

*Dear Brigadier McDade,*

*Before you decided to provide your political masters with the result that they wanted, did you bother to stop and think just how your decision would affect the morale of the troops in the field?.*

*Did you stop and think that our troops, already fighting with one hand tied behind their backs are now going to be subjected to second guessing by generals such as yourself, and other senior officers such as Colonel Kelly, another legal officer with absolutely zero understanding of the pressures our troops are confronting in this 'political war'.*

*With respect, you are incapable of rendering sound judgment in this case. What right do you have, having never been within a thousand miles of an operational zone to even begin to understand just what pressures these troops are under; to awake after a disturbed sleep broken by the constant barrage of enemy fire designed for one purpose...to kill you and deprive your wife of a husband and your children of a father.*

*Emotional? Yes! Something which you have shown yourself incapable of displaying.*

*When you have been subjected to the reality of being assigned either to stop lead or cause someone else to stop lead, concomitantly whilst your spouse lies sleepless at night worrying whether she, her children and, as we now know, her unborn child, will ever see her husband again, then you will have the morale right to pass judgment on those who are doing just that.*

*You have acted in a totally un-Australian manner. You are not a soldier! You are a civilian who is wearing a uniform. These decisions should never be left to 'people' of your ilk. They belong in the hands of those who truly understand the demands, both physical and emotional, of operational service. Others may shirk the issue but I won't. You are acting in a cowardly manner, solely in the interests of your political masters. Should another soldier die in Afghanistan, you will have put the round in the chamber. I hope you sleep well tonight. I know for a fact that you will sleep a lot more soundly than our soldiers in operational service and those of their terrified families.*

*The only result you have achieved is to have put the lives of these soldiers immeasurably greater in danger by your decision which is bereft of any empathy or morality.*

*Sincerely*

*SQNLDR (Ret'd) Bill Murray JP TPI*