



Veteran Sisters  
We are your Battle Buddy

(951)305-3244  
30141 Antelope Rd. Ste. D674  
Menifee, Ca 92584  
[www.veteransisters.org](http://www.veteransisters.org)

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Injustice in Nevada: National Guard Soldier Dies After Retaliation for Reporting Military Sexual Trauma**

The untimely death of Sgt 1st Class Allison Bailey, a respected leader in the Nevada National Guard, has unveiled corruption and deep-seated issues within the military justice system. After reporting military sexual trauma (MST), Bailey encountered a series of retaliatory measures that ultimately led to her tragic death.

**Bailey's Ordeal: Unrelenting Retaliation and Humiliation**

In May 2020, Bailey attended a unit social event where she was sexually assaulted by a subordinate soldier. Unsure of what to do, she consulted a superior officer who advised her to confront her attacker during the next drill weekend. When Bailey attempted to do so, the soldier became enraged and hysterical and was sent home early.

Despite following protocol, Bailey's situation only worsened. Her commanding officer, Maj. Laurie Macafee, repeatedly ordered her to be alone with her attacker and serve as his performance evaluator, disregarding the ethical and legal issues surrounding such an arrangement.

Bailey's health began to suffer as a result of the retaliation, leading her Army physician to recommend a Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) to assess her ability to continue serving in the military.

**Fighting for Justice: Filing a Formal Report and Inspector General Complaint**

Determined not to let the next service member endure the same retaliation she did, Bailey filed a formal unrestricted sexual assault report and an Inspector General (IG) complaint in October 2020. She had exhausted all other options for support against her chain of command, which subjected her to relentless reprisal, a toxic work environment, and severe damage to her health.

Bailey hoped that the IG investigation would ultimately "fix it" and that by moving forward with a schedule transfer to a new command, she could escape the hostile conditions and return to some semblance of normality.

(cont'd next page 1/4)



Veteran Sisters  
We are your Battle Buddy

(951)305-3244  
30141 Antelope Rd. Ste. D674  
Menifee, Ca 92584  
[www.veteransisters.org](http://www.veteransisters.org)

Instead, the Nevada National Guard charged Bailey with multiple alleged and unsubstantiated violations of Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. These included having a sexual relationship with her rapist (who was never charged), coercing subordinates to sleep in her bed, engaging in sexually explicit conversations with junior soldiers, falsifying documents, and making false official statements.

Bailey was also issued a military protection order forbidding her to make contact with the soldier she accused of rape after he filed a sexual harassment complaint against her.

### **A Tainted Investigation and Unjust Conviction**

Bailey's defense counsel, Army Judge Advocate Capt. Christopher Tinsman, requested a new Investigating Officer (IO) after discovering that Capt. Michelle Tucay, the assigned IO, had a personal relationship with the soldier accused of raping Bailey. Tucay also had close friendships with many of the soldiers she interviewed during her investigation. Interviews and sworn statements from Bailey's supporters were not included in the final investigative report. However, the request was denied, and Bailey was found guilty of all charges.

The National Guard illegally demoted Bailey from an E7 to an E1, informed her she would receive a bad conduct discharge, and lose all earned benefits. Her IG complaint and request to proceed with an MEB were also denied. The IG investigation, conducted by an officer with a close friendship with the soldier accused of raping Bailey, concluded that Bailey had no grounds for an IG complaint.

Capt. Tinsman submitted an impassioned eleven-page appeal and included the previously ignored sworn statements on Bailey's behalf to the Nevada National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry, urging him to address the numerous constitutional, legal, and factual issues with the case. Tinsman also noted a disturbing trend regarding the treatment of sexual assault survivors in the Nevada National Guard and the gross mishandling of Bailey's case.

Bailey's appeal was never acknowledged by Berry or the Nevada National Guard, although her discharge date was moved back 30 days to Jan 15, 2023.

Tinsman resigned his commission to protest the illegal and unethical actions taken against his client.

(cont'd next page 2/4)



Veteran Sisters  
We are your Battle Buddy

(951)305-3244  
30141 Antelope Rd. Ste. D674  
Menifee, Ca 92584  
[www.veteransisters.org](http://www.veteransisters.org)

---

## The Aftermath

Despite not issuing Bailey a DD214, the National Guard cut off her medical care without notice. Unlike many reservists, Bailey did not have health insurance through a civilian employer because she had spent more than 10 years on active-duty orders and depended on that healthcare to manage her serious illnesses. Bailey suffered from seizures, severe anxiety and depression, pancreatitis, malnutrition from pancreatitis, pancreatic mass, and a blood clotting disorder and daily medication.

Running out of medication and unable to get medical care through Nevada's Medicaid program or the VA without a DD214, Bailey contacted multiple government agencies for assistance. Each agency told Bailey she was not eligible for their assistance.

Bailey contacted Veteran Sisters on the advice of another Veteran in early Feb. She only had a week's worth of medication left and was terrified that she would die before she was cleared of wrong-doing and had access to medical care again.

"My sons deserve to grow up knowing their mom was a good leader. I earned my rank. I am a Sgt 1st Class," Bailey told Veteran Sisters' Vice President Sandy Duchac during their first conversation. "I did not let them bully me into removing my stripes from my uniform. Everything that has happened was against the law, but no one will do anything about it."

Duchac, who leads Veteran Sisters advocacy initiatives, began working with Bailey to obtain a copy of her DD214, help her find medical care, restore her rank and reputation, and ensure her report of MST is properly investigated.

Bailey died before she got justice.

Bailey's young sons found her lying on the floor in terrible pain and witnessed their mother refusing to go to the hospital because she had no medical insurance or employment and feared she could not afford to incur any debt. Against her wishes, family members took her to an area hospital where she was admitted into the ICU. Bailey succumbed to her illnesses two days later and died Saturday evening, Mar. 4, 2023.

"Bailey's death does not end our obligation to her," said Duchac. "Veteran Sisters will not stop until the corruption within the Nevada National Guard is exposed and Sgt 1st Class Allison Bailey is exonerated, and her rapist and everyone who failed her is held accountable."

(cont'd next page 3/4)



Veteran Sisters  
We are your Battle Buddy

(951)305-3244  
30141 Antelope Rd. Ste. D674  
Menifee, Ca 92584  
[www.veteransisters.org](http://www.veteransisters.org)

Bailey's mother, Felicia Cavanagh, an Air Force Veteran, signed a special waiver to allow her to enlist at 17. "I entrusted the Guard with my baby," she wrote in an email to Berry, asking him to conduct a complete review after she received her daughter's DD214 with a bad conduct discharge.

As the days stretched by and Cavanagh continued to receive no response from Berry, she sent additional pleas for his intervention. "I will not stop pursuing the truth until we discover it. I will not stop until my daughter is restored to her rank of E7, her rank at the time she filed an IG complaint and sexual assault complaint," she wrote. "I can't stop because I would like to believe that a full investigation will result in the proper action; and that perhaps this will help another soldier not go through what my daughter did. As my daughter went through this nightmare, she told me many times that she hoped that her fight would make a difference to another soldier. In her journal I found her "dream/wish list" for future jobs beyond the military; she wrote that she wanted to be a sexual assault victims advocate. Only someone who was sexually assaulted would make that a goal."

Only after she posted her promise to seek justice for her daughter on social media did she receive a call from Berry. The general's lackluster response to Cavanagh's request for assistance on her daughter's behalf, left her with more questions than answers. She refuses to let it deter her, though. "I will fight for her. I will be her voice," Cavanagh said. "Allison refused to quit for her children, but also for her fellow soldiers, so there is no stopping until we have the answers."

The story of Allison Bailey is emblematic of the systemic corruption within the Nevada National Guard and the military justice system at large. In her memory, Veteran Sisters continues to advocate for female veterans and soldiers, ensuring that their stories are heard and that those responsible for corruption and abuse are held accountable. The organization is tirelessly pushing for reforms in the military justice system to better protect survivors of MST and to prevent further injustices.

Drop Box Link to access copies of Bailey's separation board memo, appeal and photo:  
[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/a6htfd9laf5shhy/AAA\\_8Riy4bOeFHrn21\\_piR-la?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/a6htfd9laf5shhy/AAA_8Riy4bOeFHrn21_piR-la?dl=0)

**For more information, please contact Sandy Duchac at 442-777-2068 or [sandy.duchac@veteransisters.org](mailto:sandy.duchac@veteransisters.org).**