still a Lieutenant Commander and he is a Lieutenant Junior Grade. That's a wide chasm, even for lawyers.

Pg 20 - Jessep would refer to the windward "Company" vice division, and he would not call his orderly Tom...too informal. Call him "Corporal" or "Sergeant."

Pg 26 - Jo would say "I'm gonna speak to your 'commanding officer'" instead of supervisor...we don't have supervisors in the military.

Also, Kaffee's reference to "division" might that mean "headquarters" or "Office of the JAG" instead? I've never heard of division. (Page 10 is also germane)

We don't use "officer on deck." That should be "attention on deck!"

Pg 27 - They would introduce themselves as LT Daniel Kaffee and LT Sam Weinberg.

Pg 33 - As the greet each other in uniform in the open, he would salute. She would return the salute.

Pg 34 - She would probably not ask him to call her Joanne right off the bat. Consider this, he calls her Jo, she says call me "Commander" "or Lieutenant Commander" and then he does his disbaring threat. That seems even more effective.

Pg 37 - Believe it or not, everyone likes whites compared to the blues. They are open collar and more comfortable. Kaffee might say he doesn't like TRAVELLING in whites and Sam can respond that "Nobody likes to travel in whites..."

Pg 43 - Markinson's disclosure that he saw Kaffee's dad would be more believable if he says "LT KAFFEE, I HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING YOUR FATHER ONCE. I WAS A MIDSHIPMAN WHEN HE SPOKE AT THE ACADEMY." That would certainly be plausible, and sets up the other scene when the Markinson and Jessep discuss their pasts.

Pg 44 - The Officer's Club has waiters, not stewards. They are employed civilians, not enlisted men.

Kaffee should throw a few more "sir's" into his speech around the Colonel.

# DRAFT

## DRAFT

Pg 35 - "Attention on Deck!" Not, Officer on deck.

Pg 55 - Kaffee would ask, "Why did Markinson go U-A?" not the resign thing which we got rid of.

Ross says, "We may never know."

Ross should refer to "Headquarters" and not division, that's really an Army term. Headquarters is the Marine Headquarters in Washington, D.C....all Marines know that.

Pg 56 - Kaffee should refer to "Conduct unbecoming a Marine."

Pg 59 - Kaffee should say, "What happened to standing at attention when an officer leaves the room?"

Pg 63 - Kaffee would really say, "Yes Sir" when Randolph asks if he wishes to enter a plea. "Yeah" would be out of character for any lawyer military or civilian in a court of law in front of a judge. It also shows that Kaffee is getting with the program.

Pg 68 - Jo would say, into the phone, "He's been an Unauthorized Absentee since..."

Pg 72 - I thought we determined that the men would not be led into the courtroom in handcuffs. Let's check this out again. From the defense's point of view, it sure prejudices the case when the jury sees him there in cuffs.

Pg 85 - The Navy doesn't use the term "hours" after its times. Thus 10 a.m. becomes "ten-hundred" not ten hundred hours and 3 a.m. becomes "zero-three-hundred." Using the term "hours" is an Army way of telling time, and most onerous.

Pg 88 - Jo would say, "After that I got orders to the I-G staff."

Pg 97 - There is no such thing as a "clearance code" that is pure Hollywood poop. It might work if she later confesses that there is not such thing...it shows she is also getting with the program.

Pg 103 - It is really against the law to give someone only water for seven days. The punishment of "bread and water" can only be inflicted for three days. Kendrick would be brought up on charges right after he stated this one. Make it bread and water for three days.

Pg 110 - Scene 75. This seems to be a perfect place to interject a positive statement about the corps. Markinson, who has devoted his life to the Marines, is about to commit suicide because he failed the corps, his commanding officer, and a young enlisted man by NOT being the Marine he should have been. I would recommend

## DRAFT

## DRAFT

ending his voice over with something strong and positive...like the following:

"...as much as I can to bring the truth to light.

The Marine Corps is more than tradition and pageantry. It is a unique, exclusive body of men and women who share a common vision. In every respect we are a family, committed to supporting each other, committed to serving this great nation. Which is to say we don't have to be friends or even like each other. But we must always be there for our fellow Marines.

And the truth is this, I failed William...not the Corps...not the two young men accused of his death. I wasn't strong enough to prevent his death. I lost the vision...and William paid the price. As a Marine officer, I find that unacceptable and repugnant.

Always, LCOL Matthew Andrew Markinson, USMC."

Pg 145 - Remember, we cannot salute indoors uncovered. What to do, to do. Why can't this scene be played just outdoors...then you have background and a reason to stand tall and salute.

## DRAFT

CASTLEROCK / TEAM SONY  
MICHAEL RIVA PRODUCTION DESIGNER  
JEFF + AARON NICOLAIDES PRODUCTION MGR. & SON  
Richard JAVIS LOCATION MGR.  
DAVID KLASSEN ART DIRECTOR  
MIKE WALLACE Locations.

50834 CAPT Pete Misiaszek (Mishashek) 614-7420



CASTLEROCK / TEAM SONY  
MICHAEL RIVA PRODUCTION DESIGNER  
STEVE + AARON NICOLAIDES PRODUCTION MGR. & SON  
RICHARD JAVIS LOCATION MGR.  
DAVID KLASSEN ART DIRECTOR  
MIKE WALLACE Locations

50834 CAPT Pete Misiaszek (Mishashek) 614-7420

Should production assistance be granted, we would like to use following:

1. Access to shoot at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C.



August 29, 1991

Philip M. Strub  
Special Assistant (Audiovisual)  
Office of the Asst. Secretary  
of Defense  
Room 2E789  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C.  
20301

RE: "A FEW GOOD MEN"

Dear Phil:

Pursuant to Department of Defense instruction number 5410.16, we hereby officially submit for your review and evaluation the screenplay "A FEW GOOD MEN" to be directed by Rob Reiner. In so doing, we formally request full production assistance as detailed in the aforementioned D.O.D. instruction.

As you are aware, this screenplay is about the Court Martial of two Marines accused of disciplining a third and fellow Marine in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The disciplinary action results in the third Marine's death and as the story unfolds, we learn that the disciplinary action was ordered illegally down through the chain of command. On one level, the screenplay demonstrates the intricacies of the U.S. Military legal system at its best - a system, incidentally, which few civilians even know exist. We have tried to incorporate as much technical advice that your office has been able to give to us in making the courtroom drama as accurate as possible. Not since "THE CAIN MUTINY" has Hollywood come forward with a script as compelling as "A FEW GOOD MEN". It's about honor, duty, and loyalty. It's about the Military justice system working at its finest. I've enclosed 5 copies of the script for review and evaluation.

Should production assistance be granted, we would like to use the following:

1. Access to shoot at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C.

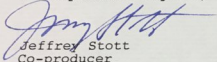
Page 2 (cont)

2. To be able to utilize the U.S. Marine Corps Band and Silent Drill Team.
3. Location assistance in Southern California to establish Guantanamo Bay, including Navy Aircraft and other Military ground vehicles.
4. Enlisted personnel and Officers for extras.
5. We would like to be able to do a small Second Unit shoot - perhaps 2 days - in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
6. Use of Military uniforms.
7. To film a plane leaving and returning from Andrew Airforce Base.

These requests of course, are in their most general form, and I will submit, in quadruplicate, a more detailed request per D.O.D. instructions shortly.

We look forward to working with your office for a very successful motion picture about the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps.

Best personal regards,

  
Jeffrey Stott  
Co-producer  
"A FEW GOOD MEN"

JS/crs

cc: Rob Reiner  
Steve Nicolaides  
Major Jerry Broeckert  
John Horton

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 7 Jun 91

TO: LtCol Fred Peck, HMC (PA)

Copy to: Mr. Phil Strub, OASD (PA) (AV)

FROM: Maj Jerry Broeckert **B**Marine Corps Public Affairs Office  
11000 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 10117  
Los Angeles, California 90024Office: 213-575-7272  
24-Hour Fax: 213-575-7274

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET: 1

Provided for your information. I received copy of script today from Captain Sherman. No requests to this office for any support.

**LIZ SMITH****Good Men for 'Good Men'**

**N**EW YORK—Wow! Talk about hot casting. It will be Jack Nicholson co-starring with Tom Cruise in the movie of the Broadway hit drama "A Few Good Men." Nicholson will portray the ruthless and impressive Marine colonel, Nathan Jessup, played on stage by Stephen Lang. Cruise is cast as the young Navy lawyer who defends errant Marines in a court-martial. (Tom Hulce did it on stage.) Playwright Aaron Sorkin is adapting his play for the screen and Rob Reiner is to direct.



Nicholson

I can't tell you how many famous actors were angling for the Jessup role, but when Nicholson says "Yes," everybody just falls back in awe and agreement. Demi Moore is being sought for the one important female role. The film will be produced by Reiner, original Broadway producer David Brown and others, via Castle Rock Entertainment and Columbia.



UNCLASSIFIED

CO: SACAV

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PRIORITY

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CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//PA//

CG FMFLANT//PA//

COMNAVFLANT NORFOLK VA//013//

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ACCT NA-CR08AA

SECNAV WASHINGTON DC//PA//

CMC WASHINGTON DC//PA//

CG FMFPAC//PA//

NAVY JAG ALEXANDRIA VA//PA//

NAVSTA GUANTANAMO BAY CU//00//

5. REQUEST ADVISE FEASIBILITY OF CONDUCTING UNOFFICIAL RESEARCH VISIT. PARTY SHOULD ARRIVE GTMO 26 AUG VIA CORPORATE JET AND DEPART 27 AUG (DETAILS SECDEF). ALL SUPPORT TO BE TAW REF E. NAVY PROJECT OFFICER/ESCORT IS CAPT M.T. SHERMAN, USN, DIRECTOR NAVINFO WEST, TEL. (213) 576-7481/FAX (213) 575-7856.// BT

UNCLAS //N05720//

SUBJ: PUBLIC AFFAIRS--RESEARCH VISIT TO GUANTANAMO BAY

MSGID/GENADMIN/CHINFO//

REF/AF/TEL/CASTLE ROCK/27JUL91//

AMPN/PHONCON CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT, MR. STOTT/NAVINFO WEST, CAPT

SHERMAN OF 27 JUL 91//

REF/B/TEL/CINCLANTFLT/09AUG91//

AMPN/PHONCON CINCLANTFLT, LCDR PIETROPOLI/NAVINFO WEST, CAPT

SHERMAN OF 9 AUG 91//

REF/C/TEL/SECDEF-OASD/01AUG91//

AMPN/PHONCON OASD/PA, MR. STRUB/NAVINFO WEST, CAPT SHERMAN OF

1 AUG 91//

REF/D/TEL/HQUSMC/09AUG91//

AMPN/PHONCON HQUSMC, MAJ LALUNTAS/NAVINFO WEST, CAPT SHERMAN OF

9 AUG 91//

REF/E/DOC/ODD/26JAN88//

AMPN/INST 5410.16, SUBJ: COOPERATION WITH MOTION PICTURE

COMPANIES//

RMKS/1. REF A REQUESTED NAVY/MARINE CORPS RESEARCH ASSISTANCE FOR A

CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT MOTION PICTURE CURRENTLY IN PRE-

PRODUCTION ENTITLED, "A FEW GOOD MEN." THIS THEATRICAL MOTION

PICTURE, BASED ON A POPULAR BROADWAY PLAY, IS BEING RE-WRITTEN AND

DIRECTED BY MR. ROB REINER (DIRECTOR--"WHEN HARRY MET SALLY" AND

"STAND BY ME.") IT WILL FEATURE JACK NICHOLSON, TOM CRUISE, DEMI

MOORE, KEVIN BACON, AND KIEFER SUTHERLAND. THE STORY CENTERS AROUND

A COURT-MARTIAL OF TWO ENLISTED MARINES FOR AN ACCIDENTAL DEATH WHICH

OCCURS AT THE NAVAL BASE GUANTANAMO BAY.

2. AT THIS POINT, OFFICIAL DOD COOPERATION HAS NEITHER BEEN

REQUESTED NOR GRANTED, BUT THE PRODUCERS HAVE PROVIDED COPIES OF THE

SCRIPT TO OASD/PA, NAVY, AND MARINE CORPS MOTION PICTURE OFFICES ON

AN INFORMAL BASIS AND HAVE INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER

NAVY AND USMC INPUT TO IMPROVE THE STORYLINE AND MILITARY

CHARACTERIZATIONS. THEY HAVE ASKED PERMISSION FOR SELECT CAST

MEMBERS AND PRODUCTION CREW TO VISIT AND TOUR A NUMBER OF MILITARY

LOCATIONS AND MEET WITH NAVY/MARINE CORPS LAWYERS AT CONUS

NAVY/MARINE CORPS BASES.

3. AS DISCUSSED REF B, REQ ROIN VISIT TO THE U.S. NAVAL BASE

GUANTANAMO BAY 26-27 AUG, FOR AN ORIENTATION TOUR OF THE BASE,

INCLUDING A VISIT TO THE MARINE BARRACKS. PER REFS C AND D,

OSDA(PA) AND HQMC INTERPOSE NO OBJECTION TO THESE RESEARCH VISITS'

4. THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL WOULD VISIT GUANTANAMO BAY:

MR. ROB REINER, WRITER/DIRECTOR

MR. JEFFREY STOTT, PRODUCER

MR. STEVE NICOLAITIS, CO-PRODUCER

MR. MICHAEL RIVA, PRODUCTION DESIGNER

MR. RICHARD DAVIS, PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

MR. DAVID KLASSEN, PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

CAPT MICHAEL T. SHERMAN, USN, (ESCORT, 887-36-4805/1650 (ESCORT)

MAJ JERRY BROECKERT, USMC (ESCORT)

MR. DOUGLAS OLSON (FLT CREW)

MR. ROBERT RUSSELL (FLT CREW)

MS. SUSAN PACE (FLT CREW)

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CDSN=MAZ826

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4601 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE N.W.  
SUITE 400  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016

July 16, 1991

Mr. Phil Strub  
Special Assistant (Audio-visual)  
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (PA)  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Phil,

As Ray Smith conveyed to you last Friday, we have been retained to assist Castle Rock Entertainment in developing a revised screenplay and subsequent production requirements for A FEW GOOD MEN. This major feature film will be produced by Jeff Stott whom you have met and will be directed by Rob Reiner. It will star Tom Cruise and Jack Nicholson.

When the script is completed it will be submitted to you for review and consideration for production assistance from the Department of Defense, the U.S. Marine Corps and the Department of the Navy. The story of the film concerns an incident that occurred in Guantanamo which resulted in a court-martial of two Marines accused of murder of another Marine. There is a basis of fact in the story which has been fictionalized from an actual case. The film will depict military justice in a dramatic and credible manner providing engrossing entertainment. It is anticipated that some photography at Navy and Marine installations in the Washington, D.C. area could be a key requirement.

At present research based on the transcript of a court-martial proceedings and other technical aspects of the story is being pursued to insure credibility in the portrayal of military personnel and events. It would be extremely helpful for both story and production research for the producer, director and production assistant, namely Jeff Stott, Rob Reiner and Mrs Rob Reiner to visit the US Navy Base and the Marine Barracks at Guantanamo for a short period sometime in early August, 1991. We understand that transportation to Guantanamo is possible only by Navy Air transport from Norfolk, Virginia. Could you ascertain the feasibility of this request and advise me accordingly so that we could make necessary detailed arrangements for this research trip?

Castle Rock seeks this preliminary research and assistance from the Department of Defense in accordance with the provisions of DOD Instruction 5410.16. As you have requested you will receive confirmation of this directly from Jeff Stott of Castle Rock Entertainment.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely yours

cc: Jeff Stott



MEMORANDUM FOR PHIL STRUB

FROM: DAN KALINGER



SUBJECT: "A FEW GOOD MEN" DRAFT SCRIPT

I finally finished the script you forwarded to me. At present, I see no way that the Department of Defense can or should support this film, even courtesy support. The reasons include:

- \* Marines are pictured as corrupt, rigid

- \* Script suggests an unwritten "code" that permits violence and retribution against weaker marines; a self-policing mechanism, if you will

- \* General portrayal of many marines is negative.

I would not be inclined to support this without major, major revisions. However, we can continue to extend support and assistance during the script development phase in the hopes that it will lead to a more accurate script in the next draft.



May 21, 1991

Philip Strub  
ASST. SECRETARY OF DEFENCE  
FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
Rm 2E7089 Pentagon  
Washington, D.C.  
20301

Dear Philip:

Per our phone conversation this morning May 22, 1991, a copy of "A FEW GOOD MEN" is enclosed herewith.

As I mentioned to you, the screenplay is based on a long running Broadway play. We currently anticipate starting the Picture sometime in late October of 1991. While the script is not yet in its final shooting form, I thought it best to submit informally, the most recent draft.

While I do not anticipate any substantive changes in the current draft of the script, we do expect to add a few more locations and delete some of those that are already written. Nonetheless, I think that we are at a point, where we should begin pursuing some of the options available to us in producing the movie with the cooperation of the Department of Defence.

As I have mentioned, Rob Reiner will be directing the film and Tom Cruise will be playing the lead male role of "Kaffee". Rob has been talking to Jack Nicholson to play the part of "Col. Jessep"; and Demi Moore to play the part of "Jo". Neither of the latter two actors have officially been cast in the Picture. Castle Rock Pictures, which produced Rob's last two movies "MISERY" and "WHEN HARRY MET SALLY", and the forthcoming feature "CITY SLICKERS" starring Billy Crystal, will be the production entity. The movie will be distributed through Columbia Pictures domestically.

Page 2



I anticipate being in Washington sometime the week of May 28. Perhaps you may have had a chance by that time, to have read the script.

I will call your office on Tuesday to confirm my travel plans and your schedule permitting, perhaps arrange a meeting at your convenience.

Best regards,

Jeffrey Stott  
Vice President  
Production Management

JS/crs

**Q:** How so? Because both men, despite appearances, are really anti-heroes, anti-Establishment characters, which you have specialized in?

**A:** I don't think about it as Establishment and anti-Establishment. (He laughs.) Although certainly there are underpinnings of that in Jessup. I think one of the great character positions in most dramas is the guy like Jessup who thinks he's doing everything right and it's all wrong. In my own life, I find myself supporting people like that, people in no-win situations. For Jessup, a commanding officer in the Marine Corps, you're sending people off to die—that's a no-win situation. That's why you have to admire the military, ah, sect. (More laughter.) I say that but I have a lot of friends who are Marines and I wouldn't do the part if I didn't think I could please this peer group, so to speak. And I guarantee you the Marines will see this guy differently than the average person.

**Q:** In a way, Jessup is sort of an Ollie North character, isn't he?

**A:** Well, Tom's character [Cruise plays a Navy lawyer] senses that this is a guy who doesn't like to lie and that's how I looked at it—that Jessup doesn't think that he has done anything wrong. He's in the midst of a cover-up, but it's a military court martial and I'm sure he left there thinking they're just candy asses.

**Q:** You had three scenes in the film. Was it difficult to establish a character in that amount of time or did it help that the film is based on Aaron Sorkin's Broadway play, which was about a real military incident?

**A:** To tell the truth, I didn't know it was a play until I talked to Rob. But [Jessup] is based on a real character and on the set they had these two Marine generals who knew this guy and knew what happened to him. But it was a hard job because he does all the talking in those three scenes. I always say in interviews that film acting is different from stage acting and when you get scenes like those, you couldn't play through the entire production at the intensity that I can play them for two weeks. I was quite spent at the end of those two weeks.

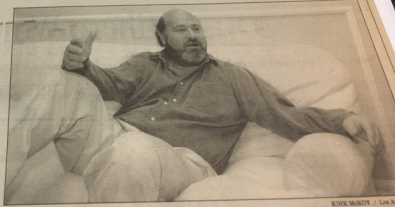
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FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT: (310) 353-1000

MOVIES

# Between a Rock and a Reiner Stand a Few Other Guys

director teamed with four friends to form the  
y regarded Castle Rock Entertainment. Their  
y Good Men' looks like a sure winner  
then again, so did 'Mr. Saturday Night'



KIRK MCKAY / Los Angeles Times

Rob Reiner: "It's an equal partnership except when it's a film I want to make. Then I have more v

Excerpt...

In retrospect, it was a little odd at how Castle Rock came to discover "A Few Good Men." The partners were scouting around for a writer to do another film and, in the process, a writing sample from a play by Aaron Sorkin arrived.

"We read it and said, 'This is really well written,'" recalled Shafer. He said Sorkin was hired for the other project but, in the meantime, Castle Rock found that TriStar had the film rights to the Broadway play "A Few Good Men" and eventually acquired the rights.

"Rob had never heard of the project at that time," Shafer said. "I said to Rob, 'You should see this play.' So Reiner flew to New York and left the theater not only wanting to make the film, but he wanted Tom Cruise for the lead role.

Then, for the first time in his career as a director, Reiner found that his past successes enabled him to land his first choices—not only Cruise, but Nicholson, Moore, Sutherland, Bacon and Kevin Polak.

Reiner, admittedly, was nervous directing such a high-powered ensemble. "I thought, 'You've got a lot of big stars and there could be a lot of ego problems. How is this going to shake out?'" But the real problem, he soon discovered, was the United States Marine Corps.

Reiner wanted to use the Marines' silent drill team in the movie, but was rebuffed.

To argue his case, he was invited into a big room at the Pentagon Annex, where an assistant to the Marine Corps commandant, a brigadier general and "a couple of colonels" listened patiently. No one told him, the Marine Corps is not interested in providing technical assistance.

They think they had a very par-

Please see Page 32

LOS ANGELES TIMES / CALENDAR

MOVIES

## Castle Rock

Continued from Page 29

reclinal view of things," Reiner recalled. "They look at a picture and think, 'Is this a picture that recruits Marines?' They saw two bad guys being Marines. They didn't care about the fact that the judge was a Marine and the prosecuting attorney, who was a great guy, was a Marine. They just looked at Nicholson and the Kiefer Sutherland character and thought, 'Oh, they're bad guys.'"

At the meeting, Reiner launched into an impassioned plea. He told the officers they had a very small view of the film, that this was not an indictment of the Marine Corps, it was a celebration of the military justice system.

Finally, in frustration, Reiner told them: "Boy, you must think very little of your organization if you think this film is going to keep people from joining the Marines."

Reiner said one of the arguments advanced by the Marines was that Nicholson's character (Col. Nathan R. Jessep) was so flawed there was no way he could rise to the rank of colonel in the Marine Corps.

Reiner said he found it ironic that on the day he left his meeting with the Marine Corps, the front page of the Washington Post carried a story on a real-life controversial Marine colonel—Oliver North.

So, Reiner found a substitute for the Marines: the silent drill team of Texas A & M University.

The major themes of the film were powerful enough, but Reiner said there was something else that tugged at his emotions besides the age-old issue of whether soldiers should follow orders or their own conscience. This was not, Reiner felt, just a story about two young Marines who stand accused of murdering a member of their platoon during an unsanctioned disciplinary action known as a "Code Red."

In "Stand by Me," Reiner identified with the depressed kid who didn't feel good about himself. Likewise, "When Harry Met Sally..." evolved from Reiner's idea that men and women can't really be friends without becoming lovers, and if they do, that spoils the friendship.

Reiner now saw parallels in his own life and that of Cruise's character (Lt. (j.g.) Daniel Kaffee) in "A Few Good Men."

"What was hinted at in the play, and we brought out in the more in the film, was Kaffee's personal struggle vis-a-vis his father and finding his own niche, given the fact that his father was famous," Reiner said. "That's something I can relate to."

In "A Few Good Men," Reiner said the scene that affected him the most occurs when Kaffee loses a key witness and one of the defendants botches his testimony on the stand. It's raining at night when Kaffee arrives home drunk and ready to give up. A member of Kaffee's defense team, Lt. Sam Weinberg (Pollak), is seated alone with him.

"And he says, 'Is your father proud of you?'" Reiner says. "Don't do this to yourself. I bet he is.' That scene is the strongest scene in the picture to me, the one that is the most emotional for me. To me, it was very hard because I was trying to live up to [Carl Reiner]. As a young person growing up, I idolized him. He was like a god to me. Not only was he incredibly talented and successful and unbelievably accepted by his peers and his audience, but he's a nice guy. A very sweet man. People loved him. . . . I thought, 'I'll never measure up to this.' It was tough. . . ."

"Still today, people will call me Carl," the director said. "Hey, Carl!" It doesn't bother me anymore. It used to bother me. I'd go, 'Hey, I'm Rob! You should be able to make the distinction more!'" □

Robert W. Welkos is a Times staff writer.



# The Event That Inspired The Movie and the Play

Aaron Sorkin's play "A Few Good Men," on which Rob Reiner's film of the same name is based, was itself inspired by an incident that took place in 1986 at the United States Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, known locally as Gitmo. In "Trading With the Enemy," a new book about Cuba from Atheneum Publishers, Tom Miller describes the event.

**G**ITMO PRIDES ITSELF on the best of small-town qualities with little of the plagues rampant anywhere else. The worst the Navy runs into these days is drunken sailors. Marine offenses are far more serious. One Saturday night in the summer of 1986, some marines were sitting around the barracks watching a videotape of "Animal House." Down the hall, Pfc. Willie A. was asleep. Willie was roundly disliked by virtually every marine who knew him — they said he was a malingerer who habitually faked illness, disloyal, untrustworthy, gutless, slow to follow directions. One officer called him "one of the 10 worst marines I've known in my life."

Leathernecks in the barracks said he'd snitched about a marine firing shots over the fence line into Cuba. They didn't want him around, and when they told the Marine commanding officer, Colonel Sam Adams, their feelings, he agreed that Willie should be moved to another platoon the following week. As for that weekend, Adams was quoted as saying, "Let him sweat." By the time this attitude about Willie made it to barracks level, a lieutenant had told a squad meeting, "Don't take him up to the third deck and throw him off and kill him, but if he falls down the stairs to the

middle of the night, oh, well."

About 2 o'clock Sunday morning, as Willie lay sleeping, 10 marines charged his room, blindfolded him with tape, stuck some bedding in his mouth to keep him quiet and gave him a severe haircut. "He took pride in his hair," one of his attackers later said, "and wore mousse in order to look, how would you say, GQ."

This would have been a typical blanket party or "code red," Marine jargon for pummeling someone to teach him a lesson, except that the gag blocked Willie's air pipe and forced fluid to fill his lungs. He arrived at the Guantanamo base hospital emergency room short of breath, coughing up blood, complaining of blindness, near death. They Medivac'd him to a Miami hospital, followed by treatment at four more hospitals, including Bethesda Naval.

Heads rolled. Colonel Adams, a well-liked former pro football player, was sent packing to Camp Lejeune, N.C. Court-martial charges were pressed against the attackers. Some accepted "other than honorable" discharges. At least one got 36 days in the brig and 30 days' confinement. One had his case dropped for lack of speedy trial. A three-star Marine lieutenant general flew down from Washington and chewed out the entire Marine contingent at Guantanamo. Speaking of blanket parties, the general said, according to a number of marines in the audience, "if you want to try one on me, you'll end up dead."

This whole sorry episode in Marine history might merely have ended a fuzzy legend in the corps except that Aaron Sorkin, a young playwright, picked up the story and fashioned it into a film courtroom drama. In November 1992 "A Few Good Men" opened at Music Box on Broadway. It star Tom Hulce and ran a healthy months.

# Rob Reiner's March To 'A Few Good Men'

By BERNARD WEINRAUB

LOS ANGELES

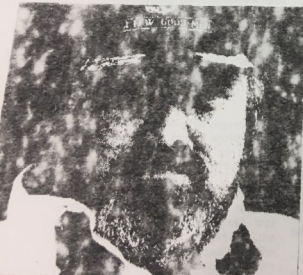
**F**OR ROB REINER, THE FILM "A FEW GOOD MEN" carries remarkable personal resonance. Not that Mr. Reiner has served in the Navy or faced a high-stakes military trial, which is the centerpiece of the movie.

Instead, the 45-year-old director identifies almost eerily with the Navy lawyer Daniel Kaffee (played by Tom Cruise), whose glib, wise-guy style masks intense fears about living in the shadow of a father, now dead,

who was a renowned naval attorney general.

"In all my films," said Mr. Reiner, who had struggled for years to move out of the shadow of his own father, the writer and director Carl Reiner, "I've got to find something I can hook up with, connect with. Kaffee is in the same business as his father; I'm in the same business as mine. Everywhere I went when I started out, it was 'Carl Reiner this,' 'Carl Reiner that.' He's the nicest man in the world, incredibly sweet-natured, but it was frightening to be compared to him."

The film opens on Friday to a blitzard of promotion, largely because of its high-powered stars. Along with Mr. Cruise, the cast includes Jack Nicholson, playing a hard-



Stanley Beudant/Castle Rock Entertainment

Reiner—For years in his father's shadow.

**For very personal reasons,  
the director could relate to  
the hero of his new movie.**

edged, highly decorated Marine Colonel, as well as Demi Moore as a member of Kaffee's defense team. Adapted by Aaron Sorkin from his 1989 Broadway play, the movie traces a Navy lawyer's quest for justice in the case of two marines accused of murder because of their punishment of a Marine private at the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay. The question to be resolved: did the marines act on their own, or were they obeying orders?

"What we're dealing with here is a very strong moral dilemma," Mr. Reiner said, seated on a cream-colored sofa in his airy, vaguely Southwestern-styled office in Beverly Hills. The director, a burly, bearded man in sneakers, jeans and floppy sweatshirt, went on: "Where do you draw the line between being loyal and

Continued on Page 18

# In His New Film, Reiner Marches To a Personal Beat

Continued From Page 1

following orders, and acting on your own when something is immoral or illegal. It's the same moral dilemma the Nazis dealt with at Nuremberg, or Calley at My Lai. And it doesn't just apply to the military. We all live in corporate or business cultures. We're all subordinate to somebody else. We all have to make decisions about what's right and what's wrong."

At the center of the moral dilemma is the lawyer Kaffee, who was played by Tom Hulse on Broadway. "I got a call from Rob, who said he wanted to direct the movie," Mr. Cruise said, "and I should see the play. I called him that evening and said, 'I'm in.'"

It was the first time Mr. Cruise was to work with Mr. Reiner. "Rob is interesting," the actor said. "He's a big guy physically, and there's a sweetness about him that catches you. If I got into trouble, I'd say, 'How would you play it?' You bounce back and forth with this guy. He loves actors. He loves what he's doing. I'd catch him watching someone else's close-up and he'd be mouthing the dialogue. He doesn't even realize he does it. He's a guy who wants, almost wills, his actors to be great."

Mr. Reiner, who is unpretentious and gregarious, enjoys working with actors but also spends an unusual amount of time with writers, revising scripts line by line.

According to Mr. Sorkin, the drama, which received mixed reviews but ran for more than a year, was almost entirely overhauled for the movie. The "smoking gun" in the Broadway play (a doctored logbook) was eliminated from the film. Mr. Reiner apparently felt that with a smoking gun, you didn't need a brilliant lawyer. Instead, he wanted the character of Kaffee to be cunning.

Under Mr. Reiner's supervision,

Mr. Sorkin wrote several drafts of the screenplay in his New York apartment, and then spent several months at the Los Angeles offices of Castle Rock, the independent production company that made the film. There, Mr. Sorkin worked with Mr. Reiner, one of five partners in Castle Rock, and with the director's longtime producer, Andrew Scheinman.

"It was done page by page," Mr. Sorkin said of the revision process.

"It was loud and intense and passionate work. If someone in the script asked for a glass of water, Rob would ask, 'Why a glass and not a cup?' He kept saying, 'How does this fit into the puzzle?' The script had to be rock solid. He won't let you get away with one extra line. He needed every question answered. He said to me, 'Aaron, if you can't answer it for me, I can't answer it for Tom Cruise.'"

Mr. Sorkin described Mr. Reiner as "very articulate" about his yearning to focus on the father-son elements. "He would tell me stories," he said, "about how difficult it was to grow up being the son of a famous father."

Rob Reiner is the oldest of three children of Carl and Estelle Reiner. (The others are Annie Reiner, who works in the psychiatric field, and Lucas Reiner, a painter and director.)

"It wasn't easy for him because he was impatient and he knew what he wanted," said Carl Reiner, who lives in Los Angeles and has been in show business for more than 40 years. "But he was lucky to have the intelligence and the talent."

"Rob was a self-starter," he added. "He never asked for money. He never asked for introductions. Even though he was born into a show-business house, he really did it all by himself."

Citing the example of Johann Strauss, the father and the son, he

Continued on Next Page

continued. "In that case, the father was the jealous one; he didn't even allow his son to play his music. In this case, he turned out better than me, and I love it. You can't imagine how proud I am of him. The word naches" — Yiddish for joy — "the word naches" —

The son said that it took years for him to distance himself from his father. "When I was a little kid, I wanted so badly to be like him I once said to him I want to change my name. And he said, 'To what?' And I said, 'To Carl.'"

"I was raised on people like Mel Brooks coming to the house, and Sid Caesar and Neil Simon. They always seemed like the most interesting and smartest people."

Apparently unready or unable to leave the subject of childhood and separation behind, Mr. Reiner will next direct a fantasy called "North," based on a novel by Alan Zweibel, a television comedy writer. The movie

concerns a 9-year-old boy who decides to become emancipated from his parents.

Over the last six years Mr. Reiner's hits have included "Stand by Me," "The Princess Bride," "When Harry Met Sally..." and "Misery." Yet he has sometimes been criticized for, in the words of one leading producer, "playing things a little too safe, not quite pushing the envelope further or being more of a heavy-weight."

But Mr. Reiner seems to be satisfied with his choices; his priority is finding stories that strike a personal chord. One was Stephen King's novel "Misery," which he turned into the 1990 film about a writer, played by James Caan, who is trapped and kept prisoner by a lunatic fan (Kathy Bates).

"It was very personal in a weird way," said Mr. Reiner, who saw "Misery" as the story of a man, not unlike himself, who was trying to branch out creatively. "Here I was, a television actor for eight years," he said of playing Meathead, Archie Bunker's son-in-law, in the long-running CBS series "All in the Family." "I was famous, and everyone knew me, and I wanted desperately to become a film director. And it was very hard for people in this community to accept that. It took me years."

Similarly, he found personal resonance in the 1989 romantic comedy "When Harry Met Sally..." which Meg Ryan (played by Billy Crystal) and Reiner, who divorced the director Penny Marshall in 1981 after 10 years of marriage, said that the movie "was born out of my experience of being thrown out in the dating world and being very confused about whether you could be friends with a woman, or did sex always have to come into the equation." (Since 1989, Mr. Reiner has been married to Michele Singer, a photographer, they have a 1-year-old son.)

Mr. Reiner has been able to pursue such visions because of his relationship with Castle Rock, one of the larger and more successful independents. His total control over casting and production is rare. So, for "Misery," he cast Mr. Caan, whose career was then in the doldrums, and Ms. Bates, a stage actress who was virtually unknown on the screen. Had Mr. Reiner worked at a studio, the Caan-Bates casting would have been virtually unthinkable. Ms. Bates, who won an Academy Award for the part of the deranged fan, Annie Wilkes, said of the director: "He and I really played Annie together. His eye was always in sync with my emotions."

Nora Ephron, who wrote the screenplay for "When Harry Met Sally..." noted that Mr. Reiner takes special care casting even the smallest roles. She cited the famous scene in "When Harry Met Sally..." in which diners in a New York delicatessen react as Sally fakes an orgasm.

"You can tell an enormous amount about people by the way they cast their movies," said Ms. Ephron. "And you can see by Rob's casting how generous he is. He never makes a joke at the expense of an actor's physical appearance. In the orgasm scene, the joke was extended and it went on, and Rob kept cutting from one face to the next, and in every single cut you saw compassion; there wasn't a cheap joke in any of those shots. Very few directors wouldn't have found an extra who was funny-looking in some easy, jokey way. Rob will never do that."

Ms. Ephron (who has cast Mr. Rei-

ner in "Sleepless in Seattle," the comedy she is now directing) believes that the director has been positively influenced by his years in television. "In a TV series, you noodle and noodle all week long until you shoot it on Friday," she said. "Rob does a long version of that. He takes months. He reads every part aloud. If a line isn't funny when he reads it, it's not funny and it's never going to be funny."

Mr. Reiner's comedic instincts were evident in his very first movie, "This Is Spinal Tap," a satirical film about a fictitious rock band made up of sniveling English lunks. The 1984 film was critically acclaimed, but he now says it may have been too derivative of some of his father's television routines with Sid Caesar. Mr. Reiner

considers his breakthrough to be "Stand by Me," a critically well-received movie about boyhood friendships that opened two years later.

"It was a rite-of-passage film," he said. "It was closer to my personality than anything I had done up to then, and it's something my father never would have come near. When I was making it, I kept thinking, 'Boy, I hope this works, because if it doesn't I'll be in serious trouble.' The audience would have been rejecting me when I was taking my first departure from my father, venturing into a new area."

Does he still think about what would have happened had the film failed. "All the time," said Mr. Reiner, without a smile. □

A FEW GOOD MEN

screenplay

by

Aaron Sorkin

CUT TO

REVISED THIRD DRAFT  
August 14, 1991

Rev. 8/15/91 (blue)  
Rev. 8/21/91 (pink)  
Rev. 8/29/81 (yellow)

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---

KAFFEE

He what?

DAWSON

He went outside his unit, sir. If he had a problem, he should've spoken to me, sir. Then his Sergeant, then Company Commander, then--

KAFFEE

Yeah, yeah, alright. Harold, did you assault Santiago with the intent of killing him?

DAWSON

No sir.

KAFFEE

What was your intent?

DAWSON

To train him, sir.

KAFFEE

Train him to do what?

DAWSON

Train him to think of his unit before himself. To respect the code.

SAM

What's the code?

DAWSON

Unit Corps God Country.

SAM

I beg your pardon?

DAWSON

Unit Corps God Country.

KAFFEE

The Government of the United States wants to charge you two with murder. You want me to go to the prosecutor with unit, corps, god, country?

DAWSON stares at KAFFEE.

DAWSON

That's our Code, sir.

KAFFEE takes a long moment. He picks up his briefcase and he and SAM move to the door.

KAFFEE

Sam, somebody should see about getting this stuff to his parents. We don't need it anymore.

The LAWYERS take a moment.

KAFFEE

Lt. Kendrick--can I call you Jon?

KENDRICK

No, you may not.

KAFFEE

(beat)

Have I done something to offend you?

KENDRICK

No, I like all you Navy boys. Every time we've gotta go someplace and fight, you fellas always give us a ride.

JO

Lt. Kendrick, do you think Santiago was murdered?

KENDRICK

Commander, I believe in God, and in his son Jesus Christ, and because I do, I can say this: Private Santiago is dead and that's a tragedy. But he's dead because he had no code. He's dead because he had no honor. And God was watching.

SAM turns to KAFFEE.

SAM

How do you feel about that theory?

KAFFEE

(beat)

Sounds good. Let's move on.

SAM and KENDRICK walk out the door. JO stops KAFFEE.

JO

You planning on doing any investigating or are you just gonna take the guided tour?

Santiago was gonna reveal the person's name in exchange for a transfer. Am I getting this right?

JESSIEP

Yes.

I'll ask for the fourth time: If you  
ordered--

KAFEE

You want answers?

JESSEP

I think I'm entitled to them.

KAFEE

You want answers?!

JESSEP

I want the truth.

KAFEE

You can't handle the truth!

JESSEP

nobody moves.

JESSEP

Son, we live in a world that has walls.  
And those walls have to be guarded by  
men with guns. Who's gonna do it? You?  
You, Lt. Weinberg? I have a greater  
responsibility than you can possibly  
fathom. You weep for Santiago and you  
curse the marines. You have that luxury.  
You have the luxury of not knowing what  
I know: That Santiago's death, while  
tragic, probably saved lives. And my  
existence, while grotesque and  
incomprehensible to you, saves lives.

(beat)  
You don't want the truth. Because deep  
down, in places you don't talk about at  
parties, you want me on that wall. You  
need me there.

(beat)  
We use words like honor, code,  
loyalty...we use these words as the  
backbone to a life spent defending  
something. You use 'em as a punchline.

(beat)  
I have neither the time nor the  
inclination to explain myself to a man  
who rises and sleeps under the blanket  
of the very freedom I provide, then  
questions the manner in which I provide  
it. I'd prefer you just said thank you  
and went on your way. Otherwise, I'd  
pick up a weapon and stand a  
damn good chance of giving you a  
damned good reason to go to.