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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Re: Layne Wilson Utah ANG

In a recent development, the Utah Air National Guard has agreed to reinstate the six year enlistment contract of TSgt Layne Wilson. The contract was rescinded after Wilson complained late last year to the West Point Chapel about homosexual weddings which he believed to have been in violation of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which was in effect at that time. A one year contract was substituted over Wilson's objections.

In a letter to Wilson's attorney, retired Navy Commander John B. Wells, Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Tobias noted that there were "procedural irregularities" in the rescission of the enlistment contract. Noting that the one-year contract was not executed prior to the end of Wilson's enlistment, Tobias stated that the six year contract would be reinstated.

Tobias' earlier actions in pulling the six year contract led to a break in service and a loss of medical benefits. Wilson's wife, who is suffering from stage four breast cancer was deprived of medical care until Wilson agreed to sign the one year contract.

"It would seem to me that cancelling the medical benefits for a sick cancer victim to coerce an underling to sign an illegal contract constitutes cruelty and maltreatment under the Utah Code of Military Justice," Wells said. "This type of action is unconscionable and I would expect the Guard to initiate an investigation into the circumstances surrounding this case."

Tobias refused to remove the letter of reprimand that he had issued to Wilson claiming that Wilson was not reprimanded for his opinion. The Letter of Reprimand, however, noted that "while in uniform our opinions and feelings are second to following the laws, regulations and decisions of our elected and military leaders." Tobias' letter went on to say that "[i]f you have such a strong aversion to those rules and regulations in uniform, you have the choice to depart our ranks and live as you please, but while in uniform this behavior is not tolerated."

Tobias also told Colonel Ronald Blunch, Utah Air National Guard Director of Air the following: "We talked about his feelings about DADT and how he doesn 't agree with it. I then told him that maybe this is a good time for him to move on because we' ve been ordered to not have an opinion about Gays in the military and we need to treat them as we would treat anyone

else in the service of our country. I also reiterated that I respect his feelings but I'm not comfortable reenlisting him with his strong feelings about this matter."

"While the reinstatement of the six year contract is a step in the right direction," Wells went on to say, "it is not enough. The Letter of Reprimand must be expunged. Additionally, we need to receive assurances that there will be no reprisal."

Wells also noted that the Utah Guard had been "data mining" Wilson's face book page in an attempt to monitor his activities. "We have heard rumors that they will try to go after his security clearance," Wells remarked. "The data mining is of great concern. It looks as though they are trying to trump up some potential charges. Unfortunately, I have seen this done before and the Guard's action displays all of the attributes of a witch hunt."

Wells went on to say the following: "The Department of Defense and the Administration seem to be trying to purge the military of conservatives who do not agree with the liberal agenda of the left. This purge includes fundamentalist Christians, Roman Catholics, Jews and political conservatives who support God and country. In the same vein as the Stalinist purges of the 1930's, we will be left with a hollow military that will not be capable of properly defending this country. This is not just a religious freedom issue, it is a national security issue."

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