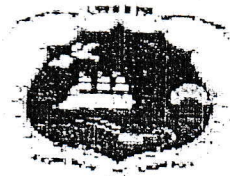


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ARMED FORCES TRAINING COMMAND

ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA
CAMP SANDEE WARE
CAREYSBURG, MONTSERRADO COUNTY



HQ/ AFTC/16/A

HQ AFTC

14 Sep 11

HEALTH AND RELATED ISSUES ORIGINATING FROM THE GRENADE
BLAST ON 13 MAY 2009 IN WHICH I SUSTAINED INJURIES WHILE SAVING
THE LIFE OF A COMRADE SOLDIER DURING THE CLASS 06 TRAINING
AT THE ARMED FORCES TRAINING COMMAND.

1. I write to inform you about some issues and concerns regarding my health since the 13 May 2009 Grenade blast in which I sustained injuries while saving the life of a recruit during training of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) Recruit Class 06 at the Armed Forces Training Command (AFTC).
2. It can be recalled that on that fatal day, in my desperate move to save the life of a Recruit from a very close range grenade blast, I sustained several fragments in my left foot and other parts of my body. Through the grace of God, the Recruit survived the blast un-harmed while I sustained series of the grenade fragments two of which are still in my left foot pending surgical operation. As I speak, these fragments are not only posing a serious threat to my overall health but more importantly have the propensity to undermine my entire well cherished military career if not removed from my body.
3. As a result of the injuries sustained while in a hot pursuit of saving the life of the AFL recruit, a request to facilitate a surgical operation for the removal of the fragments from my foot was forwarded to HQ AFL through former AFTC Commandants along with an X-ray of the affected foot for consideration and further action. Since the submission of that request and X-Ray, nothing was heard from HQ AFL and I continue to painfully carry the blast fragments in my foot. A recent X-Ray is enclosed herein for your perusal.
4. What is really bothering me now is that since that fatal incident, I have been treating myself from my monthly meager salary with the assistance of only my wife who continue to support my treatment at both E.L.W.A and Catholic Hospitals, respectively. Besides, I am yet to receive the Citation and Medal of Bravery bestowed upon me by

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Her Excellency, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia and Commander-in-Chief of the AFL during the 2010 Armed Forces Day celebrations at BTC for saving the life of a recruit in line of duty.

5. In view of the foregoing, I request that HQ AFL and the Ministry of National Defense facilitate my surgical operation to have the fragments removed from my body at any reputable Medical Center either in Liberia or within the West African region in order to enable me healthily continue my service to the State as a career soldier. I also request that HQ AFL/MoD facilitate the receipt of the Medal of Bravery and its attending Citation conferred upon me by the President and Commander-in-Chief, AFL during the 2010 Armed Forces Day celebrations to serve as a motivation for other soldiers as we collectively forge ahead in transforming the AFL into a robust "Force for Good".

6. This is respectfully forwarded for your official consideration and action, Sir



M K TOLBERT
SSG
Senior Drill Sergeant

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