

French pilot says he was tied to firing target in hazing ritual

(Reuters) - A French air force pilot has filed a criminal complaint alleging that as part of a hazing ritual he was tied to a target on a firing range while fighter planes flew overhead and fired off munitions, his lawyer told Reuters on Saturday.

The complaint did not identify any of the people alleged to have carried out the hazing, or say how many of them were involved. Reuters was not able to independently establish the identities of those responsible for the incident.

Colonel Stephane Spet, a spokesman for the French air force, said an internal inquiry had been ordered by air force command and those responsible had been punished.

The most severe punishment was restriction to barracks, Spet said. He did not say how many people had received this punishment, or for how many days.

Spet said that the pilot's safety was never in danger.

The pilot said in the complaint, which was seen by Reuters, that the hazing occurred in March 2019, soon after he arrived at a combat fighter unit at the Solenzara air base on the French Mediterranean island of Corsica.

The pilot had a hood put over his head, and was forced into the back of a pick-up truck by several colleagues who drove him to the firing range, according to the complaint.

Photos, which were included in the complaint, showed a man in military fatigues with his legs and hands bound, attached to the firing range target with heavy-duty nylon straps.

Video footage, which is cited in the complaint and was provided to Reuters by the pilot's lawyer, Frederic Berna, also showed combat jets making several low passes nearby.

The complaint alleges that, during some of these passes, the pilot tied to the target could hear the sound of live munitions being fired from the aircraft.

Spet did not dispute the authenticity of the images, but he said they created the mistaken impression that the aircraft were directing fire at the pilot who was tied to the target.

He said that the firing the pilot heard was from aircraft that were on a training exercise at a different location, and that the closest any munition round came to him was about 0.6 miles.

Berna said his client did not want his name disclosed publicly because of privacy concerns. Reuters has seen the pilot's name in the complaint.

Berna said the photos and video footage cited in the complaint were filmed by service members who were present, and the images later shared in a WhatsApp group chat. Members of the group chat then shared the images



HAZING: A photo obtained by Reuters on May 8, 2021, said to be shot March 2019 at Solenzara Air Base, Corsica, France, shows a man tied to a target on a firing range who French lawyer Frederic Berna identifies as his client, a French Air Force pilot who filed a complaint for hazing. via Frederic Berna/via Reuters

with the pilot filing the complaint, the lawyer said.

Asked why his client waited until now to file the complaint, Berna said the pilot had initially been in denial about the gravity of what he experienced, and did not want to challenge the military authorities.

Australia's most populous state extends COVID restrictions in hunt for outbreak source

Australia's most populous state recorded no new COVID-19 infections for a third straight day on Sunday but extended raised social distancing and mask-wearing rules by a week as the authorities hunted for the source of a small outbreak.

After a Sydney couple tested positive to the coronavirus last week, ending a long run without community transmission, the authorities reinstated some social distancing measures until May 10, and a campaign to get more people tested, as they scrambled to determine the

source of infection.

On Sunday, the authorities reported a third straight day without a new case, easing concerns about a wider outbreak in the city, but cited the mystery cause of infection as a reason for extending the measures.

"As the 'missing link' case hasn't been identified we're keen to prevent a super-spreading event," said New South Wales state premier Gladys Berejiklian in a tweet.

"All safeguards/restrictions will be in place for an extra week, except for shoppers in retail who will no longer

be required to wear a mask."

That means the more than five million people living in and around Sydney must wear masks on public transport and in most public venues, while households are limited to 20 guests at any one time until May 17.

Australia has largely eliminated the virus, with 79 days in 2021 without a locally acquired case, according to the government, as a result of a strategy of closing international and domestic borders, as well as social distancing measures.

As the country awaits vaccine ship-

ments and watches infection spikes in other countries, top lawmakers have said borders now appear likely to reopen in 2022, not 2021 as previously envisaged.

In an interview with News Corp newspapers published on Sunday, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said it was unlikely Australia would reopen its borders soon, although he did not offer a timeline.

"I don't see an appetite for that at the moment," he said, referring to border reopening.

"What we're seeing at the moment is the appreciation of the people that the pandemic isn't going anywhere. We have to be careful not to exchange that way of life for what everyone else has."



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Governor of Guam
Joshua F. Tenorio
Lieutenant Governor

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MULTI-STEP BID

BID NO:	IFB-PAG-003-21
FOR:	CCTV SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM AND ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM (ACS) REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES
MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE & SITE VISIT:	9:00 a.m., TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021
PLACE:	PAG-BOARDROOM, 1 ST FLOOR, ADMIN BLDG.
PHASE 1 BID SUBMISSION:	4:00 P.M., MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021
PLACE:	PAG PROCUREMENT OFFICE, 1 ST FLR, ADMIN BLDG.

A pdf file of the bid packet is available to download at www.portofguam.com or a hard copy can be obtained at the PAG Procurement Office located on the 1st floor of the PAG Admin Bldg. from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday until June 7, 2021. Bidders must register with the current contact information with PAG to ensure they receive any notices regarding changes or updates to the IFB. The Port will not be liable for failure to provide notice to any party who did not register current contact information. Bidders are required to attend the mandatory pre-bid conference and mandatory site visit in order to submit a bid proposal. This project is grant funded and requires compliance with the Buy America Act - 41 U.S.C. § 8301-8305 and 2 CFR Section 200.216 Prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment.

/S/ RORY J. RESPICIO
General Manager



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INVITATION FOR BID

BID NO:	IFB-PAG-004-21
FOR:	SPLIT-TYPE AIR CONDITIONERS
PRE-BID CONFERENCE:	10:00 a.m., THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021 PAG BOARD ROOM
BID SUBMISSION DEADLINE:	2:00 P.M., FRIDAY, MAY 28, 2021
LOCATION TO SUBMIT:	PAG PROCUREMENT OFFICE, 1 ST FLOOR, ADMIN. BLDG.

The Port Authority of Guam (PAG) is issuing this Invitation for Bid for Split-Type Air Conditioners. A PDF copy of the bid packet is available to download at www.portofguam.com, or a hard copy can be obtained at the PAG Procurement Office located on the 1st floor of the PAG Admin Bldg. from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning Monday, May 10, 2021, until Friday, May 28, 2021.

Bidders must register their current contact information with PAG to ensure they receive any notices regarding changes or updates to the IFB. The Port will not be liable for failure to provide notice to any party who did not register current contact information.

The PAG reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to reject any and all bids, cancel in its entirety, or waive informalities and minor irregularities in the bids, which in its sole and absolute judgment, will under all circumstances best serve the Government's interests. This right to reject and/or cancel is pursuant to 2 GAR Div. 4 Procurement Regulations § 3115 (d)(2)(A). This project is funded by the Port Authority of Guam.

/S/ RORY J. RESPICIO
General Manager