

June 26, 2009

LTG Charles H. Jacoby, Jr.
c/o I Corps & Fort Lewis PAO

Dear LTG Jacoby:

I am writing to you on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 2 million members and supporters to alert you to a serious allegation of animal cruelty we just received today from an Army medic at Fort Lewis. We request that you launch an investigation into this matter immediately and serve all responsible parties with the maximum penalty permissible, and also end all trauma training exercises on animals and replace them with non-animal methods.

The whistleblower informed us that yesterday, June 25, s/he was required to participate in a trauma training exercise on approximately 40 live goats, in which the animals suffered venous cutdowns and hemorrhaged arteries on all of their limbs, holes cut in their chests to induce pneumothorax, emergency airway punctures (cricothyrotomy), and broken ribs to expose their beating hearts. Soldiers then administered a chemical to induce cardiac arrest in the animals.

Equally troubling is the whistleblower's shocking statement that animals were being placed in sealed trash bags even though they were still breathing. If this is accurate, Fort Lewis' trauma training exercise may be in violation of Department of Defense animal care regulations, Washington state's animal cruelty statute, and humane euthanasia professional veterinary standards.

The whistleblower stated that Fort Lewis will use approximately 40 goats in another trauma training exercise today, June 26, and 40 goats during a July 2 trauma training exercise, and 40 more goats on a July 3 trauma training exercise.

There are many effective non-animal trauma training methods available, including rotations in civilian trauma centers, the Combat Trauma Patient Simulation System used in several military facilities, the TraumaMan system that is approved by the American College of Surgeons as a replacement for the use of animals in Advanced Trauma Life Support courses, and Dr. Emad Aboud's "living" cadaver model.

Our request to replace trauma exercises on animals with non-animal methods has received written support from Harvard Medical School simulation expert Dr. John Pawlowski, decorated Operation Iraqi Freedom trauma surgeon and medical general counsel for the Iraq War Veterans Organization Dr. Michael Murphy, and the American Medical Student Association, among others. Neither the Air Force Expeditionary Medical Skills Institute's Center for Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills nor the Naval Trauma Training Center use animals for trauma training—proof that animals are not needed in order to teach trauma treatment skills.

You may contact me directly by e-mail at [REDACTED] or by telephone at [REDACTED]. I look forward to your swift response. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Shalin G. Gala, Laboratory Methods Specialist
Laboratory Investigations Department