

In regard to the campaign for Attorney General of Nevada, there has been some recent media commentary by Nevada political blogger Jon Ralston and his producer Dana Gentry on Adam Laxalt's military service – specific to his duties in Iraq and with his unit, Task Force 134. Unfortunately, it appears that much of Ralston's and Gentry's commentary was less fact-driven and more agenda-driven, given that neither of the two appear to have much knowledge, insight or understanding of the work Mr. Laxalt was involved in while deployed in Iraq. Perhaps as disturbing was the array of information available through a quick internet search which would have garnered a thorough and complete description and account of detainee operations in Iraq in several distinguished articles ranging from a comprehensive Rand Corporation research and analysis into detainee operations to Justice Roberts' U.S. Supreme Court decision in Munaf v. Geren.

Why would we suggest their commentary was agenda driven? Gentry publicly suggested Laxalt was in Baghdad, Iraq not to help detain and prosecute terrorists, but to “tuck them into bed.” Ralston shamelessly reinforced these offensive comments, even going further, suggesting there is “no evidence” Task Force 134 helped to put away terrorists. These attacks are false, malicious, and dishonor not only Mr. Laxalt, but the multitude of American servicemen and servicewomen who conducted this critical work under trying circumstances to keep Americans safe.

Task Force 134 served a critically important and necessary mission in the greater operational scope of the Iraqi campaign and surge of operations which occurred in the opening months of 2007. Simply stated, this unit was responsible for the safe and secure detention of tens of thousands of insurgents and terrorists in Iraq. Indeed, this Task Force held some of the worst terrorists the world has ever known. One critical function of this unit was to provide and manage the legal infrastructure which insured detainees seized on the battlefield were afforded internationally recognized due process as well as periodic review of their detention status in accordance with international law and domestic policy. As an extension of this detention, Task Force 134 assisted in the prosecution of these detainees suspected of committing terrorist attacks in violation of Iraqi law in the Central Criminal Court of Iraq. Task Force 134 attorneys and investigators assembled evidence, interviewed witnesses, compiled sworn testimony, obtained forensic evidence and presented witnesses to the Central Criminal Court of Iraq. In layman's terms, Task Force 134's entire mission was centered around assisting in the detention and prosecution of terrorists.

In his service at Task Force 134, Adam was, among his other assignments, the Officer-in Charge of the Legal Headquarters Unit. As such, in this capacity, he was directly and intimately involved in every conceivable facet of Task Force legal operations throughout Iraq including those operations devoted to shepherding criminal cases into and through the Iraq criminal system.

Adam, as well as his fellow servicemen and servicewomen in Task Force 134, faced an exceedingly complex and unique legal environment that few individuals or lawyers in the world have ever faced. The work Adam Laxalt accomplished throughout his tour in Iraq is actually understated. The accomplishments of Task Force 134 are truly unprecedented in the history of modern warfare and the lessons learned from this unit has likely "re-written the book" on similar operations in future conflicts. The men and women of Task Force 134 succeeded and our nation, the new Iraqi government and the Iraqi people are better for it. During his tenure in Iraq, Adam Laxalt was an

integral part of that success. It is truly unfortunate that Ralston and Gentry have chosen to try to discredit or trivialize the work that Adam and those that served with Task Force 134 accomplished in Iraq.

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