



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
86TH AIRLIFT WING (USAF)

2 Jun 08

MEMORANDUM FOR 37 AS/CC

FROM: CMSgt Michael S. Yakowenko  
86 MXS/MXM

SUBJECT: Character Reference—SSgt Anthony Loverde

1. It has come to my attention that SSgt Anthony Loverde is being processed for discharge from the US Air Force as a result of revealing his homosexual orientation to you. The purpose of my writing is to personally vouch for the outstanding service and character of SSgt Loverde.
2. I have known Tony for nearly 4 years. I was his flight chief in the 412<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron at Edwards AFB and have maintained contact with him during his cross-training and reassignment here to Ramstein Air Base. Throughout this time, he has been nothing less than an outstanding NCO. He is well-respected by his peers, subordinates and superiors as a valuable asset to the United States. His exceptional work ethic has only been matched by his concern for fellow Airmen and professional conduct on- and off-duty. In fact, I would submit it is only his high level of integrity that prompted the necessity of this letter. In addition, he has served Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM deployments, as both a maintainer and operator, with outstanding results.
3. You would be hard-pressed to find a person demonstrating more integrity, service and excellence than SSgt Loverde. If you have any option to retain him in the US Air Force; I recommend we retain this professional Airman. I am confident he will continue to serve our country and Air Force in the exemplary manner he has for the previous years. If retention is not possible, anything short of an honorable discharge would be an injustice to a fine American veteran.
4. Feel free to contact me if you would like more information at 486-7798 or by email at: michael.yakowenko@ramstein.af.mil

  
MICHAEL S. YAKOWENKO, CMSgt, USAF  
Superintendent, 86<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron



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