

AO 91 (Rev. 02/09) Criminal Complaint

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
for the  
District of Colorado

United States of America )  
v. )  
RICK GLEN STRANDLOF )  
\_\_\_\_\_)  
*Defendant*

Case No. *09. mj. 1172. BNB*

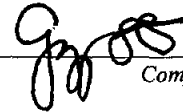
CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date of 03/18/2008 in the county of Denver in the State and District of Colorado, the defendant violated 18 U. S. C. § 704(b) and (d), an offense described as follows:  
False Claims about Receipt of Military Decorations or Medals.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

Continued on the attached sheet.



*Complainant's signature*


Gregg Slater, Task Force Officer - ATF

*Printed name and title*

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: October 1, 2009

City and state: Kenner, Colorado



**BOYD N. BOELAND**  
United States Magistrate Judge

*Printed name and title*

## AFFIDAVIT

I, Gregg A. Slater, Task Force Officer, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Department of Justice, being duly sworn, do hereby depose and state the following:

Your affiant is a detective for the Lakewood Police Department, Lakewood, Colorado and has been so employed for approximately 26 years as a law enforcement officer. Your affiant is currently assigned as a Federal Task Force Officer for the Federal Bureau of Investigation Rocky Mountain Safe Streets Task Force (RMSSTF) in Denver, Colorado. Your affiant's principal duties surround investigations into violations of federal law in the District of Colorado, including but not limited to bank robberies, fraud, kidnappings, and other violent crimes. Your affiant is providing this affidavit in support of the Government's application for an arrest warrant for Rick Glen Strandlof, year of birth 1977. Based upon my training and experience, and the results of the investigation as described herein, your affiant has cause to believe that Strandlof committed the following federal offense: False claims about receipt of military decorations or medals, in violation of 18 USC §§ 704(b) and 704(d), enhanced penalty for offenses involving certain other medals.

All information contained in this affidavit was either personally observed by your affiant, relayed to the affiant by law enforcement officers involved in the investigation, or located by the affiant in law enforcement investigative files and other databases commonly used by law enforcement agencies, including the FBI and the RMSSTF, or by third party individuals who came forward with information relating to the investigation.

On or about May 4, 2009, complainants contacted the Denver FBI and provided information that a Captain Rick Duncan, born 1977, was falsely representing himself as a Naval Academy graduate, wounded Marine Veteran, and Purple Heart recipient from wounds sustained in the Battle of Fallujah in Iraq.

Individuals reported that Captain Rick Duncan established a veterans organization called the Colorado Veteran's Alliance (CVA). The complainants stated that although CVA was established by Duncan, the name Rick Strandlof was used to establish and register the trade name of CVA. Complaints stated that Duncan made several verbal statements and posted web profiles wherein he claimed to have graduated from the Naval Academy. Complainants made calls to their contacts at the Naval Academy, who confirmed that no one by the name of Rick Duncan ever graduated from the academy during the time frame alleged by Strandlof. Further research through public internet databases revealed that an individual using the name Rick Strandlof was suspected in a fraud scheme which entailed bringing a Grand Prix race to Reno, Nevada. The alleged scheme took place during the time that Strandlof was residing in Nevada.

Through law enforcement data base checks, your affiant discovered that Rick Strandlof, born 1977, had two outstanding warrants for his arrest. One was a non-extraditable warrant out of California, and the other a state wide-extradition warrant out of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Law enforcement databases revealed that Strandlof had

used alias last names of Duncan and Pierson. Your affiant made contact with several military officials who confirmed that no one by the name of Rick Duncan, Rick Strandlof, or Rick Pierson, born in 1977, ever served in the military.

On May 13, 2009, your affiant, along with a member of the FBI RMSSTF, interviewed Rick Strandlof, in regards to the above claims. Strandlof informed your affiant that his real name was Rick Strandlof and that he was using Rick Duncan as an alias. Strandlof stated that he "pulled the name Duncan off of the internet". Strandlof stated that he was not a Marine and that he had never served in the military in any capacity. Strandlof stated to your affiant that he had misrepresented himself as a wounded veteran through his organization the CVA. In addition, Strandlof admitted to making speeches under his alias Captain Rick Duncan and stated that those speeches were posted on the website YOUTUBE.

Your affiant viewed several speeches on the internet that were given by Rick Strandlof using his identity as Captain Rick Duncan, a wounded Marine veteran. During one of those speeches, Strandlof stated that he was wounded by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and had lost four of the Marines under his command. Also, Strandlof explained that he has a metal plate in his head, and suffers from Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

From your affiant's personal observation of Rick Strandlof, arrest photographs of Rick Strandlof, and the videos of Captain Rick Duncan on YOUTUBE, the individual in the videos and pictures appear to be the same individual interviewed on May 13, 2009.

In addition to interviewing Strandlof, other members of the FBI RMSSTF interviewed several other witnesses who had direct contact with Strandlof. Several of the witnesses stated that Strandlof represented himself as combat wounded Captain Rick Duncan of the United States Marine Corps.

Specifically, two of the witnesses recall Strandlof indicating that he was awarded the Purple Heart Medal. Strandlof associated with an Army National Guardsman veteran. Strandlof met this Guardsman approximately in November 2006 and introduced himself as Captain Rick Duncan who was medically retired from the Marine Corps due to combat injuries suffered in Iraq. Strandlof and the Guardsman would often attend veteran's functions and socialize over coffee. The Guardsman recalls during December 2006 in Denver, Colorado that Strandlof told him that he was involved in an improvised explosive device attack while in Iraq. Strandlof informed the Guardsman that he suffered from a brain injury and was awarded the Purple Heart Medal.

On or about March 18, 2008, Strandlof attended a meeting in Denver, Colorado. The meeting was held to discuss an upcoming luncheon to solicit donations for veterans. During the meeting, Strandlof verbally stated to the attendees at the meeting that he received a Purple Heart Medal.

In April 2009, Strandlof agreed to wear his medals during a Colorado event for veterans. Strandlof made this agreement with the same individual who recalls Strandlof verbally declaring on March 18, 2009 that he had received a Purple Heart Medal. Strandlof attended the event in April 2009 not wearing any medals. Strandlof was questioned about not wearing his medals. Strandlof stated that he did not wear his Purple Heart Medal or his Silver Star Medal because it would appear egotistical.

Your affiant hereby swears and affirms that the preceding information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



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Gregg M. Slater  
Federal Task Force Officer  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Rocky Mountain Safe Streets Task Force

Sworn and subscribed before me  
on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of ~~September~~, 2009.  
*October*



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United States Magistrate Judge  
District of Colorado

DATE: October 1, 2009

DEFENDANT Rick Glen Strandlof

YOB: 1977

ADDRESS: Denver, CO

COMPLAINT FILED?  Yes  No

If Yes, MAGISTRATE CASE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

HAS DEFENDANT BEEN ARRESTED ON COMPLAINT?  Yes  No  
If No, a new warrant is required

OFFENSE(S): Count One: False Claims about Receipt of Military Decorations or Medals, 18 U.S.C. §§ 704(b) and (d)

LOCATION OF OFFENSE: Denver County, Colorado

PENALTY: Count One: NMT 1 years imprisonment, \$250,000 fine, or both; NMT 1 year supervised release; \$100 Special Assessment

AGENT: Gregg Slater  
Task Force Officer, FBI

AUTHORIZED BY: Jeremy Sibert  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

ESTIMATED TIME OF TRIAL:

five days or less

THE GOVERNMENT

will seek detention in this case

The statutory presumption of detention is **not** applicable to this defendant.

OCDETF CASE:  Yes  No