Request to U.S. Rep. Steve Womack (Arkansas 3rd District)

Submitted Oct. 18, 2026, through the contact form at womack.house.gov, by Friends of Bella Vista Voters. Copies were sent the same day to the 131st Bomb Wing Inspector General and to Mr. Hunt's January 2025 squadron commander.

Subject: Request for congressional inquiry: Bella Vista mayoral candidate's use of military uniform, rank and security clearance in his campaign

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Dear Congressman Womack,

I am a constituent in Bella Vista and lead Friends of Bella Vista Voters, an independent expenditure filer registered with the Arkansas Secretary of State. I am asking your office to forward the concerns below to the appropriate Air Force and National Guard authorities and request a review. We draw no conclusions; we ask that the people responsible for these rules look at the facts.

The candidate is Benjamin Lewis Hunt II, running for mayor of Bella Vista in the Nov. 3 election. Public reporting (DVIDS, April 18, 2025) describes him as an Air National Guard member who re-enlisted in 2025 after 17 years as a civilian. His campaign website says he serves “currently as an Air Force First Sergeant in the Air National Guard” and that “I lead a unit of over 300 personnel” (welovebellavista.com/meet_benjamin).

1. Campaigning in uniform

- A campaign video of Mr. Hunt in uniform was posted on his campaign Facebook page in September 2026 and shared to a Bella Vista Facebook group on Sept. 12, 2026.
- His campaign rack card (handed out at the Sept. 21 candidate forum) and his campaign postcard mailed about Sept. 16 use a uniform photo with no disclaimer and no statement of his Guard status.
- A uniform portrait was his campaign page’s profile picture from May 27 to Aug. 26, 2026.

We ask whether these are consistent with DoD Directive 1344.10 (sections 4.1.4, 4.3.1.2 and 4.3.2.1, and Enclosure 3, E3.1.1).

2. Using his rank, position and security clearance to dispute his court judgments

Court records show five judgments under which Mr. Hunt is personally liable:

- *Broglen v. Walston Timber Frame, LLC, et al.*, No. 72CV-21-1762 (Washington Co., Ark.), Nov. 15, 2021, $49,790.55
- *Smith v. Hunt*, No. 2431-CC00977 (Greene Co., Mo.), Nov. 26, 2025, $176,764
- *Volkl v. Walston Timber Frame, LLC, et al.*, No. 2431-CC00003 (Greene Co., Mo.), Dec. 4, 2025, $19,526.77
- *Catalyst DC, LLC, et al. v. 241 Builders, LLC, et al.*, No. 2231-CC00319 (Greene Co., Mo.), June 10, 2026: $130,000 (breach of fiduciary duty) and $32,000 plus interest (conversion)

With interest, these total about $451,000, by our calculation from the court records. Several are joint with his company or co-defendants; Mr. Hunt says about $45,000 is his individual obligation.

In a campaign video posted on his Facebook page on Oct. 9, 2026, titled “Explaining the lies and naming the names behind them,” Mr. Hunt told voters that reports of these debts were misleading. He said: “What you’re seeing from my opponent’s people is their effort to combine every number they could find in court documents and try to convince you that I am personally liable for all of it and that I’m irresponsible, but the fact is my personal liability is actually $45,000.” He then offered his military standing as proof: “if all the nonsense that has been put out there about me were actually true, I would not hold the rank or current position that I do in the Air Force. They just wouldn’t allow that, and I certainly wouldn’t hold the security clearance that I do.”

We ask whether a Guard member may cite his military rank, position and security clearance in campaign material as proof that public court records about his finances are wrong, and whether that is consistent with the rule against implying military endorsement of a candidate.

3. Claim of military command

At the Bella Vista mayoral candidate forum on Oct. 6, 2026, Mr. Hunt said: “Throughout that time being in the military, I’ve had hundreds of people under my command and currently I’m a top three in our unit, which means I am part of the triad. There’s the commander, the command chief, and myself.”

His own campaign website describes him as a First Sergeant and lists him as the author of “The USAF First Sergeant’s Field Manual by MSgt Benjamin Hunt.” First Sergeant is an enlisted position, and master sergeant is an enlisted grade. Public reporting (DVIDS) says he left service in 2004 as a technical sergeant. Department of the Air Force Instruction 51-509 (Dec. 28, 2023), paragraph 3.2.2, states: “Enlisted members cannot exercise command.” We ask the Air Force to confirm whether his description of his service is accurate.

Related: On Oct. 13, 2026, the Arkansas State Board of Election Commissioners received our complaint about Mr. Hunt’s sworn financial disclosure and campaign filings. It is posted at friendsofbellavistavoters.com/complaint. The underlying court records are at friendsofbellavistavoters.com.

I can provide the video recordings, photographs of the campaign materials and the court records on request. Thank you for your time and your office’s help.

Sincerely,

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This is a request for review, not a finding. No agency has ruled on these questions. Mr. Hunt’s statements are quoted from his own campaign video, forum remarks and website.

Paid for by Friends of Bella Vista Voters.