BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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November 10, 1987

Mr. Archie R. Crain Scout Executive Atlanta Area Council, No. 92

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Leon E. Eaton

Dear Archie:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter. This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director Registration Service

PE/mdw

cc: Southeast Region

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November 3, 1987

Mr. Brad Mesheim Assistant Scout Executive Atlanta Area Council, No. 92

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Brad:

Thank you very much for the statements which you recently sent concerning the above-named individual. This is most helpful to us and certainly does give us the information which we desired.

SUBJUCT: Leon E. Eaton

If any other action or information comes to your attention, please do not hesitate to send it to us. In the meantime, I believe we have all the information we need for refusal of future registration attempts.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director Registration Service

eak

dc: Southeast Region
Archie R. Crain, Scout Executive, Council No. 92



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Date:

28-29 March, 1987

Location:

Hard Labor Creek State Park Near Rutledge, Georgia

Scout Units:

T502-Don Turner, Scoutmaster

P118, Den 1 - Leon Eaton, Webelos Leader

Occasion:

Combined overnighter of the Troop and Webelos Den. Den invited by troops subject to father/son pairing of Webelos. 3 Webelos

attending unaccompanied by a parent at the approval of the Webelos

Leader.

Individuals referred to (other than unit leaders above):

Age 18, former member of T502 and currently Assistant Scoutmaster.

T502 Committee Chairman Age 17, member of T502

Webelos unaccompanied by fathers and occupying the same tent

(first names unknown)

Age 16, T502 Senior Patrol Leader of Scoutmaster

Sequence of events:

1. The day's activities took place without incident except for:

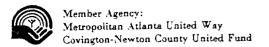
- a) my (regrettably unexpressed) displeasure with the unaccompanied Webelos participating without my prior knowledge and
- b) my expressed reluctance to Mr. Eaton to proceed with a Webelos midnight hike he had planned. He mentioned this several times during the day and, without being argumentative, I pointed out that neither he nor I knew the area well enough to conduct much of a hike at night.

During the day, several of the scouts had questioned Eaton about his Viet Nam experiences. He was wearing a "Nam" bush hat and other military apparel that attracted the older boys. I was surprised at his lack of reluctance to answer any questions the boys asked. (It is my experience that Veterans of that conflict simply don't talk about it except with close friends. I'm an employee of the Forces Command Headquarters at Ft. McPherson, GA. and have been associated with these people here and at 23 Army installations for 11 years.)

2. Just after dark, several older scouts were sitting at a picnic table. I don't know what the discussion was, up to the time of the first incident, but the day and been particularly curious about Viet Nam during the day, and had apparently challenged Eaton to arm wrestle.

I was some distance from the table, but heard Eaton say no one could press his hand to the table and I turned to watch. Let use the ded twice and each time Eaton's wrist bent backwards, unusually, and the same and slipped off.

began laughing loudly, stood up and started letting his own wrist dangle limply in front of him (in a manner the boys use when referring to a homosexual male) and yelling, "He's limp-wristed, he's limp-wristed."



Eaton was seated on the opposite side of the table, but lunged to his feet and grabbed v the shirt. He just as quickly released his grip, stepped away from the table He appeared calm. bench and moved around to the other side towards away from the table into the dim edge Within a short time, he had maneuvered of the lantern-lit area and apparently proceeded to show him some "Nam" tricks. I heard say something similar to "don't show me - just tell me." A couple of other scouts were standing nearby with flashlights and Eaton yelled out "turn out the lights, turn out the lights." Almost immediately he grabbed had him on the ground. I stepped towards them from several feet away and by the time I got close, had an odd expression on his face on his feet and moving away from Eaton. that I thought could have been embarrassment or slight injury. At this point, I attributed the entire incident to horseplay that got a little too rough and thought nothing further about it. moved towards the truck his gear was in and I retreated to my camp site. 3. Shortly thereafter, came to where I was and asked if he could speak to me privately. He then told me that Eaton followed him to his truck and had just stood and watched him as he got his gear ready for bed. He then told me that Eaton had grabbed him in the genital area during the earlier scuffling match. that he might be mistaking what could have been an inadvertent result of scuffling, but he stated that he didn't think so and was concerned about Eaton. I told him I'd keep my eye on Eaton. returned to his truck and prepared for bed. 4. I then watched as approached the truck and sat on the tail-gate. Eaton then approached the rear of the truck and begain talking. I then moved towards them quietly. As I approached, I heard Eaton say "I grab, but I grab and let go real quick. Some grab and don't turn loose." When Eaton noticed me approaching, he immediately changed the subject and said something about "letting the boys crash instead of taking the midnight hike." Eaton, then I, then left the truck area. 5. I walked back into the shadows and just watched truck. He began changing clothes. Eaton again walked back up to the rear of truck. He said "hitting the sack, huh?" and then just stood and watched

Again, I walked up and again Eaton left.

6. Eaton then gathered just the Webelos around a campfire and to the accompaniment of a tape player with eerie organ music told a "ghost story."

The story was about a Scout, "little Johnny," who scared a man's wife so bad she had a heart attack and died. "Little Johnny" was captured by the husband, his hands were cut off, sent to Scout Camp and Johnny was never seen again — except that he comes back to get Scouts who are bad.

The Webelos asked Eaton if it was true, he said it was and, in fact, happened two years before he went to "camp."

- 7. As the Webelos began retiring to their tents, Eaton ran down at least two of the three boys who were unaccompanied by a father. He, "playfully," grabbed them from behind, and tickled them until they bent at the waist. He picked them off the ground and his hand/hands went to their crotch area.
- 8. After the three unaccompanied boys went inside their tent, Eaton went to the their tent, looked inside and said something that resulted in them screaming and yelling several minutes afterward.
- 9. I then watched him run down another Webelo. He did not tickle him, but whispered something to him.
- 10. At this point, I was near Eaton and a fairly good distance from but facing the campfire.

He walked up behind and to my right, stopped and sighed deeply three times—in a manner I can only describe as "climatic," and said "I think I'll have a cigarette and go to bed."

He then sat near the fire, smoked a cigarette and without further conversation went to his tent.

- 11. I then moved my youngest son, a Webelo, out of the tent he was to sleep in and in with me. I then asked my youngest son who was in the tent with him. He hold me there were three other boys all of whom were accompanied on the trip by fathers one of which was in the tent with Eaton, so I didn't move any other boys to my area.
- 12. I then sat outside until the campsite quieted completely and then asked our Troop Committee Chairman, Mr. Calhoun, to meet with me away from the area.

I explaned to him what I had seen and suspected. He and I then "stood watch" through the night to ensure there were no further incidents.

13. The next morning, Eaton was very distant, carried on no further conversation with me except to "wonder" why Calhoun and I left the camp area so late at night.

Note: To this point in the narrative, I either directly observed or was told (by Strickland) what occurred in the "rough-housing" incident.

14. The following is "third-hand." age 16, told me that in a conversation with a stated:

a) Eaton tried to grab him in the genital area during one of his "demonstrations," and also

- b) told the following "Nam" story: Eaton and some buddies were on patrol in Viet Nam and happened upon a leopard which had been killed in a recent fire fight. One of his buddies disemboweled the dead animal, found unborn young (one of which had human, female feature) and implied that some human had had sex with the dead leopard.
- 15. Upon returning from the camping trip, I reported the incidents to the Cub Packmaster, met with him, the Pack sponsor's representative and Council District Executives and discussed the situation by phone with the County District Attorney. All unanimously agreed that a meeting with Eaton was necessary. I had no further contact with Mr. Eaton.

Personal Statement: Reporting these incidents and preparing this statement has been most difficult for me.

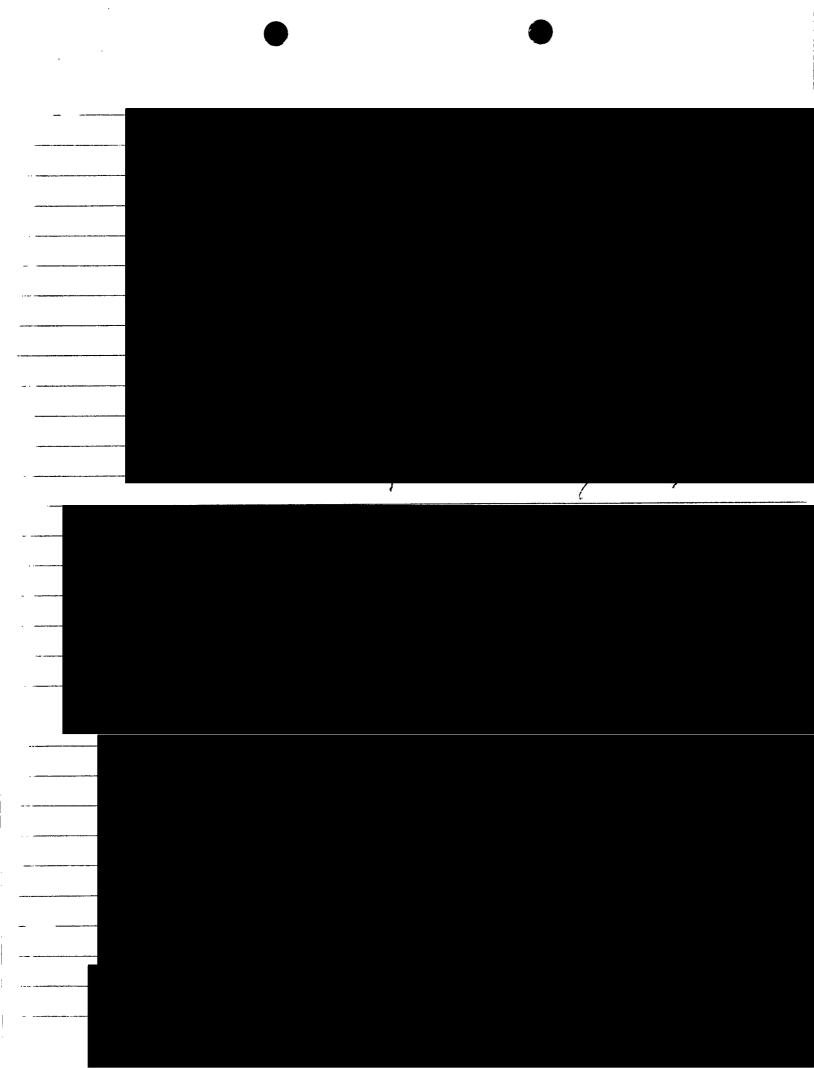
I take most seriously the care given boys. I am also most reluctant to impugn the integrity or character of a man who would volunteer his time and effort to the care of boys.

I was in the Viet Nam era and am not now anti-military. I am a military employee. I regard Viet Nam veterans as some of this country's greatest heroes. They were asked to do any impossible job.

I pray for deliverance of those still living the nightmare.

I wish Mr. Eaton the best but I feel deep in my soul he should not continue unsupervised, in any youth activity and most certainly not in Scouting.

Date: 28-29 May 1987 Loution: Hand Labor Crick State Park rear Pullelye, Gr Sconf Unity: T502 - Don Turner, Scontingster P118, Den1-Lean Estan, Wellew Leader Occasion: Combined orlangister of the Troops and Wedelos Den, Den ihvited by Ercon subject to father from Dairing of Webelow, Thebelow attending unaderpanied by a parent of the opposal of









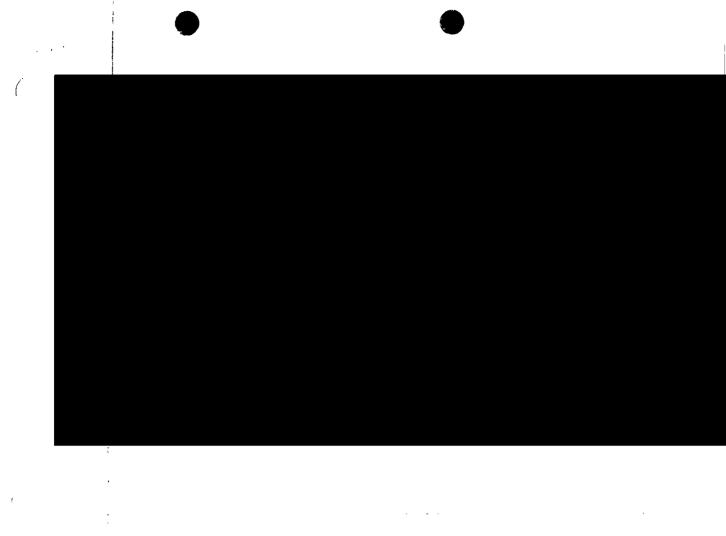












September 8, 1987

Mr. Brad Nesheim Assistant Scout Executive Atlanta Area Council. No. 92

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Leon E. Eaton

Dear Brad:

We appreciate the material you sent us concerning the above named individual. This will help complete our file and enable us to identify Mr. Eaton should be attempt registration in another location.

I did ask, in my last letter, if you could get a statement from the individuals involved. A statement from the Scoutmaster or the 17 year old youth or both would be helpful to substantiate our refusal and give us adequate documentation.

I would like to know if a copy of any letter given to Mr. Eaton by the Elks Club is available. If they sent a resignation letter to sign or if he resigned voluntarily, a copy of this letter with his signature would be appreciated.

If we can be of any help, please leb us know. Thanks for your help in protecting the youth of America.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst. Director Registration Service

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cc: Southeast Region
Archie R. Crain, Scout Executive, Council, No. 92

REACT TO FILE

REACT TO SILEY

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July 31, 1987

Mr. Brad Nesheim Assistant Scout Executive Atlanta Area Council, No. 92

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Leon E. Eaton

Dear Brad:

Thank you for the Confidential Record Sheet. This is most complete and will help us to identify Mr. Eaton should he try to register in some other location.

It would be most helpful if we could have a signed statement from the Scoutmaster who observed this action. This would give us the documentation which would help to refuse registration should it come from another section of the country.

Please let us know if you can be of help in this way.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director Registration & Subscription Service

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cc: Southeast Region
Archie R. Crain, Scout Executive, Council No. 92

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June 15, 1987

Mr. Brad Nesheim Assistant Scout Executive Atlanta Area Council, No. 92

PERSCHAL & CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Leon Eaton

Dear Erad:

Thank you for your letter of June 1 concerning the above-named individual. He would like more information concerning the fact that Mr. Eaton used poor judgment. Should he be placed on the confidential file?

I am enclosing a Confidential Record Sheet which you should use if Mr. Eaton should be refused registration in the future. We would then need any information which would help to substantiate our refusal and build a file for use of people as any registration applications might reach this office.

Please let us know if we may be of help to you.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director Registration & Subscription Service

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Encl.

Southeast Region Mr. Archie R. Crain, Scout Executive, Council No. 92 READY TO FILE OF THE T

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

June 1, 1987

Mr. Paul Ernst, Director Registration Service National Council, BSA 1325 Walnut Hill Lane Irving, Texas 75038-3096

Dear Paul:

I wanted you to be aware of a situation here in Atlanta with one of our leaders.

Mr. Leon Eaton of Pack 118 chartered to the Decatur Elks Club was recently asked to step down as a Webelos Leader by the Pack Committee and Cubmaster because he had used bad judgment on several occasions in dealing with boys.

Our District Executive met with the committee and has fully updated us. The action seems to be appropriate.

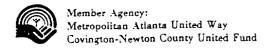
Please remove him from the registration records.

Thanks for your assistance.

کا اکرہ رہے Brad Nesheim

Assistant Scout Executive

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