1 Honorable Ronald B. Leighton 2 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN WASHINGTON AT TACOMA DIVISION MAJOR MARGARET WITT, No. C06-5195 RBL Plaintiff, 10 **DECLARATION OF SHER KUNG** V. IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO 11 **COMPEL PRODUCTION OF** 12 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF **DOCUMENTS RESPONSIVE TO** THE AIR FORCE; ET AL., REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION 13 NOS. 33 TO 36. Defendants. 14 NOTE ON MOTION CALENDAR: 15 MAY 28, 2010 16 17 Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I, Sher Kung, hereby declare as follows: 18 1. I am counsel for the plaintiff and have personal knowledge of the facts contained 19 in this Declaration. 20 2. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of an excerpt of Plaintiff's 21 Second Set of Requests for Production of Documents and Things to Defendants. 22 3. Attached hereto as Exhibit B is a true and correct copy of a letter dated April 23, 23 2010, from Sarah Dunne to Bryan Diederich, including the attachment to the letter—a draft 24 Stipulation and Order that would govern disclosure of any confidential personnel and medical 25 records in this litigation. 26

- 4. Attached hereto as Exhibit C are true and correct copies of excerpts from the deposition of Captain Jill Robinson, dated March 16, 2010.
- 5. Attached hereto as Exhibit D are true and correct copies of excerpts from the deposition of Captain Edmond Hrivnak, dated March 17, 2010.
- 6. Attached hereto as Exhibit E are true and correct copies of excerpts from the deposition of Colonel Janette Moore-Harbert, dated February 25, 2010.
- 7. Attached hereto as Exhibit F is a true and correct copy of an excerpt of Defendants' Objections and Responses to Plaintiff's Second Set of Requests for Production of Documents and Things.
- 8. On April 13, 2010, government counsel, Sarah Dunne and I participated in a telephone conference concerning Defendants' Objections and Responses to Plaintiff's Second Set of Requests. Government counsel restated their position that the Privacy Act contains no exception permitting disclosure of the requested documents.
- 9. On May 10, 2010, government counsel, Sarah Dunne and I participated in a telephonic meet and confer and government counsel conceded that there is a provision in the Privacy Act which allows for the release of Privacy Act information upon court order. Government counsel however confirmed that their client was unwilling to agree to a Stipulation and Order governing the handling of the documents requested here. The government stated that their client still maintained the position that the Privacy Act protects personnel files from disclosure. Government counsel also stated that they shared our interest in handling confidential documents in a careful manner.
- 10. Attached hereto as Exhibit G is a true and correct copy of a letter dated May 11, 2010, from Sarah Dunne to Bryan Diederich, memorializing the May 10 conversation.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this Declaration was executed on May 13, 2010 in Seattle, Washington.

/s/ Sher S. Kung Sher Kung, WSBA # 42077

1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE		
2	I hereby certify that on May 13, 2010, I electronically filed this <i>Declaration Sher Kung in Sup-</i>		
3	port of Motion to Compel Production of Documents Responsive to Requests for Production		
4	Numbers 33 to 36 with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notifi-		
5	cation of such filing to the following:		
6	Peter Phipps		
7	peter.phipps@usdoj.gov		
8	Marion J. Mittet		
9	Jamie.Mittet@usdoj.gov		
10	Bryan R. Diederich		
11	bryan.diederich@usdoj.gov		
12	Stephen J. Buckingham		
13	Stephen.Buckingham@usdoj.gov		
14			
15	Attorneys for Defendants		
16	DATED this 13 <sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010.		
17			
18	AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF		
19	WASHINGTON FOUNDATION		
20	By: /s/ Nina Jenkins		
21	Nina Jenkins Legal Program Assistant		
22	705 Second Avenue, Suite 300		
23	Seattle, WA 98104 Tel. (206) 624-2184		
24	njenkins@aclu-wa.org		
25			

# **EXHIBIT A**

1	THE HONORABLE RONALD B. LEIGHTON		
2			
3			
4			
5			
5			
7	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT TACOMA		
9			
10	MAJOR MARGARET WITT,	No. C06-5	195 RBL
11	Plaintiff,		
12	v.		FF'S SECOND SET OF FS FOR PRODUCTION OF
13	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE, et al.,		ENTS AND THINGS TO
14	Defendants.		
15 16	Pursuant to Rule 34 of the Federal Rules	of Civil Proced	dure, Plaintiff Major Margaret
17	Witt submits the following Second Set of Reques	sts for Producti	ion of Documents and Things to
18	Defendants (collectively the "Discovery Requests"), the Department of Air Force, Robert M.		
19	Gates, the Secretary of Defense, Michael B. Donley, the Secretary of the Air Force, and Colonel		
20	Janette Moore-Harbert.		
21	<u>INSTRUCTIONS</u>		
22	1. These Discovery Requests must be answered fully, in writing and under oath, and		
23	the requested documents served on counsel for Plaintiff, within thirty days of service of these		thirty days of service of these
24			
	Pl.'s Second Set of Req. for Produc. of Docs. to Defs., Page 1 of 12 (Case No. 06-5195)		AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF WASHINGTON FOUNDATION 705 SECOND AVENUE, SUITE 300

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104-1799

(206) 624-2184

Request for Production No. 31: Produce all public statements made by the Defendants (dating		
from January 1, 2004 to the present), including but not limited to speeches, presentations,		
reports, and press releases, on the subject of United States Armed Forces personnel and sexual		
orientation or sexual conduct between two people of the same	sex.	
Request for Production No. 32: Produce all documents and c	communications referring or	
relating to all studies and assessments concerning service by g	ay and lesbian service members in	
the United States Armed Forces.		
Request for Production No. 33: Produce SM-A	personnel file and all	
documents pertaining to disciplinary action or admonishment	concerning A relationship with	
SM-B		
Request for Production No. 34: Produce SM-B	personnel file and all	
documents pertaining to discipline and admonishment regarding	ng B relationship with	
SM-A		
Request for Production No. 35: Produce SM-C	personnel file and all	
documents relating to C relationship with SM-D		
Telumenomp Will	·	
1 We believe that SM-B is still on active duty in the Air Force ho	wever we are unaware of B current rank.	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	e however we are unaware of D current	
Pl.'s Second Set of Req. for Produc. of Docs. to Defs.,	AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF WASHINGTON FOUNDATION	

Page 11 of 12 (Case No. 06-5195)

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF WASHINGTON FOUNDATION 705 SECOND AVENUE, SUITE 300 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104-1799 (206) 624-2184

1	Request for Production No. 36: Produce SM-E personnel file and all	
2	documents pertaining to E relationship with SM-F	
3		
4	Request for Production No. 37: Produce the Unit Manning Documents for the 446th AES for	
5	the years 2002 through 2007.	
6		
7	Request for Production No. 38: Produce all documents created, collected, obtained, produced	
8	or maintained, concerning the 446th AES, by MSgt Aaron W. Maness, the unit historian and in	
9	his role as the unit historian, from 2000 to 2006.	
10		
11		
12	DATED this 23rd day of February, 2010.	
13		
14	AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF WASHINGTON FOUNDATION	
15	By:/s/ Sarah A. Dunne	
16	James Lobsenz, WSBA #8787 Carney Badley Spellman	
1.7	700 Fifth Avenue, Ste 5800	
17	Seattle, WA 98104	
18	<u>lobsenz@carneylaw.com</u> (206) 622-8020	
19	Sarah A. Dunne, WSBA #34869	
20	Sher Kung, WSBA #42077 ACLU of Washington Foundation	
	dunne@aclu-wa.org	
21	skung@aclu-wa.org	
22		
23	3 We believe that SM-E is still on active duty in the Air Force however we are unaware of E current rank. It is also our understanding that previously went by the name of SM-E  4 We have reason to believe that SM-E is engaged in a relationship with another unit member by the first	
24	<sup>4</sup> We have reason to believe that $\frac{SM-E}{F}$ is engaged in a relationship with another unit member by the first name of $\frac{F}{F}$ but we do not have knowledge of $\frac{F}{F}$ rank or last name.	
	Pl.'s Second Set of Req. for Produc. of Docs. to Defs., Page 12 of 12 (Case No. 06-5195) 7  AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF WASHINGTON FOUNDATION 705 SECOND AVENUE, SUITE 300 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104-1799	

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104-1799 (206) 624-2184

# **EXHIBIT B**

SARAH DUNNE LEGAL DIRECTOR

NANCY TALNER STAFF ATTORNEY

ROSE SPIDELL STAFF ATTORNEY FLOYD AND DELORES JONES FAMILY FELLOW

SHER KUNG PERKINS COIE FELLOW

LINDSEY SOFFES ROPES & GRAY FELLOW

AMERICAN CIVIL
LIBERTIES UNION
OF WASHINGTON
FOUNDATION
705 2ND AVENUE, 3RD FL.
SEATTLE, WA 98104
T/206.624.2184
F/206.624.2190
WWW.ACLU-WA.ORG

JESSE WING BOARD PRESIDENT

KATHLEEN TAYLOR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



April 23, 2010

#### Via E-mail

Bryan R. Diederich
Peter J. Phipps
Stephen J. Buckingham
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch
U.S. Department of Justice
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Witt v. U.S. Air Force et al., No. C06-5195 (W.D. Wash.)

Dear Bryan,

I am writing concerning Defendants' refusal to produce any personnel files pursuant to Requests Nos. 33 to 36 set forth in Plaintiff's Second Set of Requests for Production of Documents. Requests for Production Nos. 33 through 36 request the personnel files of SM-A , SM-B , SM-C , and SM-E

. Defendants cite to the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, to justify their claim that these files are protected from disclosure. We discussed your objection briefly during our April 13 conference call in which government counsel stated that the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, contained no exception permitting disclosure of the requested documents. A review of the language of the Privacy Act and the relevant case law, however, establishes that this representation is incorrect.

It is well-established that the Privacy Act provides no bar to the disclosure of information in discovery during the course of litigation. See, e.g., Laxalt v. McClatchy, 809 F.2d 885, 888-89 (D.C. Cir. 1987); Weahkee v. Norton, 621 F.2d 1080, 1082-83 (10th Cir. 1980); Hassan v. United States, 2006 WL 681038 \*2 (W.D. Wash. 2006). Indeed, the plain language of 5 U.S. C. § 552a(b)(11) permits disclosure pursuant to court order. Laxalt, 809 F. 2d at 888. In reality, "a party can invoke discovery of materials protected by the Privacy Act through the normal discovery process and according to the usual discovery standards, and the test of discoverability is the relevance standard of Rule 26(b)(1) of the [Federal Rules of Civil Procedure]." Hassan, 2006 WL 681038, at \*2 (quoting Laxalt, 809 F.2d at 889).

Because the Privacy Act provides no basis for Defendants' refusal to produce the documents requested in Requests for Production Nos. 33 through 36, we renew our requests. On April 13, we agreed to limit Requests for Production Nos. 33, 34, and 35 to documents pertaining to disciplinary action or admonishment, rather than the

Letter to DOJ April 23, 2010 Page 2

entire personnel files. We still stand by this agreement. With respect to Request No. 36, we narrow our request to seek all documents (including emails) showing SM-E supervisors are aware of E relationship with another servicemember named SM-F, including all documents of such nature contained within SM-E personnel file. Stated simply, we believe the documents we seek are relevant to this litigation pursuant to Rule 26(b)(1) and we are willing to agree to a protective order governing the use and disclosure of such confidential records during this litigation.

Included with this letter is a draft of a Stipulation & Order (in essence a protective order) that would govern any confidential personnel and medical records disclosed during this litigation and protect against improper disclosure to the general public. Please let me know if you agree to this protective order and whether you have any revisions to the proposed Stipulation & Order.

Sincerely,

Sarah A. Dunne

Legal Director

Enclosure

cc: James Lobsenz

Honorable Ronald B. Leighton

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN WASHINGTON AT TACOMA DIVISION

MAJOR MARGARET WITT,

Plaintiff,

V.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE; ET AL.,

Defendants.

No. C06-5195 RBL

STIPULATION AND ORDER TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY OF DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION

#### I. STIPULATION

Pursuant to Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the parties, by and through their respective counsel of record, hereby stipulate that certain discovery material be treated as confidential and respectfully ask the Court enter an Order as follows:

- The Complaint of Plaintiff involves Plaintiff's claims of unlawful discharge from United States Air Force in violation of the United States Constitution. Defendants deny these claims.
- It is necessary for the parties to produce through discovery in this lawsuit confidential records, which are entitled to protection against improper disclosure to the general public.

Stipul and Order to Protect Conf of Docs and Info No. C06-5195 AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF WASHINGTON FOUNDATION 705 Second Avenue, Suite 300 Seattle, Washington 98104-1799 (206) 624-2184

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- This Stipulation and Order, when and as approved by the Court, is intended to govern all productions of confidential information and documents pertaining to this litigation.
  - 4. The following definitions shall apply to this Stipulation and Order:
- 4.1. "Party" or "parties" shall mean and refer to any party, Plaintiff or Defendants, in the above-captioned matter, including any counsel of record for any party signatory to this Stipulation;
- 4.2. "Confidential information" shall mean and refer to information a party in good faith believes contains sensitive personal information, such as medical or personnel records, and designates as "CONFIDENTIAL" as set forth below. Upon good cause shown and/or a compelling reason, the Court may determine that certain information the parties designate as "CONFIDENTIAL" shall be redacted or filed under seal, as set forth below.
  - 4.3. "Qualified persons" shall mean and refer to:
- (a) The Court and Court personnel, including stenographic reporters engaged in such proceedings as are necessarily incident to the preparation for trial and/or trial of this action;
- (b) Counsel of record for any party signatory to this Stipulation,
   including all attorneys of that counsel's law firm or organization;
- (c) Employees, paralegal assistants, stenographic, and clerical employees of counsel for the parties signatory to this Stipulation only when operating under the direct supervision of counsel;
  - (d) Plaintiff Margaret Witt;

- (e) Defendants, and all managing agents and employees of the agency

  Defendant, who become involved in this litigation at the request of counsel of record and whose review of protected documents is specifically controlled by counsel;
- (f) Potential witnesses who become involved in this litigation at the request of counsel of record and whose review of protected documents is specifically controlled by counsel;
- (g) Experts or consultants employed by counsel of record for the purpose of assisting in these proceedings, preparation for trial, and/or trial of this action.
- 5. The parties shall designate records as confidential information by placing the following legend on any such record prior to production: "CONFIDENTIAL." In the event that any party inadvertently fails to designate a record as confidential information at the time of its production, they shall have five business days after discovery of such error to so designate the record.
- 6. All documents designated as confidential, and all information derived therefrom, shall be used solely for the purpose of preparing and litigating claims in this action and shall not be disclosed, directly or indirectly, or published in any medium by any party, or disseminated except to qualified persons.
- 7. Any party to this action may proffer into evidence confidential information at time of trial or by motion or otherwise and such confidential information may be introduced or shown to jurors and witnesses at the time of trial or on motion of any party, subject to normal evidentiary objections. In the event that any material designated as confidential is used in any court proceeding in this action, it shall not lose its confidential status through such use, and the

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Stipul and Order to Protect Conf of Docs and Info No. C06-5195 4

party using such confidential material shall maintain its confidentiality during such use, subject to the Court's guidance.

- 8. Any party filing with the Court confidential information must file a stipulation and proposed order to seal or motion to seal consistent with Local Civil Rule 5(g).
- 9. Any deposition testimony deemed to contain confidential information shall be brought within the protection of this Order by orally designating on the deposition record the protected portion or portions or, within ten (10) business days of receipt of the transcript, by designating such portions by page and line number.
- 10. The designating party shall have the burden of proof regarding the confidential nature of designated documents and/or information.
- 11. The parties shall resolve any disputes concerning the designation of any documents as "CONFIDENTIAL" as follows: the non-designating party shall challenge any designation of confidentiality by notifying the designating party in writing, specifically identifying the challenged item(s) as well as the basis for the challenge. If the parties cannot resolve the challenge after engaging in good-faith discussions, the designating party shall seek an order of the Court with respect to the challenged information, documents, or things designated as "CONFIDENTIAL." Both Plaintiff and Defendants will treat all materials or information designated as "CONFIDENTIAL" in accordance with the requirements of this Order for a reasonable period after notice of a challenge to confidentiality and during the pendency of related motions.
- 12. Disclosure of confidential information and confidential documents may be made only to "qualified persons" as defined above, with the following additional limitations:

- 12.1. Expert witnesses and consultants retained by Plaintiff or Defendants must affirmatively agree to the terms and conditions of this Stipulation prior to review of any such documents, and execute a Statement of Confidentiality, identical to Exhibit A. Counsel revealing confidential information to such persons shall be responsible for maintaining a list of all persons to whom such confidential information is disclosed, and for retaining originals of the signed agreements. Upon a showing of good cause, such lists and agreements shall be available for inspection by opposing counsel upon prior written agreement of the parties or Order of this Court.
- 12.2. Potential witnesses may review confidential documents only as needed for litigation of this case and under the supervision of counsel after executing a Statement of Confidentiality, identical to Exhibit A. Counsel revealing confidential information to such persons shall be responsible for maintaining a list of all persons to whom such confidential information is disclosed, and for retaining originals of the signed agreements. Upon a showing of good cause, such lists and agreements shall be available for inspection by opposing counsel upon prior written agreement of the parties or Order of this Court.
- 13. This Order is made to facilitate discovery and the production of discoverable evidence in this action. Neither the entry of this Stipulation and Order, the designation of any information as confidential information under the Order, the failure to make such designation, or the failure to object to such designation by any party shall constitute evidence with respect to any issue in this litigation. This Order shall not abrogate or diminish any contractual, statutory, or other legal right or obligation any party may have with respect to information disclosed in this matter.

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Stipul and Order to Protect Conf of Docs and Info No. C06-5195

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF WASHINGTON FOUNDATION 705 Second Avenue, Suite 300 Seattle, Washington 98104-1799 (206) 624-2184

- 14. Any party or person who knowingly violates this Order may be held in contempt of this Court. The Court and parties preserve the right to order or seek an award of other such relief as is appropriate for such disclosure.
- 15. Nothing in this Order shall preclude any party, its counsel, or any other person from disclosing or using, in any manner or for any purpose, any records or information not obtained in this action, if such records or information are lawfully obtained from a third party, even though the same records or information may have been produced in discovery as designated as "CONFIDENTIAL."
- 16. Nothing in this Order shall prohibit any party from seeking to modify any provision of this Stipulation and Order upon a showing of good cause.
- 17. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to prohibit a party from seeking an order compelling the production of confidential information in the future.
- 18. Nothing in this Order shall preclude a party from pursuing a further protective order or moving to seal any portion of the Court file at any time if such action is deemed necessary by either party.
- 19. No later than ninety (90) days after the judgment in this action becomes final and all rights of appeal are exhausted, Plaintiff and Defendants agree to destroy or return all confidential information, documents, and things and all copies of same to the counsel producing such information and documents. To the extent that the information is embodied in and is inseparable from attorney work product, the recipient may destroy the document or maintain confidentiality of such material in perpetuity.

20. This Order is without prejudice to	o any party's right to demand or oppose					
discovery on any grounds permitted by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and is without						
prejudice to any other party's right to contest any such assertions.						
21. Insofar as the provisions of this Order restrict the use of confidential information,						
this Stipulation and Order shall continue to be b	inding after the conclusion of this litigation.					
Respectfully submitted,						
DATED this day of April, 2010.						
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF WASHINGTON FOUNDATION	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE					
By:	Ву:					
Sarah A. Dunne, WSBA #34869	PETER J. PHIPPS					
Sher S. Kung, WSBA #42077	BRYAN R. DIEDERICH					
705 Second Avenue, Suite 300	STEPHEN J. BUCKINGHAM					
Seattle, WA 98104	United States Department of Justice					
Tel: (206) 624-2184	Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch					
dunne@aclu-wa.org	20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.					
skung@aclu-wa.org	Washington, D.C. 20001					
CARNEY BADLEY SPELLMAN	Tel: (202) 616-8482					
CARNET BADLET SPELLMAN	Fax: (202) 616-8470					
James Lobsenz, WSBA #8787	peter.phipps@usdoj.gov Stephen.Buckingham@usdoj.gov					
701 5th Ave Ste 3600	bryan.diederich@usdoj.gov					
Seattle, WA 98104-7010	styamatorian Caracipac					
Tel. (206) 622-8020	Attorneys for Defendants					
lobsenz@carneylaw.com						
Attorneys for Plaintiff						

#### 1 II. ORDER 2 IT IS SO ORDERED. DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of April, 2010. 3 Honorable Ronald B. Leighton United States District Judge Presented by: DATED this 23 day of April, 2010. ACLU OF WASHINGTON FOUNDATION U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE By: Sarah A. Dunne, WSBA #34869 PETER J. PHIPPS 10 Sher S. Kung, WSBA #42077 BRYAN R. DIEDERICH 705 Second Avenue, Suite 300 STEPHEN J. BUCKINGHAM 11 Seattle, WA 98104 United States Department of Justice 12 Tel: (206) 624-2184 Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch dunne@aclu-wa.org 20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. skung@aclu-wa.org 13 Washington, D.C. 20001 Tel: (202) 616-8482 CARNEY BADLEY SPELLMAN 14 Fax: (202) 616-8470 James Lobsenz, WSBA#8787 peter.phipps@usdoj.gov 701 5th Ave Ste 3600 15 Stephen.Buckingham@usdoj.gov Seattle, WA 98104-7010 bryan.diederich@usdoj.gov Tel. (206) 622-8020 16 lobsenz@carneylaw.com Attorneys for Defendants 17 Attorneys for Plaintiff 18 19

Stipul and Order to Protect Conf of Docs and Info No. C06-5195

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### **EXHIBIT A**

### STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

The undersigned acknowledges receipt of the attached STIPULATION AND ORDER
TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY OF DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION
and that he/she has read and understands and agrees to be bound thereby.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 201\_\_\_.

Signature

Print Name

Stipul and Order to Protect Conf of Docs and Info No. C06-5195 AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF WASHINGTON FOUNDATION 705 Second Avenue, Suite 300 Seattle, Washington 98104-1799 (206) 624-2184

# **EXHIBIT C**

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT TACOMA

MAJOR MARGARET WITT, Plaintiff, C065195RBL vs. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE; COLONEL MARY L.) WALKER, Commander 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, McChord Air Force Base; and JAMES G. ROCHE, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF THE ) AIR FORCE, Defendants.

DEPOSITION UPON ORAL EXAMINATION OF JILL ROBINSON

#### APPEARANCES:

FOR THE PLAINTIFF:

JAMES E. LOBSENZ

CARNEY, BADLEY, SPELLMAN 701 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 3600 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104

FOR THE DEFENDANTS:

PETER J. PHIPPS

STEPHEN J. BUCKINGHAM

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE 20 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE NW WASHINGTON, DC 20044

MARCH 16, 2010

```
37
 1
            but I don't -- I haven't seen
                                            since
                                                     left.
 2
        Q
            Did you ever hear anyone in the unit complain that they
 3
            were serving with
                                       believed to be
 4
        Α
            No.
 5
        Q
            Did you ever hear anyone complain that they were serving
 6
            with
                            , assumed to be
 7
        Α
            No.
 8
            No?
        Q
 9
        Α
            Odd behaviors. was just a quirky and but there
10
            wasn't...
11
        Q
            Let's see, did you say, did have a partner?
            I did not say. I don't know if did.
12
        Α
                           after break up of marriage, do
13
        0
            And
14
            you know whether had a partner or not?
15
            No.
        Α
16
           Now, aside from those three people,
17
                                   , there's some other people who
18
            are still in; is that correct?
19
        A
           Yes.
20
           Who you believe to be gay or lesbian; right?
21
            Correct.
22
            First of all, just how many in numbers, other people is
23
            that group in your mind?
24
        A
           Six.
25
            Six. Okay. And of those six, how many are gay men and
```

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40
            with
 1
                     partner, or... Yeah.
 2
            How did you first learn about the alleged domestic
 3
            violence incident?
 4
        Α
            I saw bruises on SM-D
 5
            Did then did you ask SM-D about that?
        Q
 6
        Α
            Yes.
 7
        0
            What didSM-Dsay?
 8
        A
            Myself and Leslie Pellegrini were in the office and
            asking D about it, and D stated that D
                                                           fine,
10
            that D was fine. And bruises were there. And it came
11
            back to be centered on SM-C that had caused the
12
            bruises. And then from there, I believe what was
13
            transpired was there ended up being an exercise that
14
            went overseas to Hawaii that the majority of the
15
            squadron went on, and then at that point somebody had
16
            stated that I had gone in and up-channeled information
            related to SM-C up the chain of the Air Force. And
17
18
            SM-C approached me about it asking why. And I had no
19
            part of up-channeling of any information. So,... There
20
            was an accusation made that I had turned C in, I had
21
            access to Col. Moore-Harbert's office while C was gone
22
            as the commander on this deployment and floated this
23
            upward.
            So, is this right, SM-C basically approached you,
24
25
            approached you and accused you of outing C ?
```

41 1 Yes. A 2 You said that it began with a discussion I guess 3 somewhere in the building in the office about bruises. 4 At that point, did you know prior to that day that lived with SM-D SM-C 5 6 Α Yes. Prior to that day, did you believe SM-C and SM-D7 Q to 8 be having a relationship? 9 Α Yes. 10 Q And I take it that's something SM-C never told you; ."? right? C never said, "I am 11 Correct. 12 Α ."? 13 And SM-D never said, "I am 0 Correct. 14 Α But it's something you believed? 15 16 Α Correct. 17 Prior to this day that you saw the bruises on 18 , did you know anything about how SM-C SM-D 19 and SM-D had come to be together? 20 Α I believe it was started as, I believe -- and this is where I can be wrong, that it was on a deployment 21 22 overseas. That they met? 23 24 A Yes. 25 Had you ever been to their house that they shared?

A Yes.

- Q Had you been to their house prior to there domestic violence incident?
- A Yes.
- Q One thing I didn't understand is you mentioned something about an exercise that the whole unit was on, an exercise; is that what you said?
- A Yes. There was -- I forgot the -- I don't remember the name of it. But it was over in Hawaii. And so Col. Moore-Harbert was over there along with many other people. And there was only a few people in the squadron back here just coming in to do their requirements.
- Q So, I don't understand. What happened while you were in Hawaii that's related to this?
- A I wasn't in Hawaii. I was at the squadron.
- 16 Q Okay.
  - And so what came back was while I was at the squadron, SM-C was also there, and all doing our own independent things. And then I got a call while I was at home from C stating that information had gotten back to people in Hawaii that I had up-channeled information.
  - Q Oh, I see.
- And so, I -- Yeah, I spent a good couple hours talking

  to SM-C about it, and I don't...
  - Q So, at this point, when most of the unit is in Hawaii,

```
43
            you and SM-C are not in Hawaii?
            Correct.
 3
            And when you're saying you spent a couple hours talking
            to SM-C, is that in person or over the phone?
        A
            Over the phone.
 6
            I take it in this conversation SM-C is upset?
        0
7
        A
           Yes.
 8
            Angry at you?
 9
        A
            Maybe. Confused. Not understanding why I got
10
            information.
11
            And because you're the executive assistant, you have
        0
12
            access to the commander's desk; is that right?
13
           I do not.
        A
14
            You do not?
        O
15
        A
           I do not.
            But SM-C thought you did?
16
17
            Correct. Or there was, there was a belief assumed that
            I did, therefore I was the one that was responsible for
18
19
            the information getting out there, and that I had
20
            up-channeled it.
21
            So, you told C I take it, "I did not up-channel
22
            it. I did not tell Moore-Harbert anything"?
23
        A
            I -- Right. I mean, Col. Moore-Harbert was over there,
24
            and I went through the whole explanation of my access,
25
            my inability to get access to that information. I don't
```

```
have access to her office. Don't have access to the
            information that C thought was forwarded upward.
            So, you told SM-C this?
        A
            Correct.
           And what did C say?
 6
            I felt as though I lost a friendship.
        A
 7
           Did C say whether C believed you or not when you
        0
 8
            said, "I didn't do this"?
            No, I don't believe that C actually said anything. It
 9
        A
10
            was a matter of I was put in a place to convince.
11
            Then what happened?
        0
12
        A
            I spoke to Col. Moore-Harbert about it when she got
13
            back --
14
        0
            What did --
            -- and asked her to explain it to C , that I don't
15
        A
16
            have this information.
17
           And was she willing to do that?
18
        A
            Yes.
19
            Did she do that?
20
        A
           I believe she did.
21
            What makes you say you believe that she spoke to --
22
        A
            -- because I was there when the three of us talked.
23
        0
            So --
            -- And so it was explained in C office that while this
24
25
            allegation was there, that I wasn't the source, that I
```

```
45
            didn't have access.
            Did Col. Moore-Harbert explain what was the source of
 3
            her information?
        A
            No.
 5
            Did she mention the police report?
            The police report was part of what the source was, but I
            don't recall her actually explaining it to SM-C about
            the specific police report. I remember the
            conversations that when reports come through with
10
            domestic violence and the police officers arrive at the
11
            house and they're military, it still gets crossed over
12
            to the military side. So, that I recall is information,
13
            and so ...
14
            That information that the police share their reports
15
            with the military, was that information, did it come
16
            from Col. Moore-Harbert or someone else?
17
            I believe it came from Col. Moore-Harbert.
18
            In this three-person conversation, did you form an
            opinion as to whether SM-C was convinced that you were
19
20
            not the person who outed C ?
21
            I don't think C ever be convinced.
        A
22
            You don't?
23
             (Non-verbal negative response.)
        Α
24
        Q
            So, did it permanently damage the friendship?
25
        Α
            Uh-huh.
```

- Q You said at one point, SM-A was the commander of the unit; correct?
- A Correct.
- Q A was succeeded by ; correct?
- 5 A Correct.

1

2

3

4

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

- Q What's your understanding of why SM-A was replaced by ?
- A I think it's multi-faceted.
  - Q Okay.
- I believe part of it may be time. I believe another component was A commanded the squadron and gave special privileges to A executive officer related to time and flexible hours and a perception that --B was SM-B SM-B is B name. married. is married but would ride in with SM-A morning and take A home. They would go to lunches together. It was just, it was... It was a dirty feeling. It wasn't -- didn't seem appropriate. So, over time, it got to be suffocating for us to watch, so a group of us that were present from different AFCs went across to Command, across the street to 446, and I believe it was Col. Spencer at the time, and had a sit-down discussion about the perceptions and impact that it had and the angst it had on the squadron.

It did have an effect on the squadron?

# **EXHIBIT D**

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT TACOMA

MAJOR MARGARET WITT,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Vs.

C065195RBL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
THE AIR FORCE; COLONEL MARY L.)
WALKER, Commander 446th
Aeromedical Evacuation
Squadron, McChord Air Force
Base; and JAMES G. ROCHE,
SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF THE
AIR FORCE,

Defendants.

DEPOSITION UPON ORAL EXAMINATION OF EDMOND HRIVNAK

#### APPEARANCES:

FOR THE PLAINTIFF:

JAMES E. LOBSENZ

CARNEY, BADLEY, SPELLMAN
701 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 3600
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104

FOR THE DEFENDANTS:

PETER J. PHIPPS

STEPHEN J. BUCKINGHAM

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE 20 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE NW

WASHINGTON, DC 20044

MARCH 17, 2010

```
28
1
       you're talking five years ago.
2
       So, let's talk about May 2005 when you really left the
3
       unit.
       Yeah.
4
   Α
       How many gays and lesbians combined?
6
       Well, I didn't keep count.
7
                 MR. PHIPPS: Objection. Foundation.
8
                 MR. LOBSENZ: That's okay.
9
       I didn't keep count, but I would guess six to eight gays
10
       and lesbians.
11 Q
       I'm not at this moment anyway, asking you for any names,
12
       okay?
13 A
       Okay.
       But just at this moment what proportion of that six to
14
15
       eight or so, is it evenly divided men and women, do you
       think it's more one gender than the other, what?
16
17 A
       I would say, yeah, more female than male. I mean, we're
       a medical unit, so there's generally more females than
18
       males.
19
20
   Q
       Okay.
21 A
       So, just the numbers?
22 Q
       Okay.
23 A
       And so I would say six female lesbians, two gay men.
24 Q
       Are any of the people that you believe are gay or
25
       lesbian now presently retired from the Air Force?
```

```
34
 1
            and I deployed together in 2003.
 2
        I am informed, as of yesterday anyway that
 3
       retired?
 4
   Α
       Okay. That's news to me.
 5
       So, with that preface I'm going to ask you did you have
 6
       a suspicion that
                                    was
                                               when you served
 7
       with
       No. That's also news to me.
 8
   Α
 9
       Did you at some point hear about some kind of argument,
10
       altercation between SM-C
                                         and
          SM-D
11
       Not firsthand.
12 | A
13
       What do you mean by "not firsthand"? Did you hear about
14
       it secondhand? I don't ...
15
       Gosh, who told me? You know, I heard third person that
16
       they were dating and that they were living together.
17
       And the only reason that I would remember this is
18
       because SM-C
                              deployed with me in 2003, and
19
       was on another med-evac crew. We were at the same
20
       squadron, and I know that, that that person was also
21
       over there in another squadron; that's how they met was
22
       on a deployment.
23
       That person, meaning the person C
                                             dating?
24
       Yeah, the person C dating, because they had met --
25
       Because when I was told there was an altercation, they
```

```
35
1
       were living together. "Gosh, I know that name
2
       somewhere." "Of course you do. That person was
3
       deployed when you guys were overseas." That's the only
4
       reason that sticks in the memory, otherwise I probably
5
       would have forgotten the whole conversation.
6
       Make any difference to you that apparently
7
       was
       No, because C: was in charge of a combat crew over
 9
       there, and C actually evac'd more casualties and flew
10
       more combat missions than I did. And, in fact, after I
       left the 446 \,^{\rm C} volunteered for duty again on several
11
12
       occasions and now has cared for thousands of casualties
13
       from both wars and probably puts my military record to
14
       shame. And I personally know that the CCATT person that
15
           was dating -- Critical Care Transport Team -- I had
       a particular patient that was critically short of
16
17
       breath. And I could not figure out in flight why this
18
       person was short of breath. And the CCATT team was on
19
       the aircraft with me. SM-D
20
       Apparently you don't know the name ( SM-D
                                                           but
21
       you know that there is this CCATT person that was
22
       dating --
23 A
       -- I'm having trouble. This was a long time ago.
24
       was a lot of missions and a lot of casualties, but I
25
       remember going to SM-D and going to D team and
```

```
45
       Okay. So, does this change? I mean, I think earlier
1
2
       today you said something about you didn't realize that
3
       Maj. Witt had brought a lawsuit. Is there a difference
 4
       in your mind between a case and a lawsuit?
5
       See, I never made the connection between case, lawsuit.
 6
       To me I heard "don't talk about a case;" I thought it
 7
       was just Margie trying to get reinstated in the
8
       military. I never asked.
9
       Do you know whether it was the commander or not who made
10
       this comment about don't talk about it?
11 | A
       No, I honestly can't recall.
       Did you say that you had served for some period of time
12 0
               SM-A
13
       under
14 A
       Correct.
15
       Do you know why
                         SM-A
                                    retired?
16 A
       No.
       At some point in time, do you remember members of the
17
                                       SM-A
       unit making complaints about
18
                                                    behavior
19
       with another member of the unit?
       Yeah. Actually found out after the fact, because
20
21
       several of the enlisted under my commanding op' section
       had made comments about, I'm not going to call it an
22
23
       affair because I have no firsthand knowledge. But under
24
       the UCMJ I would definitely call it an unprofessional
```

relationship with

and

SM-B

the

SM-A

```
1
       executive officer. It got to the point -- And, again,
2
       it was affecting my morale, too, their behavior with
3
       each other. I mean, they were, they were glued at the
4
       hip. I mean, constantly together. That it didn't
5
       matter if they were having an affair or not, that's
6
       irrelevant. Under the UCMJ, the perception of an
7
       unprofessional relationship is enough justification
8
       under the UCMJ that the superior officer should take
9
       action. So, after quite a bit of time of this, I went
10
       over and formally complained to the Op's group commander
11
       Col. Brian Spencer that we have a morale issue, esprit
12
       de corps issue, because of the conduct of our commander
13
       and executive officer. He asked me, "Are they having an
       affair?" I said, "I don't know; it doesn't matter if
14
15
       they're having an affair, it's an unprofessional
16
       relationship and affecting morale, and I feel like you
17
       need to do something about it." I had no idea that the
18
       enlisted had come in on their own and had talked to him
19
       also. I found this out four months after the fact that
20
       that had occurred.
21
       So, he, Col. Spencer did not mention to you at that time
       that he'd already had complaints from enlisted
22
23
       personnel?
24 A
       No, I don't recall. I may have spoken to him first.
25
       honestly don't know. Please don't ask me for a date,
```

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT TACOMA

MAJOR MARGARET WITT,	)
Plaintiff,	) }
v.	) No. C06-5195 RBL
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE, et al,	)
Defendants.	)

## DEPOSITION UPON ORAL EXAMINATION OF COLONEL JANETTE MOORE-HARBERT

### TAKEN AT

Carney Badley Spellman
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3600
Seattle, WA 98104

FEBRUARY 25, 2010

THURSDAY, 9:00 A.M.

Reported by:

MARIE WHITE, CSR # WH-IT-EM-\*29906

- crosses your mind to think this person probably is of
- this sexual orientation. In thirty-two years other
- 3 than Major Witt have you ever suspected any other
- 4 person in the Armed Forces to be gay or lesbian?
- MR. PHIPPS: Objection, characterization and
- 6 form.
- 7 A. I don't know.
- 8 Q. You don't remember ever suspecting any such person?
- 9 MR. PHIPPS: Objection, vague.
- 10 A. My focus is I focus on the fact that I try to keep
- myself professional. I am not interested in finding
- 12 out.
- 13 Q. I am not asking if you're interested.
- 14 A. And from the standpoint of I don't lead myself down
- that line of trying to say I am going to suspect one
- way or the other.
- 17 Q. So are you saying that you actively prevent yourself
- from considering the possibility whenever you meet
- anyone, you just don't want to consider it?
- 20 A. I don't think that is an important avenue unless it
- brought to me specifically against that criteria that
- we discussed with the military.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- 24 A. That there is a concern.
- 25 Q. How about outside the military?

- 1 A. That's correct. It is a fraternization issue.
- 2 Q. Does it cross your mind that they were having a sexual
- relationship?
- 4 A. Did it cross my mind?
- Q. Yes.
- 6 A. No, my focus was fraternization.
- 7 Q. It didn't cross your mind?
- 8 A. My focus was fraternization.
- 9 Q. Did it cross your mind?
- 10 A. My focus was fraternization.
- 11 Q. Did it cross your mind that they were having a sexual
- relationship?
- I don't care what your focus was.
- Did it cross your mind?
- 15 A. No, because my issue was fraternization.
- 16 Q. Okay, and did you learn how they came to be living
- 17 together?
- 18 A. I had someone that I actually had initiation of what
- was called a command directive investigation on the
- issue of fraternization. And I don't know how they
- came together. The issue was the fact that the
- fraternization issue of the two of them renting, one
- renting from the other, the officer and the enlisted,
- 24 was inappropriate.
- 25 Q. Didn't you learn that -- what is the name of the other

woman? It was SM-C and the other woman was? 1 SM-D 2 A. SM-D3 0. 3 A. That's correct? had been Q. SM-D 5 Did you learn how where 6 before she was with the 446th? 7 A. No. You never learned that? 8 9 A. She was -- she came into our squadron as a . And the only thing in that I knew 10 11 was that she was also what is called a 12 You didn't learn why she came and transferred to the 13 14 446th? No, I was unaware why she came, she came over and was 15 16 hired as the 17 Q. So no one ever suggested to you that she came in order to live with 18 SM-C 19 A. Nope. 0. Okay. Did you discipline either of these people? 20 21 A. Yes, I did. Who did you discipline? 0. SM-C , it's I gave now, a A. SM-C 23 Letter of Admonishment for the fraternization issue. 24 25 got a Letter of Counseling. And SM-D

- 1 A. He confirmed fraternization.
- 2 Q. That is not what I am asking.
- 3 A. I don't have the Police Report in front of me. He
- 4 confirmed fraternization.
- 5 Q. Okay. To you that means that he confirmed they lived
- 6 together in the same house?
- 7 A. He confirmed that an officer and an enlisted were
- 8 living together.
- 9 Q. Anything else he confirmed?
- 10 A. Not in the CDI.
- 11 Q. Did he confirm they had a domestic incident?
- 12 A. I don't have the report in front of me to be able to
- 13 refer to.
- 14 O. Who did he interview?
- MR. PHIPPS: Objection, foundation.
- 16 A. Again I don't have the report.
- 17 O. You don't remember who he interviewed?
- 18 A. It more than likely would have been the parties
- 19 involved. But I don't have it in front of me.
- 20 Q. Okay. And after you got the report did you at that
- point have any reason to suspect that either one of
- these women was a lesbian?
- 23 A. Suspect based off of the criteria that we talked about
- 24 suspect?
- 25 Q. Suspect the way that I have consistently asked you the

- question about suspect. Did it cross your mind?
- 2 A. And in this particular instance, I am using suspect
- based off of the criteria.
- 4 Q. Okay, but I'm not. I'm asking you after you read this
- report did it cross your mind?
- 6 A. I don't know.
- 7 Q. SM-C is still with the unit?
- 8 A. Yes, she is.
- 9 Q. Did this incident cause in your opinion any morale
- 10 problems in the unit?
- 11 A. I don't know that the information went out in the unit
- regarding this. This is not something that we will
- discuss --
- 14 Q. You think nobody else knows it?
- 15 A. I have no idea. I don't go out and tell the unit of
- 16 the incident?
- 17 Q. So you have no sense of whether anyone else in the unit
- 18 knows about it?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- 20 Q. When you gave the Letter of Admonishment to
- 21 SM-C was anyone else present?
- 22 A. There was. I can't remember who it was.
- 23 Q. Did you instruct whoever it was to keep it secret and
- 24 not tell anyone?
- 25 A. Well, it's an action that occurs between a Commander

### **EXHIBIT F**

	Judge Ronald B. Leighton
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON	
ATTACO	
MAJOR MARGARET WITT,	}
Plaintiff,	) No. C06-5195 RBL
ν.	DEFENDANTS' OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSES TO PLAINTIFF'S
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF	SECOND SET OF REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS AND
	) THINGS
Defendants,	) )
	) )
	ý
Pursuant to Rule 34 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Defendants the Department	
of the Air Force, Robert M. Gates, the Secretary of	Defense, Michael B. Donley, the Secretary of
the Air Force, and Colonel Janette Moore-Harbert,	the commander of the 446th Aeromedical
Evacuation Squadron, McChord Air Force Base, he	ereby submit the following objections and
responses to Plaintiff's Second Set of Requests for	Production of Documents and Things (the
"Requests").	
GENERAL OB	<u>JECTIONS</u>
1. Defendants object to the definitions and instructions in the to the extent that they	
conflict with or purport to expand upon Defendants	s' obligations under the Federal Rules of Civil
Procedure or the Civil Rules for the United States I	District Court for the Western District of
	WESTERN DISTRICT OF AT TACO MAJOR MARGARET WITT,  Plaintiff,  V.  UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE, et al.,  Defendants.  Pursuant to Rule 34 of the Federal Rules of of the Air Force, Robert M. Gates, the Secretary of the Air Force, and Colonel Janette Moore-Harbert, Evacuation Squadron, McChord Air Force Base, he responses to Plaintiff's Second Set of Requests for "Requests").  GENERAL OB.  1. Defendants object to the definitions conflict with or purport to expand upon Defendants

Defendants object to Request for Production No. 32 as overly broad and unduly burdensome insofar as it apparently seeks any communication of any sort, even a forwarded newspaper article, referring to studies about homosexuals in the military. Defendants object to Request for Production No. 32 as overly broad and unduly burdensome insofar as it is not limited as to time, potentially calling for the production of decades-old documents not germane to Plaintiff's circumstances. Defendants object to Request for Production No. 32 as calling for materials protected from disclosure by the deliberative process privilege. The military is in the process of conducting a review of the statute and regulations at issue in this matter. Requiring the Government to produce materials associated with that review impermissibly interferes with the Executive Branch's deliberative process. Finally, Defendants object to Request for Production No. 32 as overly broad and unduly burdensome insofar as it purports to require the production of documents maintained outside of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, or the 446th AES. Defendants further object to Request for Production No. 32 as unduly burdensome and overly broad to the extent that it seeks documents without limitation to time frame. Defendants object to producing documents dated prior to 2004.

Subject to, and without waiving, their objections, Defendants state that they have conducted a reasonable search for documents responsive to Request No. 32 and will produce responsive, non-privileged documents.

Request for Production No. 33: Produce SM-A personnel file and all documents pertaining to disciplinary action or admonishment concerning A relationship with SM-B

**RESPONSE:** Defendants object to Request for Production No. 33 as calling for the production of materials protected from disclosure by the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a. Defendants further object to Request for Production No. 33 as unduly burdensome to the government as it is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. The actual or purported relationships of other members of Plaintiff's unit have no bearing on Plaintiff's effect on unit morale and cohesion, the sole facts at issue in this matter as remanded from the Ninth Circuit.

In light of these objections, Defendants decline to produce documents in response to

1	Request for Production No. 33.
2	Request for Production No. 34: Produce SM-B personnel file and all
3	documents pertaining to discipline and admonishment regarding B relationship with SM-A
1	
5	<b>RESPONSE:</b> Defendants object to Request for Production No. 34 as calling for the production
6	of materials protected from disclosure by the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a. Defendants further
7	object to Request for Production No. 34 as unduly burdensome to the government as it is not
8	reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. The actual or purported
9	relationships of other members of Plaintiff's unit have no bearing on Plaintiff's effect on unit
10	morale and cohesion, the sole facts at issue in this matter as remanded from the Ninth Circuit.
11	In light of these objections, Defendants decline to produce documents in response to
12	Request for Production No. 34.
13	Request for Production No. 35: Produce SM-C personnel file and all
14	documents relating to C relationship with SM-D
15	<b>RESPONSE:</b> Defendants object to Request for Production No. 35 as calling for the production
16	of materials protected from disclosure by the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a. Defendants further
17	object to Request for Production No. 35 as unduly burdensome to the government as it is not
18	reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. The actual or purported
19	relationships of other members of Plaintiff's unit have no bearing on Plaintiff's effect on unit
20	morale and cohesion, the sole facts at issue in this matter as remanded from the Ninth Circuit.
21	In light of these objections, Defendants decline to produce documents in response to
22	Request for Production No. 35.
23	Request for Production No. 36: Produce SM-E personnel file and all
24	documents pertaining to E relationship with SM-F
25	<b>RESPONSE:</b> Defendants object to Request for Production No. 36 as calling for the production
26	of materials protected from disclosure by the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a. Defendants further
27	object to Request for Production No. 36 as unduly burdensome to the government as it is not
28	reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. The actual or purported

relationships of other members of Plaintiff's unit have no bearing on Plaintiff's effect on unit morale and cohesion, the sole facts at issue in this matter as remanded from the Ninth Circuit.

In light of these objections, Defendants decline to produce documents in response to Request for Production No. 36.

**Request for Production No. 37:** Produce the Unit Manning Documents for the 446th AES for the years 2002 through 2007.

Defendants state that they have conducted a reasonable search for documents responsive to Request No. 37 and will produce responsive, non-privileged documents.

**Request for Production No. 38:** Produce all documents created, collected, obtained, produced or maintained, concerning the 446th AES, by MSgt Aaron W. Maness, the unit historian and in his role as the unit historian, from 2000 to 2006.

**RESPONSE:** Defendants object to Request for Production No. 38 as overly broad, unduly burdensome and not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. The history of 446th AES is not defined entirely by Plaintiff, her discharge, and the military's policy with respect to homosexuals. Defendants will limit their search for responsive documents to those relating to Plaintiff and/or her discharge.

Subject to, and without waiving, their objections, Defendants state that they have conducted a reasonable search for documents responsive to Request No. 38 and will produce responsive, non-privileged documents.

## **EXHIBIT G**

SARAH DUNNE LEGAL DIRECTOR

NANCY TALNER
STAFF ATTORNEY

ROSE SPIDELL STAFF ATTORNEY FLOYD AND DELORES JONES FAMILY FELLOW

SHER KUNG PERKINS COIE FELLOW

LINDSEY SOFFES ROPES & GRAY FELLOW

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF WASHINGTON FOUNDATION 705 2ND AVENUE, 3RD FL. SEATTLE, WA 98104 T/206.624.2184

JESSE WING
BOARD PRESIDENT

WWW.ACLU-WA.ORG

F/206.624.2190

KATHLEEN TAYLOR



May 11, 2010

Via E-mail

Bryan R. Diederich
Peter J. Phipps
Stephen J. Buckingham
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch
U.S. Department of Justice
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Witt v. U.S. Air Force et al., No. C06-5195 (W.D. Wash.)

Dear Bryan and Steve,

Thank you for the productive phone conference yesterday concerning Defendants' Objections and Responses to Plaintiff's Second Set of Requests for Production of Documents and Things. I am writing to confirm our understanding of the agreements we reached yesterday relating to certain outstanding discovery matters.

### Requests Nos. 1-8, 10 and 11

First, we asked about Defendants' ongoing efforts to respond to Requests for Production Nos. 1-8, 10 and 11. Our understanding is that you tasked an Information Technology (IT) group at Joint Base Lewis-McChord to run a search on the local server for the 446th AES for responsive documents, that some documents were found, and that DOJ will have an opportunity to review those documents and produce any responsive documents in the next week. We further understand that you have tasked an IT group located at a separate military base that has access to the 446th AES server at a different level to re-run similar searches to identify responsive documents. The target date for completion of this search is the end of this week with any responsive documents being produced shortly thereafter on a rolling basis. Finally, you also mentioned that because you suspect that reservists may not use their military email accounts regularly due to the infrequency of being on base, DOJ has tasked a JAG officer to call and speak with members directly to ask about their use of private email accounts. If members confirm that they do in fact use other services such as gmail or yahoo, the JAG officer will ask them to run a search with specific key terms in order to identify responsive documents. All responsive, non-privileged documents will be produced on a rolling basis, but no later than June 7.

Second, we asked whether Defendants, key decision makers (such as Generals Jumper, Dguinan or Sherrard), and 446th unit members with relevant knowledge

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about Major Witt's suspension and discharge were asked to retain any files or documents concerning Major Witt's suspension and discharge via a litigation hold, either in writing or by oral instruction. Our understanding from you is that the Air Force has never given such an instruction either orally or in writing to Defendants, key decision makers, and 446th unit members with relevant knowledge about Major Witt's suspension and discharge. Thus, no litigation holds were put in place to prevent the destruction of documents that may have been relevant to Major Witt's suspension or discharge.

Based on your representation that DOJ is conducting a search for documents responsive to Requests Nos 1-8, 10 and 11 and will produce any remaining responsive documents on or before June 7, coupled with the absence of litigation holds, Plaintiff will not file a motion to compel with respect to these particular Requests because such a motion has no purpose if there are no documents remaining, either because they were destroyed or because they do not exist. Instead, Plaintiff may seek remedial relief relating to spoliation of evidence from the Court at a later date.

### Request Nos. 25 and 31

We also discussed Request for Production No. 25 and you confirmed that Defendants have produced all responsive, non-privileged documents subject to any supplemental production pursuant to Rule 26(e). With respect to Request for Production No. 31, Defendants initially objected to the request for "all public statements made by the Defendants" concerning "U.S. Armed Forces personnel and sexual orientation or sexual conduct between two people of the same sex" on the basis that the materials are equally available to both parties because the documents were at some point in the public domain (either via a speech presented in a public forum or available on the Internet). To confirm whether Plaintiff has all responsive documents, I agreed that Plaintiff's counsel will search for any documents responsive to Request No. 31 available over the internet and produce the same; DOJ will contact the Department of Defense press office to confirm whether any responsive documents other than the ones produced by Plaintiff exist and if so, Defendants will produce those additional responsive documents.

#### Request Nos. 33-36

With respect to Requests for Production Nos. 33-36, we understand that your client is unwilling to agree to a protective order, and objects to the production of members' personnel files, in whole or in part, based on the Privacy Act. Parties agree that Plaintiff will file a motion to compel on the above document requests, and will redact members' names in order to maintain privacy.

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Please contact me if any of the above representations is inaccurate, or if you have any questions about the contents of the letter.

Sincerely,

Sarah A. Dunne

Sarah a. Dunne

Legal Director

cc: James Lobsenz