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May 23, 2007

CAPLAN CARES FOR VETS

Caplan Communications is handling the Congressional May 24 appearance of Tammie LeCompte, wife of U.S. Army specialist Ryan LeCompte, in its probe into the military's treatment of soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with post-traumatic stress disorder.

LeCompte, a seven-year Army veteran with two tours of Iraq under his belt, returned from combat from what his doctors diagnosed as PTSD. Symptoms include nose bleeds, vomiting, memory loss, disorientation, panic attacks and avoidance of social contract.

A military therapist suggested his disorders stemmed from an American-Indian "tendency toward alcoholism," according to a May 16 letter by the Native American Rights Fund that was sent to Sen. Carl Levin, chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Rep Ike Skelton, head of the House Armed Services Committee.

The Pentagon plans to give LeCompte a dishonorable discharge since he can no longer function. That would strip him of healthcare and veterans benefits.

Caplan reps Veterans for America, which has taken up LeCompte's cause. VFA recently led a Congressional delegate to Ft. Carson, Col., medical facility that provides psychiatric care to soldiers.

VFA, the former Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, played a major role in publicizing the poor conditions of the Walter Reed Medical Center.

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