

## The Railroading of Col. Lakin

Lt. Col. Terrence Lakin has been sentenced to six months in a military prison and dismissal from the Army. What a waste of an obviously good doctor. Good flight surgeons are hard to find and very expensive to make. Why throw him away?

I suspect that somewhere early in this saga, the Colonel got some bad advice. His civilian counsel should have figured out early on that considering how much money President Obama has already spent making sure his legend stays intact, that as Command-in-Chief there was no way that his legend would be allowed to be breached in the military justice system. I suspect a good military Area Defense Counsel would have told Col. Lakin that. Even his civilian lawyer should have realized when the judge disallowed discovery that the game was over.

At that point the Colonel should have gone to the Convening Authority and fallen on his sword to save his career. He might have gotten away with a Letter of Reprimand, a career killer, but been allowed to stay in the service and continue to fix broken soldiers. Now that the Army has spent all of the time and money on the trial, it is doubtful that a deal could be made. It is still worth a try. I suspect at this point all the Army wants is for this whole thing to quietly go away. It could have, and should have, been made to go away a lot sooner and for a lot less cost to the Army.

I would hope that the Convening Authority will take a good look at Col. Lakin's record and decide to keep him in the service. Or that one of the reviewing authorities would commute his sentence so that he can retire with whatever honor he can recover.

As for the "birther" community. F\*\*\* You. No, I don't believe that Obama is a "natural born" citizen and quite possibly not even a citizen by his own admissions. Col. Lakin obviously doesn't either. But to believe for a minute that sacrificing this officer will add more than a minute voice to your chorus is gross stupidity and the sacrifice of a person the Army can hardly afford to lose. Flight Surgeons do not grow on trees. They are expensive to make and more expensive to keep. Having been on flying status myself, I realize personally the value of this officer. Obviously you didn't. Screw you.