Wounded soldiers looking for fair treatment

Kevin Maurer
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) — Soldiers recovering in special Army medical units have faced inconsistent discipline because the military hasn't adopted standards for how they and their commanders should act, according to a military review.

The report obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press said the units, which include the Warrior Transition Unit, need better training and should do a better job of communicating with the almost 9,000 wounded and ill soldiers in the Warrior Transition system.

The general who ordered the report said Wednesday that the review will only improve the units.

"The Army has a tremendous program for taking care of our wounded, ill and injured soldiers, but it is not a perfect program," said Brig. Gen. Gary Check, commander of the Warrior Transition Command. "We have to do our best for each and every one of them."

The review was ordered in March after The AP reported on soldier complaints that officers were indifferent to their medical needs and punished them for the very injuries that landed them in the unit.

The lack of policy specifically regulating Army expectations of Warriors in Transition contributes to misperceptions among soldiers and leaders and leads to inconsistent application of Army regulations and discipline," reads an executive summary of the report by the Army Surgeon General, which reviewed all discipline taken against soldiers in Warrior Transition units.

The 34 Warrior Transition units were set up two years ago to help soldiers navigate the medical system and monitor their progress and treatment following the scandal over shoddy conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

Army officials said Wednesday they've clarified expectations since the review was completed in May, but stressed that a new standard was not created.

"This policy is basically a re-communication of things that apply to all soldiers with the added uniqueness of the WTU's situa­tion," said Robert Moore, spokesman for the Warrior Transition Command.

The May report by the Army Surgeon General said that overall it appeared injuries weren't being overlooked in disciplinary matters at the units.

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The Army's discipline policy for wounded soldiers will become more consistent after complaints that officers were indifferent to medical conditions.
Facebook
continued from page 1

"For instance, when my student's paper is late, should I be able to go on Facebook and read that she is down in Santa Barbara at the beach all weekend?" Becker said. "While I assume that most student-professor interactions on Facebook are rather benign, the potential is there for boundaries to be crossed in ways that are problematic."

Like Becker, Katy Neidhardt, a psychology and child development professor, has no student Facebook friends because she wants to restrict her involvement in her students' personal lives. "I believe there should still be limits to the relationship. I don't want to be thought of as their buddy; I want to be thought of as their professor who they feel comfortable talking to, but not about the killer party they went to over the weekend," she said.

Viewing students' profiles could let professors see on personal information, which Waldorf agreed could lead to student bias. "My opinion of a student has been affected by their Facebook content. Just as it would be if I learned any number of things about someone through other means. Of course, I try hard not to let that affect the fair treatment and professors on Facebook."

"I wouldn't want to be friends with professors on Facebook. There should definitely be a line between professional life and your social life," she said.

Nutrition senior Anita Roberts has a Facebook profile with one professor on Facebook who friends-requested her. "It was an etiquette class professor. The whole environment of that class was different though because everyone is getting to know each other through the speeches," Roberts said. "I checked to make sure that he had requested friends from all the other students in my class and he had, so I accepted it. I thought it was weird. Everyone was writing on his wall and stuff."

Although Sheza and Hunstad are not friends with any professors on Facebook, they admit that there are some professors that they would be more inclined to become Facebook friends with than others, she said. "I think the younger the professor is, the more you can relate to them and the less awkward it would be if you were to become friends with Facebook. The older the professor, you just would have to wonder, 'Why are they friend- ing me?" whereas with a younger teacher it would seem less weird," Sheza said.

Hunstad feels that professors who are more friendly in class that would be more inclined to be friends with Facebook.

"It would depend a lot on the way they are in class. Some teachers you're just more comfortable around. It's the ones that are not really that friendly in class that would be more weird," Hunstad said.

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SOLDIER

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told the Secretary of the Army earlier this year that they feel forgotten by the military and that combat duty would be better than the treatment they give now, according to a memo obtained by The Associated Press.

The Surgeon General's report suggested ways to improve communication between commanders and soldiers.

"Commanders at all levels must establish routine interaction and personal meetings with either individual soldiers, or small groups of soldiers to establish confidence that the chain of command is accessible, responsive and compassionate," the report concluded.

Most of the units are spread out in different buildings. The Army is spending close to a billion dollars to build wounded warrior complexes at 20 sites, including Fort Bragg, to help centralize things and improve communication, Cheek said.

"We are working on how critical it is to build those relationships if we really want to do this mission correctly," the general said.

The review also recommend an additional training program for company commanders and First Sergeants. It wants to better prepare them for command. Check said companies had been meeting with their troops, one-on-one, to build a relationship.

"The chain of command has got to be accessible, responsive, and compassionate," Cheek said. Some improvements are already underway. Lt. Col. Terry McDowell, who took command in April of Fort Bragg's Warrior Transition Battalion, said incoming soldiers now have a timeline and a set of goals. It keeps the wounded soldiers motivated and allows doctors to set a target date to move them out of the unit.

Squad leaders, case managers and staff now also complete a two-week course that teaches them how to deal with medical issues like traumatic brain injuries and post traumatic stress disorder. It also explains the mission of the warrior transition unit and how it fits in. "When dealing with WT issues, you need to have multiple tools in your kit to know when to put your arm around the soldier and prop them up and when to call them in and drive them on with their mission," said McDowell, 42, from Bonnare, Ga. said in a June interview.

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STARRY

continued from page 1

bought the alcohol. Ibrahim was Starkey's "Big Brother" and reportedly selected the alcohol that he was required to drink for the event.

Ells allegedly told Starkey and 16 other underage pledges to finish the provided alcohol. The pledges were reportedly drinking in a circle surrounding a trash can. They were also given shots of 151-proof Excer.

Police said that when Starkey was found unconscious later in the night, a few members of the fraternity started to drive him to the hospital but turned around after he threw up in the car.

Starkey died the next morning from alcohol poisoning. His blood-alcohol content was between .39 and .45 percent.

Tim Miller and Kate McBeth contributed to this report.

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IRAQ

Iraqi forces recover stolen Picasso

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD (AP) - Special forces have recovered a stolen Picasso and arrested a man planning to sell the painting during a raid of his house in southern Iraq, Iraqi police said Wednesday.

The painting, "The Naked Woman," apparently had been among the artwork looted from Kuwait during Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion, said police spokesman Maj. Mustapha Khalid.

It was seized Tuesday during a raid on the house belonging to the suspect near the main Shiite city of Hillah, about 60 miles (95 kilometers) south of Baghdad.

Khalid said the man was trying to sell the painting for $40,000, but some Iraqi experts who saw the painting said it was worth $80 million.

The painting, which was signed by Pablo Picasso and bore inscriptions from "The Museum of Kuwait" was being held - evidence while the suspect was interrogated, Khalid said. It appeared to have been held for several years by an Iraqi who bought the painting that was released.

Guns and artwork from the nation's looted palaces, Saddam's mansions and its national museums were handed back to Iraq after the fall of Iraq in 2003.
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trial of a Los Angeles couple accused of bribery by Thai officials to run the Bangkok International Film Festival.

Opening statements are expected to begin Wednesday afternoon. Gerald and Patricia Green have pleaded not guilty to charges that accuse them of paying $1.8 million in bribes to Thai officials so they would be awarded lucrative business contracts. In return, prosecutors say the couple earned $14 million.

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The nation's second-largest city cut water use by an overall 17 percent in July compared to a year earlier, officials said Wednesday. Sophorn Southern California is facing a water shortage and the city of Los Angeles made broad appeals for conservation, imposed restrictions on landscape irrigation, raised rates and fielded inspectors to look for violators and fine houses.

The Department of Water and Power said single-family homes cut water use nearly 21 percent, multifamily properties cut use more than 8 percent, businesses cut usage more than 22 percent and government properties reduced usage more than 34 percent.

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Low participation is projected for one of the county’s largest arts events — just one sign that the local art community is hurting in the economic downturn.

According to Alissa Maddren, the program director for ARTS Obispo — known formally as the San Luis Obispo Arts Council — involvement for their largest exhibition, Open Studio, is down 20 percent.

"For us, that’s a sign that it’s tougher than usual," Maddren said.

Open Studio showcased 280 local artists last October, but this year, only 224 have signed up to join the exhibition.

And ARTS Obispo isn’t alone. The impact on the local art community is two-fold: People have stopped buying art and local funds are being cut.

On the municipal level, art funding has dropped. In 1999, the city adopted a public art policy that requires every business to give 1 percent of its development toward funding public art in San Luis Obispo. At the start of the economic decline in January 2009, the city cut that to .5 percent.

Because of the decrease, ARTS Obispo had to get rid of its membership fee and end its grant program.

She said that the drop in funds impacts the local artists ARTS Obispo helps with grants and other financial assistance.
"It really trickles down because we can't provide much infrastructure," Maddren said. "If funding and sales don't improve, many local art organizations will cease to exist.

"It needs to turn around soon because we're on a shoestring and we can only survive so long," she said.

Elsewhere in the county, Morro Bay Art Association is just one example of a gallery forced to close doors one extra day a week starting in October, said Cathy Olson, the gallery director.

"We felt a big decline in visitors spending money," Olson said. "I do feel that in general that's turning around. We're starting to see more sales.

The Morro Bay gallery re-opened to five days a week starting July 1, and Olson said they've already seen the number of visitors return to pre-closure levels.

The strong art culture on the Central Coast helps keep Morro Bay's art culture alive, Olson said.

On three big holiday weekends throughout the year, the association holds an Art in the Park event, that draws thousands from around the state and keeps its finances out of the red.

Although economic woes may be lessening at some galleries, individual artists are slower to get back on track.

Olson herself is a watercolor painter who went on an artistic hiatus in March.

"I'm not buying another canvas," she said. "If nothing is selling, why keep producing?"

When her term as gallery director is over in the fall, Olson said she might consider painting again.

Instead of taking a break from art, Sarah Afana, a Paso Robles painter and jeweler took her work to a worldwide audience through the Web.

"I'm really embracing the online thing," Afana said. "I'm trying to put my work out there so as many people see it as possible."

Last August, Afana started a Web site portfolio that features her latest work. Around the same time, she started blogging about her experiences and creative process.

But her real success in the online world came with the use of Etsy — an online network and e-commerce option for independence artists.

"I get about 100 hits a day, which is really happy with," Afana said. The largest source of traffic to her Etsy store comes directly from Twitter, which Afana joined in March.

When Afana isn't tweeting and painting, she works a day job at Frame Works, a frame shop in Paso Robles, where she's also seen the impact of the economy on art. 

"Frame shops are not going well," she said. "They're closing all through the state."

In a less tech-driven effort to compensate for a slow economy, full-time painter Patt Robbins, has been more economical about how she approaches her work.

"I'm not going to lower my prices," Robbins said. "No artist should do that, but I am offering smaller canvases."

The decision to ditch her 40-by-40 inch canvases is a precaution heading into October's Open Studios exhibition.

"I am assuming people will be careful with their money," Robbins said. She's also being more resourceful with her painting materials and using older canvases from her storage instead of buying new ones. Although her sales are down this year, she said it could be worse.

"Last year I thought would be my worst year and it was financially successful," Robbins said. "A year later it all may change."

But she hasn't let it get her down. "When you're an artist, you're compelled, no matter the circumstances," Robbins said. "I don't paint to sell. I paint because I love it."

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"Ugly ducklings" unhappy with their appearance should consider options

Are the ugly ducklings forever destined to remain alone? A 2004 study by Exeter University developmental psychologist Alan Slater revealed that contrary to the popular adage "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder," objective standards do exist.

Slater found that newborn infants spent more time looking at photographs of people with attractive faces than of people with average faces.

"Babies are born with a detailed representation of the face that allows them to detect and recognize faces," Dr. Slater said in New Scientist.

"So attractiveness is not simply in the eye of the beholder, it's in the brain of the newborn. Infant right from the moment of birth and possibly before birth.

Three researchers from Northwestern University and Smith College, wrote in "The Political Gender Gap: Gender Bias in Facial Inferences That Predict Voting Behavior" that our preferences might be ingrained because of our evolutionary history and expectations imposed by society.

They found that we naturally associate certain facial features with attractiveness, dominance and affiliation or approachability. For example, "facial attractiveness in females has been associated with higher estrogen levels," meaning a woman with a beautiful face is more likely to produce offspring.

We also find some facial features more attractive due to expectations imposed by society, according to their research. For instance, they write that females are considered more attractive when their faces have "baby-faced" features like small chins or thin eyebrows because society has labeled women as less physically strong and assertive than men. When they have thick eyebrows, square faces and large chins.

So should people without the so-called desired facial features deal with it? Do you play the hand you're dealt, or do you ask for a reshuffle?

In a study by an University of Buffalo professor had 135 college students turn in essays about a comment someone made that stuck with them.

The essays about negative comments, were mostly related to physical appearance. The authors expected to be rejected based on their appearances.

Many were interested in cosmetic surgery.

Over 10.2 million cosmetic procedures were performed in the United States in 2004, according to the American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.

Besides, the most popular overall with 2,464,123 procedures.

Cosmetic procedures performed in 2004 were for patients between the ages of 19 and 34.

Maybe cosmetic surgery is drastic and maybe you should work with what you've got. But I'm not going to blame someone for showering their cash down on the table and demanding a better hand.

Katie McIntyre is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily reporter.

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"I'm not entirely convinced that Cal Poly has changed that much since Stephen Hinkle faced a 7 hour long, judicial hearing for putting a flyer in the student cultural center in the UU. Just two years ago, Smiltte and Nol had their shows canceled for the greater part of a quarter because they had a picture of a girl laughing that might have been mistaken for an antebraed minstrel show.

The lies that the university spread around the 'crops house' incident show that the university isn't above lying and breaking the law to preserve its image. Combined, these two factors have a chilling effect on all others who might want to speak on truly controversial issues. Which is the reason I am posting this anonymously."

---Anonymous
Response to "BLOG: Magazine evaluates Cal Poly's diversity"

"I was completely unaware of the referendum attempt in 2004. The fact that it got voted down should have shown the University Union Advisory Board that the students aren't interested in the new UU plaza. Also, it didn't. Perhaps we should enact some reforms to increase the percentage of student elections.

Whatever the explanation for student elections is now handled completely electronically, thus adding initiative to the student body. In some cases student elections are now handled completely electronically, thus adding initiative to the student body.

Most of the students in the UU Union have been ignored and their voices are no longer heard. It is time for the students of the UU Union to get involved and take back control of our student government."

---Andrew Musselman
Response to "Deficit delays construction"

"The point of going to school is not just to find a job. It's to become educated... (Jobless graduates that demand money) are pathetic whiners who need to grow up and stop thinking they are entitled to everything. At least she has a college degree. It is not the college's job to ensure that she gets a job. If she isn't the one who wants work that isn't the college's fault, since a lot of it is personality as well."

---Mf
Response to "BLOG: Money backs guarantee for policy grads"

NOTE: The Mustang Daily features select comments that are relevant in response to articles posted online. Though not all the responses are posted, the Mustang Daily values comments that are coherent and focus on intelligent discussion on a given subject.

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November 27, 2009
The Mustangs return just two

Mustangs open season at Asics Classic Friday

Mustang Daily

Jim Litke
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones had 75,000 paying guests and a few dozen freeloaders over to his new house the other night to watch football. Punters for the visiting Tennessee Titans immediately showed their gratitude by using his $20 million TV set for urgent problems.

"That thing" is the 1.2-million pound, four-sided video board hanging from the rafters exactly 90 feet above the field in the new Cowboys Stadium, the centerpiece of Jones' $1.2 billion enterprise as owner of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys, which is set to open its doors to the public for the first time. The "Geek Squad" will be thinking about it.

It's been almost 15 years since Jones' last serious run-in with his NFL brethren, so maybe he needs a minute. The problem with building an empire is that sooner or later, you run into someone else's.

"The last time, Jones was upset that he had to throw a challenge flag after backup Titans punter A.J. Trapasso hit the scoreboard with 8:07 left in the game; unless the NFL changes the rule, you can change the channel with one-quarter of the league's $3 billion annual licensing sales — divided equally among the teams — and cut the Cowboys out of the game; unless the NFL changes the rule, you can change the channel with one-quarter of the league's $3 billion annual licensing sales — divided equally among the teams — and cut the Cowboys out of the game.

"That's why it's not necessarily their mission to be thinking about it. It's an issue," said Tennessee coach Jeff Fisher, who also serves as co-chair of the league's competition committee, which could order Jones to raise the video board. "Something has to be done, but it's not necessarily their responsibility," Fisher continued. "Once a fair catch signal is given, there are no eyes on the ball anymore. So they don't see it. It can become a problem.

Even though the video board will have to be raised when 12 plays in Cowboys Stadium on Oct. 12 — the ball's stage gimmick includes something called "The Cyclone" which is 164 feet high — Jones insisted he won't budge when it comes to football.

"You don't need to move it. You gotta be trying to do it," he said about punters hitting the TV. "The rule is very clear. You just kick it off."

Yet the clock wasn't reset after Trapasso kicked a punt off the underside of the goal post; in the game; unless the NFL changes the rule, and fast, a team could run out of time off the clock simply by pangling the ball off the video board as often it likes.

"It does not matter where you kick it from, it is just right there in the middle of the field," Trapasso said. "It's always something that you're going to be thinking about."

Jones is deservedly proud of his new emporium, which opened to rave reviews. Some fans will find $60 pizzas hard to swallow. And those sitting in the last row might not be thrilled that after shelling out $20,000 or more for seat licenses — plus $170 for each home match until Sept. 18, when Cal Poly kicks off the Mission Inn of Pismo Beach Invitational against Seattle.

Punters change channel on Jones' $40 million TV