

From: Tony (anthony.loverde@yahoo.com)
To: jon.welch@ramstein.af.mil;
Date: Tue, April 22, 2008 11:12:02 AM
Cc:
Subject: Loverde- Request

MSgt Welch,

Good Day. I apologize for the email, but this is a sensitive subject and I am not sure how to go about dealing with it.

The recent deployment has brought some issues to my attention that I assumed I had mastered my ability to squash in my past 7 years as an active duty member. The truth is I am very stressed out and I have come to the decision that it is more important for me to live honestly than to continue a life of false statements and distant relations among my peers. The fact is that I am a gay man, and living and flying with aircrew has posed some difficult personal questions I was faced to answer during my deployment.

I was constantly on guard to protect myself from questions about dating, relationships, and extra curricular activities asked by fellow crew members. No one ever thinks that a simple question like "Are you dating anyone," "What aspect of a women most attracts you," "What bars do you go to?" etc., would be very stressful questions to answer...but they are for a gay person.

So, I feel the need to come out. I just can't deal with living a double life among people that may or may not care if I am gay. I have no problem serving my commitment to the very end...but I can not do it silently. I know the commander has limited options regarding this matter due to DOD policy, but again...I am tired of lying my entire life in my professional career.

I am sending this message to you because I know SMSgt Broughman is very homophobic, he has made statements to me regarding his position. You may be homophobic as well, but I wouldn't know. It is sad that I have to make a choice between living honestly or serving my country...but it is a choice I am faced with today.

Please let me know you received this message, what you and the commander's intentions may be. Like I said, I have no problem serving my commitment, but I would like my sexuality disclosed to my crew for the next deployment. I think that is fair for everyone involved.

Sincerely,
Anthony Loverde, SSgt, USAF

P.S. I plan on being in the Netherlands Wednesday and Thursday visiting a friend. You can call my cell phone 0151 5397 5301 if you have any questions.

*Attached is the "legal" statement that most gay service members use in this kind of situation



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