



CLIP TRANSCRIPT

David Brant- Mora Put His Career on the Line

And at some point I got information again via the same, um, channel – uh, people in Gitmo to, uh, Mark Fallon to Ralph Blincoe to Mike Gelles, um, that there may have been some physical, um, hitting, slapping, um, some level of physical abuse that has occurred. And at that point, literally, with probably not much more than that, and not a lot of specifics, I went to see Alberto Mora, who was the general counsel of the Navy at the time – and that...that is the lead lawyer for the Department of the Navy.

And I believe my first meeting with him, it was probably Mike Gelles and myself who sat down with him, and said look I don't, um...I haven't gone much farther than what I've heard, which may be second hand, may be not. But I'm telling you up front, I'm going to pull NCIS people out, and I'm going to do it unilaterally. So if I can't bring this to rest immediately, then I'll just pull our people out. It's...again, it's sort of a black and white thing for me. I don't need to think about it. I don't need to justify it. I'm just going to do it. So I—he's my boss, he represents the secretary—I said look I don't...um, didn't even ask his opinion at that point, didn't ask for his approval.

And honestly I'd worked with him closely and knew him well and respected him, but now we're getting into politically sensitive area and I'm not sure exactly what his reaction's going to be. And I'll always have the highest respect for Alberto and highest regard because he immediately...immediately, without hesitation, without questioning, without well I don't know, in essence, said do what you got to do, because this is absolutely unacceptable.

He had an incredibly aggressive, this is unacceptable, it goes against our basic premise as a country, our moral standing, our moral fiber, um, and honestly just went to his chain of command immediately. As I said earlier, I have great respect for him because, candidly, um, practically he just put his career on the line because it was an incredibly sensitive topic. It was vague enough in the world at that time as to who was doing what and who had responsibilities and what was going on, that even from a...you know, a backseat perspective, I could see that this issue that he had...had taken on, put him—and was going to put him—right in the middle of a very, very, um, volatile scenario.