

# Exhibit 5



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
52d FIGHTER WING (USAFE)

15 February 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR ACEUR/CC  
ALL OTHER REVIEWING AUTHORITIES  
IN TURN

FROM: MAJOR MICHAEL D. ALMY

SUBJECT: Show-Cause Action Initiated under AFI 36-3206, Chapter 3, Paragraph 3.6.8:  
*Personal Statement*

1. The Air Force has been a part of my life since it began, when I was born at Bergstrom AFB, Texas in 1970. My family has a rich history of military service, with several uncles serving in the Army and Marine Corps. A member of my family has served in every war since World War II. One of my uncles retired as a Sergeant Major in the Marine Corps, with service in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. My father's Air Force career began in 1963, when he graduated from West Point, and was commissioned in the Air Force. He eventually went to pilot training at Stead AFB, Nevada and would later have several assignments flying the HH-53 and the UH-1. My parents met at Fort Knox, where my mom was working as a secretary, and my dad was TDY from Shaw AFB, South Carolina. They both grew up in Memphis, Tennessee and formed an instant connection. In 1966 they were married at Shaw AFB.
2. In 1968, my father was sent to Vietnam for a tour of duty flying special ops and search and rescue missions. My mother returned home to Memphis, with my infant brother, during my father's year in Vietnam.
3. In 1970 the Air Force sent my father to the University of Texas to pursue a Master's Degree in Chemistry. He was also maintaining his flying currency at Bergstrom AFB. Once he even flew President Johnson to the LBJ ranch. From there, we moved to Colorado Springs, CO, where my father taught chemistry at the Air Force Academy. My family then returned to Austin for my father to pursue his PhD in Chemistry. Next we moved to Albuquerque where my father was assigned to Kirtland AFB, New Mexico. We lived there for a total of six years. Initially, my father was in a flying assignment. After a few years, he was re-assigned to the Weapons Laboratory for work on the Airborne Laser Laboratory program, utilizing his extensive chemistry background. Following this assignment, we moved to Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. While there, my father served as the Deputy Director for the Materials Laboratory, where he presided over research that later led to some of the technology used in stealth aircraft. In 1987 my father retired as a full colonel after 24 years active duty, and two years in the Army Reserve. My parents still reside in the Dayton area.
4. From an early age my parents instilled in me the value of an education, and encouraged my brother and me to do our best. I went to college at Wright State University, and received a scholarship through AFROTC. I graduated in 1992 with a Bachelor's Degree in Management Information Systems, and was commissioned through AFROTC as a Distinguished Graduate. In 1997 I received a Master's Degree from Webster University, also in Management Information Systems.
5. One of the accomplishments I am most proud of during my time in ROTC was when I was made the project officer for a Dining Out. Through my own initiative I was able to get Lt Gen Benjamin O. Davis

as our guest speaker, and made all the necessary arrangements. I worked with the Smithsonian book department to have copies of his biography available for signing, after the general spoke about his time as a Tuskegee Airman. The general inscribed my book, thanking me for all the arrangements, and wishing me the best for my future career.

6. In the summer of 1991 I was one of a handful of AFROTC cadets who reported to Fort Benning, Georgia for Army Airborne Training. Though I have not had a requirement to jump since, this remains one of the prouder moments in my military career and I still have a great deal of satisfaction wearing my jump wings.

7. In June 1993 I came on active duty and went to Keesler AFB, Mississippi, for Basic Communications-Electronics Officer Training (BCOT). Following completion of this course I was stationed at the Air Intelligence Agency, Kelly AFB, Texas. While there I did work that led to installation of the first network for AIA. I remained at Kelly for approximately nine months, until I was accepted for navigator training at Randolph AFB in 1994. I completed nearly nine months of navigator school until I had problems with a few check rides during the Dead Reckoning portion of the curriculum.

8. I was returned to the communications career field and given an assignment at Scott AFB, Illinois, in July, 1995. Initially I worked systems support for the J2 Directorate of United States Transportation Command. Following this, I worked at the help desk for all AMC Command and Control systems. This office has since become the AMC Network Operations Support Center (NOSC).

9. In 1998 I was stationed at the Third Combat Communications Group, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma. In September 1998 I deployed to Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia as the senior communicator from my unit, with approximately 60 personnel from my squadron. There we supported all the base-level communications requirements, to include support for the JTF-SWA CAOC, during Operation DESERT FOX.

10. In September 1999 I again deployed to Saudi Arabia to Prince Sultan Air Base. There I served as the executive officer for the 363d Expeditionary Operations Group.

11. In July 2001 I was stationed at Quantico Marine Corps Base, as one of six Air Force officers attending the USMC C2 Systems School. This course has since become the USMC Expeditionary Warfare Course, and is the in-residence PME that all Marine captains strive to attend. While at Quantico I learned about joint and Marine Corps doctrine. Part of my extracurricular activities included running the Marine Corps Marathon, and earning my tan belt through the Marine Corps Martial Arts program.

12. In June 2002 I was stationed at Ramstein AB, Germany in the Communications Directorate of Headquarters USAFE. There I worked tactical communications and airborne communications projects. In December of that year I again deployed to Prince Sultan Air Base, to work in the J6 directorate of the CAOC during the invasion of Iraq. As such I was directly responsible for the communications activation of newly deployed sites that were activated in the theater. I also helped ensure a smooth transition of all communications functions to the new CAOC at Al Udeid AB, Qatar. One of my challenges during this deployment was working datalinks issues with a Saudi Patriot Battery, and trying to extend to them the air picture. Before I left PSAB I was called by my leadership at Ramstein and asked if I wanted the Chief of Maintenance position at the 606<sup>th</sup> Air Control Squadron at Spangdahlem AB, Germany. I gladly said yes.

14. In September 2004 my unit deployed to three locations in Iraq. While there we controlled the airspace over two-thirds of Iraq, and my troops maintained the equipment necessary for that mission. This included CAS for the liberation of Fallujah. Deploying as a team with high morale, to the middle of a war, is the greatest feeling of mission accomplishment and self actualization one can achieve in the military. Our deployment saw daily mortar attacks on our base, including many casualties. Our most challenging moment came when a mortar struck our site, injuring one of my troops, and damaging half the generators that powered our site. Within thirty minutes my troop was receiving care at the hospital, and backup power had been restored, without any loss of mission. Our unit worked flawlessly after the attack, due in part to the extensive training we had undergone while in garrison. Everyone knew what to do and how to respond, without any direction. It was teamwork at its finest, and I have never been more proud of the men and women I serve with. I occasionally volunteered in the hospital at Balad, comforting patients, and moving them to the flightline for MEDEVAC to Landstuhl. The young amputees were the hardest ones to see. Knowing their lives would forever be changed. It is an image that will stay with me for a very long time.

15. Though my father never pushed me towards the military, I think he is secretly glad I have chosen this profession. I think of his career often and he still provides me advice from time to time, whether I ask for it or not. He remains one of my role models and mentors for what an officer should be. Part of the professional development I share with subordinates is Douglas MacArthur's "Duty, Honor, Country" speech that the general gave as his farewell address to the Corps of Cadets at the United States Military Academy in 1962. This speech is the quintessential definition of the role of an officer, and is as relevant today as when it was poignantly delivered over forty years ago. It has personal meaning to me as my father was a cadet at the time, and sat in the audience at West Point as the general gave this remarkable speech. I have had a copy of this speech hanging in every office I have occupied, and have frequently required my subordinates to read it.

16. As long as I can remember I knew I would go into the military in some form or another. Growing up I did not understand what civilians did, and could not imagine a life as one. During high school and college my primary goal was to get a commission and serve in the military. My secondary goal was to become a pilot, as my father had been. I have tried, unsuccessfully, three times to pursue this goal. In college, I had a navigator allocation in AFROTC. This was cancelled in 1991 with the defense drawdown. In 1992 I began speaking with a USMC Officer Candidate School recruiter. That summer I went to Quantico as an officer candidate, with a pilot contract. After approximately seven weeks of a ten week program I was sent home with a stress fracture in my foot. I was allowed to return to OCS and do the course again, but they did not reserve my pilot slot. At this point I had finished four years of AFROTC, and had one more term of school until graduation. I finished my degree and received my Air Force commission on 17 December, 1992, in front of the Wright B Flyer at the Air Force Museum, on the anniversary of the flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

17. My third and final attempt at flying came in 1994, when I was stationed at Randolph AFB to attend navigator training, as alluded to above. After three unsuccessful attempts to obtain my wings, I came to the painful conclusion I was not meant to fly, as my father had done before me. This did not in any way diminish my love for the military, or my desire to serve my country as an officer. Not for one moment did I consider another profession.

18. Aside from an education, sports and fitness have always played a large role in my life. Growing up I participated in ice hockey, gymnastics, soccer and softball. Some of this was through local city leagues, and some at the varsity level in high school. Since college I have always maintained an active lifestyle by exercising several times a week, lifting weights and running. In November I ran the Athens Marathon. Though my time was not spectacular, I finished and can say I have run the original marathon.

19. I also believe in the importance of community involvement. I have routinely participated in civic organizations such as Special Olympics, donating to police and fire organizations, helping to rebuild and renovate homes for the underprivileged and sponsoring a child in Chile through World Vision. I also helped in the cleanup efforts after the 1999 F5 tornado that devastated Oklahoma City, and the surrounding areas. For this I received the Humanitarian Service Medal. Shortly after the tornado I was sent TDY to attend SOS. While I was gone, one of the families in my squadron who had lost their home to the tornado stayed in my house until they could rebuild their own.

20. Faith plays a vital role in my life as well and I have regularly attended church. I have been active in youth and singles groups, sometimes teaching Sunday School, and also singing in choirs. During several deployments I have been involved in praise and worship groups.

21. For my whole adult life I have dedicated myself to becoming an officer, and serving my country in the military. I have considered it an honor, and my duty, to serve my country in this manner. I have also considered it a blessing to be able to follow in my father's profession, especially during a time of war. My father served in Vietnam, and I in turn have served in Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

22. My most fulfilling times in the military have been during my deployments. I have spent nearly a year and a half of my career deployed to the Middle East. Each time I have volunteered for these deployments, and all of them have been over the holiday seasons. The sense of camaraderie and mission are incomparable. Given the opportunity again, I would not hesitate to deploy.

23. My greatest joy in the military has been as a leader. The people are what make our military what it is today, and I have always sought to look for the best in my troops. I always seek out their opinions, listen to what they have to say, and maintain an open door policy. My troops know that they can talk to me about anything and I will listen. I have frequently given advice to my troops about education, obtaining a commission, and what life is like on the officer side of the house.

24. My family knows nothing about my current situation. I have only told them I am considering leaving the military; to which they responded with complete surprise.

25. The emotional burden of this past year has been at times unbearable. I was fired from the best job I ever had, and torn from a team and a mission that I love. I have been made to feel like a criminal, which was especially hard in light of the fact I had just returned from a dangerous tour in Iraq that. There is hardly a day that goes by when I do not see one of my former troops, and invariably they respond "we miss you, we need you, please come back." Short of life or limb, my family has sacrificed as much as it can for the defense of this nation.

26. My faith and close friends are the only things that have sustained me over the past year. Shortly after I was fired I briefly contemplated suicide. Afterwards I struggled with depression for several months, and even today have the occasional sleepless night. My career has been shattered, my privacy has been violated and my life has been turned upside down.

27. I have quietly fought this situation as much as I could. I have already spoken with civilian lawyers about filing an injunction should the Air Force pursue discharging me from their ranks. Should this situation not be resolved favorably, I do not know what I will do after the military. I have thought about continuing my service to the nation as a civilian, perhaps within DoD or the State Department. I have spoken with the CIA and they are very interested in me. Since I have never contemplated any other life than that of a military officer, I really do not know what will come next. I will cross that bridge when I get there.

28. For now my only wish is to put this matter behind me and get back to the business of being an officer and serving my country.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL D. ALMY, Major, USAF

Attachments:

1. MFR - Purported Evidence and Inquiry Leading to Show Cause Action, 15 Feb 06, 4 pages
2. AF IMT 1168 - SMSgt Patterson, 17 Mar 05, 2 pages
3. AF IMT 1168 - MSgt Griffin, 17 Mar 05, 2 pages
4. AF IMT 1168 - TSgt Parrott, 2 pages
5. Character Reference from Col (ret) Trahan, 12 Feb 06, 1 page
6. Character Reference from Lt Col Kromer, 13 Feb 06, 2 pages
7. Character Reference from Maj Weenum, 10 Feb 06, 1 page
8. Character Reference from Capt Williamson, 25 Jan 06, 1 page
9. Character Reference from Capt Higgins, 13 Feb 06, 1 page
10. Character Reference from Chaplain Walker, 8 Feb 06, 1 page
11. Character Reference from Capt Tran, 3 Feb 06, 1 page
12. Character Reference from 1Lt Freeman, 10 Feb 06, 1 page
13. Character Reference from 1Lt Zollinger, 23 Jan 06, 1 page
14. Character Reference from SMSgt (ret) McElya, 7 Feb 06, 1 page
15. Character Reference from MSgt Hogden, 30 Jan 06, 1 page
16. Character Reference from TSgt Hyre, 13 Feb 06, 1 page
17. Character Reference from SSgt Ray, 8 Feb 06, 1 page
18. Letter from Craig Wetherwax, undated, 1 page
19. Letter from Paul Tripp, undated, 1 page
20. Letter from Marwan Naaman, 24 Jan 06, 1 page
21. Letter from Gen Foglesong, re: Lt Gen Marquez award, 1 page
22. Joint Service Commendation Medal Citation, 21 Jul 03, 2 pages
23. Air Force Commendation Medal Citation, 9 Oct 01, 1 page
24. Air Force Commendation Medal Citation, 4 Feb 00, 1 page
25. Air Force Achievement Medal Citation, 16 Apr 99, 1 page
26. AFROTC Distinguished Graduate Letter, 17 Dec 92, 1 page
27. Maj Almy's collected Officer Performance Reports, 23 Pages
28. Photographs, 5 pages