

## Honorably Discharged Marine Raider and Scout Sniper Aaron Vanderbeck Completes 2,700 Mile Bicycle Ride to Support His Brothers-in-Arms in Yet Another Case of Injustice

By Eddie Molina ([www.eddiemolina.com](http://www.eddiemolina.com))

When Ofc Rolfe fired his service weapon to protect himself against a suspect that fired a taser at him, the Atlanta PD should have applauded him and his partner for stopping a dangerous threat. But instead, Ofc Rolfe and his partner, Ofc Brosnan, are facing serious charges that could easily ruin them and their families lives forever.

That's not the only injustice that's going around.

Earlier this year, several of America's heroes were charged with serious crimes who are still awaiting trial. Marine Sergeant Daniel Draher, Gunnery Sergeant Joshua Negron and Navy Corpsman Chief Petty Officer Eric Gilmet face a court martial for the death of a civilian contractor.



### Back Story

In December 2019, the three servicemen visited a bar on a brief leave of absence in Irbil, Iraq frequented by service members and civilian contractors.

At some point in the evening, the 3 servicemen were confronted by a contractor in the bar who apparently didn't like Marine Raiders- but it didn't escalate inside. The contractor was later asked to leave by bar staff due to his behavior.

The contractor then waited outside and eventually confronted the 3 servicemen. Sgt. Draher approached the contractor in an attempt to diffuse the situation by talking him down but the

contractor swung and lunged at Draher twice. Negron then stepped in and punched the contractor once, knocking him out- end of story.

That was all caught on camera.

The three servicemen, along with another civilian picked up the contractor and returned him back to base to ‘sleep it off.’

However, several hours later the contractor experienced difficulty breathing and was taken to a trauma center but died a few days later.

The three servicemen are charged with manslaughter and are still awaiting trial. The servicemen have publicly acknowledged that the event was tragic and thought they were doing the right thing at the time.

But a comrade of all three servicemen, honorable discharged Marine Raider and Scout Sniper Aaron Vanderbeck is taking a stand. He believes the charges are unnecessary and the entire case is a miscarriage of justice- much like Ofc Rolfe and Ofc Brosnan’s case.

Throughout the entire month of June, Aaron rode his bicycle from California to North Carolina to make a statement for his fellow brothers-in-arms and to bring awareness to an unfair judicial system.



Aaron Vanderbeck tells LET:

“Three of my personal brothers and friends are facing an unfair and unjust judicial system. They are in a fight for their lives and livelihood.”

Aaron also said:

“I’m hoping to change that right now by doing this bicycle ride. Goal number one is to garner national support... get their stories out there of what these three men and their families are going through.”

There is no doubt that Ofc Rolfe and Ofc Brosnan’s families are also in turmoil as they await the outcome of their own unnecessary trial.

Aaron started his 2,700- mile trek in Oceanside, California and recently crossed the finish line in Wilmington, North Carolina. His journey was followed and sponsored by United American Patriots- an organization that provides legal services to select service members, [www.UAP.org](http://www.UAP.org)

Aaron said:

“Goal number two is to push funding back to United American Patriots. They legally defend our nations war fighters when they are charged with crimes they didn’t commit.”

UAP has helped several members of the US armed forces regain their freedom. Major Matt Golsteyn and 1LT Clint Lorance are just two of the servicemen who received Presidential Pardons with the continued support of UAP. Many others were helped and many more are still in need of help- like Aaron's three friends.

Despite the 3 servicemen showing no intent to kill the contractor and even rendered aid to the individual by returning him safely to base, the UCMJ is still pursuing criminal charges.

If you wish to support Sgt. Daniel Draher, Gunnery Sgt. Joshua

Negron and Chief Petty Officer Eric Gilmet, or others servicemembers caught up in the UCMJ system, visit **www.UAP.org** to donate. Proceeds go directly to legal expenses incurred from defending our nation's heroes who were unjustly charged.

You can also support Ofc Rolfe and Ofc Brosnan by visiting [www.GeorgiaLEO.org](http://www.GeorgiaLEO.org) We hope for justice and the charges against these officers are dismissed, which would be the right thing to do.

*About the writer: Eddie Molina specializes in leadership and voluntarily writes articles to keep the military, law enforcement and first responder community informed. He promotes a Law Enforcement Podcast, End of Watch with Bootsy and Sal, links available on [www.eddiemolina.com](http://www.eddiemolina.com)*

