

killer," said Layton's father, Brent. A general officer letter of reprimand stays in a soldier's personnel file and is considered a major hurdle to overcome at promotion time for captains and above, and the senior enlisted community.

Army Lt. Col. Clarence Counts, a spokesman for CJTF-82 in Afghanistan, said the unit offers condolences to the families and stresses that the training team fought bravely through the incident, which he characterized as a "complex attack in difficult terrain."

"All the factors in this case were reviewed thoroughly, and the key individuals have been held accountable and dealt with in a manner consistent with service regulations," he said.

Though it was not disclosed in the public summary of the incident, family members said they were told that Scaparrotti ordered two investigations, one led by an Army major and the second led in tandem by colonels from the Army and Marine Corps. The colonels focused a large part of their investigation on failures within the operations center, said Brian Johnson, the lieutenant's father.

The elder Johnson said the longer version of the report he received was "a tough read" and angered him frequently as he went through the hundreds of pages of redacted documents that were included.

"They should be as far away from combat troops as humanly possible," he said of the officers cited in the report. "Whatever happens isn't going to bring my son back. But I would sure like to make sure that those guys aren't in a position to get anyone else killed, and that the procedures that led to this are changed."

No support

Layton and Johnson also wonder why Pentagon officials called into question an initial report about the ambush by Jonathan Landay, the McClatchy reporter who was pinned down with the training team. Geoff Morrell, a Defense Department spokesman, said in September that "things may appear different than they were" in Landay's initial report, which said artillery and air support were repeatedly denied.

"I am hearing from colleagues downrange that the time that is alleged to have lapsed [for air support] is not as it was reported," Morrell said.

But the investigation concurred with complaints shared by Marine and Army leaders in the training team, saying artillery and aviation

support was inadequate.

"Timely aviation and indirect fire support was not provided," it said. "Repeated requests to employ an on-call [quick reaction force] were not supported."

The summary does not address whether the cited officers denied

fire support because of concerns about tighter restrictions on airstrikes and artillery put in place by Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal last July to prevent civilian casualties. The family members said they have been told the lack of support was due mostly

to a failure of leadership, but their version of the reports also says that service members who survived the attack saw women and children carrying ammunition to insurgents during the battle.

Brent Layton said he is thankful the investigation cites the courage

of the embedded training team itself, and credits its members with braving enemy fire three times to recover the bodies of the wounded and killed. Several service members have been recommended for awards for valor, CJTF-82 officials said. □

You don't have to be
a financial whiz
to be a financial success.

SaveAndInvest.org

MANAGE YOUR MONEY WITH CONFIDENCE.

Stay on track with SaveAndInvest.org. Military service-members and families can count on it for straight-talking financial information and tools. It's a free service of the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping you better understand saving and investing. There's no sales pitch. No confusing advice. Just the help you need to make smart decisions for the future. Log on today to prepare for Military Saves Week, February 21 – 28.

