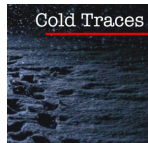


## Transcript of David Cox's Interview with WAAF 12-11-1992

Source: The Cold Traces podcast, coldtraces.com



David Cox

[Note: when something is not clear, but I can get a sense for what is being said, I put those words in brackets.] If something is completely inaudible, I note that as (Inaudible).

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Radio Host: Now coming up in just a couple of minutes, we're going to talk to David Cox is here. How are you David? Oh hold on one second. Now you can go ahead. How are you?

David Cox: Great, how are you doing?

Radio Host: Good. You're from Needham?

David Cox: Yep.

Radio Host: And you're the person that the movie, which is coming out tonight. Beginning tonight it's going to be shown all across the country, which is called A Few Good Men. It's Jack Nicholson and Tom Cruise and Demi Moore. And you're the person that that movie is based on.

David Cox: Yeah, absolutely. This was actually based on an incident that happened in Guantanamo Bay Cuba in 1986. Certain circumstances got this actual court material into what many of feel, many of us feel is the wrong hands.

Radio Host: Alright, well what we are going to do is find out from you how this movie is based on you and about what happened in Cuba and how you're sort of getting ripped off by the producers of this movie. We'll find out about that in just a couple of minutes.

-----TAPE CUT

Radio Host: Right now it is 39 in town. Just a few moments ago, we spoke briefly with David Cox, who is from Needham. David is with us because the movie that opens tonight with Tom Cruise and Demi Moore and Jack Nicholson, which is called A Few Good Men is, you claim

David, based on you and some of your compatriots who were in Cuba with the Marines. And when was that?

David Cox: That was 1986.

Radio Host: And you guys were stationed..?

David Cox: In Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Exactly.

Radio Host: And we also have your actual Marine lawyer on the line.

David Cox: He was a Navy lawyer actually.

Radio Host: Navy lawyer, ok, from Virginia Beach, Don Marcari. Hi Don.

Don Marcari: Hi Greg, how are you doing.

Radio Host: Good. Thanks for joining us this morning.

Don Marcari: Great.

Radio Host: Alright, David tell me the story. You guys were in Cuba and how does this movie come about? What happened in Cuba that this movie is based on?

David Cox: What actually happened is, there was a group down there known as 'the ten', which is very similar to the take-off group from the movie Lords of Discipline.

Radio Host: Right.

David Cox: And we worked directly in conjunction with the Colonel of the base. Now, this was a Colonel that was from the old corps back when Cuba used to be free and subsequently, he saw ya know Kennedy virtually give it away. And this was also at the time with Ronald Reagan in office, so to say the least we were trying to provoke a war down there just about every day.

Radio Host: At his bequest?

David Cox: Without him saying the direct words, but implied absolutely.

Radio Host: So, there, as I understand and we read your, you were court martialled by the Corps and that's how Don came to defend you.

David Cox: Exactly, that's right.

Radio Host: And upon reading, you brought in the court martial and we read that. You guys were involved in an incident where you had gone to a fellow Marine's room.

David Cox: Yeah, that's right. And what actually happened was we were told, it got passed down through the chain of command, to go ahead and take care of this Marine because he jumped the entire chain of command – wrote his Congressman and told him what was happening. Now mind you, this was in the same timeframe as the Lonetree situation, plus Oliver North. Now, this would have been a third strike against the Marine Corps in about 8 months.

What happened is because it's an isolated base in a communist country they flew a whole blanket over this whole thing.

Radio Host: Ok, so what did you guys do when you went to this soldier's room?

David Cox: We put him on the bed, hog tied him and blindfolded him and cut his hair into a checkerboard.

Radio Host: Ok, and he ended up being sent to the hospital as a result.

David Cox: Yeah, the gag actually fell apart in his mouth. He got hemorrhaging in his lung and nearly died.

Radio Host: Ok, so this movie. Now Don, bear with me here Don, but this movie you feel as well being a lawyer and representing these guys that this movie is basically based on them.

Don Marcari: Yes, sir. It's almost exactly based on the trial. The way it came about is one of the other lawyers involved had a brother who was a playwright named Aaron Sorkin. He took the trial, made a play that ran on Broadway for about two years called A Few Good Men. It was very successful. (Inaudible) Castle Rock picked it up and made a movie about it. I've read the play and it closely parallels the actual trial.

Radio Host: Now Aaron Sorkin who's the playwright, his sister was involved in this?

Don Marcari: Very briefly. She was one, there was 10 Navy lawyers assigned to represent these guys. There was lawyers from Washington DC, from Virginia Beach, from Florida. (Inaudible) [Aaron Sorkin's sister was one of the lawyers involved, she had one of the seven guys who took the other than honorable discharge, and only three of the other guys went to trial]

Radio Host: Now, your played by Tom Cruise in the movie is that right?

Don Marcari: Yeah, I think Tom's probably a composite of the 3 lawyers that actually tried a case.

Radio Host: Well, better him than Nicholson.

Don Marcari: Better him than John Candy.

Radio Host: Alright listen, we're going to keep on talking to these guys. We're going to get to the bottom of it, if they're getting any money from the movie company for this and find out more about A Few Good Men, which opens up tonight.

-----CUT

Radio Host: ...he's from Needham. Where do you work, by the way, David?

David Cox: I'm a service rep. for a company in the greater Boston area.

Radio Host: And, you're...the movie A Few Good men, which opens with Jack Nicholson, Demi Moore, and Tom Cruise, tonight, opens tonight, is based on an incident that happened with you in the Marine Corps. And what year was that?

David Cox: That was 1986.

Radio Host: 1986. Your lawyer, Don Marcari, who was actually your lawyer when the event happened, when you were court martialed by the Marines. We should say that you were found guilty of assault, I guess.

David Cox: Right, it was a significantly lesser charge. I mean, it was almost like because I actually did it, they had to give me something. However, the pre-trial confinement I did leading up to the trial was all I actually got sentenced with, so that's like saying no sentence at all. I walked.

Radio Host: And then you were discharged from the Marines.

David Cox: I was honorably discharged after I got out of Cuba and went to the fleet and I served out the rest of my two and a half years and ya know, I ended up having a very successful military career. Honorably discharged. Highly decorated in Panama. (inaudible)

Radio Host: Now, Don, you're played by Tom Cruise in the movie. You've seen the script, how about David? Who plays him and what is his character's name in the movie?

Don Marcari: I believe his character's name is Downey in the movie. And I'm not sure who plays him, but Dave was the highest ranking Marine that went to a court martial down in .... They were originally charged with attempted murder Dave was found guilty instead, of simple assault [His defense was obedience to orders, which is a defense that didn't work in My Lai.] They said they found that he was such a good Marine that he was actually following orders, since somebody got hurt seriously they found him guilty of (inaudible).

Radio Host: Alright, I want to know if you guys are going to get any money from this. Are you guys going to get paid back for, these guys are going to make a lot of money on this movie.

Don Marcari: I'm not getting any money. How about you Dave?

David Cox: Well, right now I actually have a lawyer working in conjunction with about three other lawyers. We initially tried to put a injunction on the movie to have it stopped completely. Due to the first amendment rights, we couldn't stop it completely. Now we are seeking relief in the tune of about seven digits, because basically again...

Radio Host: Whew!

David Cox: Schwing...

Don Marcari: I want some of that Dave.

David Cox: You got it baby.

Radio Host: I do too. Alright, well listen. Thank you for coming in David I appreciate it.

David Cox: Yeah, absolutely.

Radio Host: It's a tough story and you were a good Marine, so thank you for being here. Hopefully, everybody go sees the movie and they can look for you in the movie.

David Cox: Thanks man, have a good one.

Radio Host: Alright, Don thanks for joining us from Virginia Beach where it's nice and sunny I bet.

Don Marcari: [Very great, nice chatting with you.]

Radio Host: Ok, bye.