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THE HONORABLE RONALD B. LEIGHTON

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

MAJOR MARGARET WITT,

Plaintiff,

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE
AIR FORCE; et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. C06-5195-RBL

DECLARATION OF LISA CHISA

I, LISA CHISA, do hereby declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, that the following facts are true and correct:

1. I am over the age of 18 years, have personal knowledge of the facts contained in this Declaration and am competent to testify to them.

DECLARATION OF LISA CHISA -- 1
Case No. C06-5195-RBL

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

1 2. I enlisted in the Air Force in 1987. I joined the 446th Clinic. In May 1990, I
2 joined the 446th AES (40th at the time) as a medical technician. I was discharged for medical
3 reasons in 2007 due to a shoulder injury.

4 3. I was deployed to Germany in 1991 during the Gulf War for a period of six
5 months. From February to August 2003, I was deployed to England and Germany in support
6 of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I was redeployed from October to December 2003 to Iraq.

7 4. I never heard anyone in the 446th say anything about how they did not like
8 gays or lesbians, or that they did not want to serve with gays or lesbians.

9 5. I started a romantic relationship with a civilian woman in August 2003. We
10 had previously been friends for over ten years. I started living with her in January 2004.

11 6. At the end of 2003, the ex-partner of the woman with whom I was beginning
12 a relationship threatened to go to then Commander Colonel Walker. I had obtained a
13 restraining order against the ex, who had drinking problems. I informed the First Sergeant
14 Theron Smith of the situation. I also told MSgt Patricia Martin and asked her to relay the
15 information to Colonel Walker.

16 7. Sometimes my partner would come on base to attend unit briefings regarding
17 deployment.

18 8. In 2005, my partner and I had a party at our house and five or six members of
19 the 446th were invited including Captain Jill Brinks Robinson and Master Sergeant Leslie
20 Pellegrini. At that party the guests were invited to help us choose the likely candidate to
21 donate sperm for our child. Both Capt. Robinson and MSgt. Pellegrini had long assumed
22 that my partner and I were engaged in a relationship and they indicated no surprise when I
23 finally confirmed it at an earlier party. In fact, Capt. Robinson and MSgt. Pellegrini felt it
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1 was long overdue and had simply been wondering when I would finally tell them that my
2 partner and I were together.

3 9. I did not ask anyone at the party to keep my relationship secret. I was no
4 longer in the Air Force at the time and did not have to worry about being outed and
5 discharged. But even if I had been serving in the Air Force, I still would have held the party
6 just the same and invited my friends in the 446th to come, because I am of the opinion that
7 my personal life was irrelevant to my performance of duties on base. I am confident that my
8 friends felt the same way.

9
10 10. I was inseminated in 2005 and gave birth to a baby girl in 2006. My wife and
11 I are raising this child together. We registered as domestic partners in the state of
12 Washington in July 2009. We consider each other to be spouses.

13 11. In the summer of 2008 I attended the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the
14 446th AES. This celebration was held on base at McChord. I brought my partner and our
15 daughter with me to the celebration. At the celebration I saw many old friends who were
16 still serving in the 446th, as well as some friends who were no longer in the Air Force. No
17 one at the 50th anniversary celebration indicated in any way that they had a problem with my
18 coming to the celebration with my wife. I did not refer to her as my "wife" or as my
19 "partner" but since she was there with me and our daughter and, it could have been readily
20 apparent to anyone who spoke to us.

21
22 12. In my opinion, the members of the 446th simply do not express any problem
23 with the presence or suspected presence of gay or lesbian members in the squadron. While I
24 was in the unit it was always viewed as a nonissue. In my view, the important aspect of
25 oneself at work was professionalism.

26

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1 13. I never suspected Major Witt of being a lesbian. I found out from others in
2 the unit (I don't remember who) that she was being discharged for being a lesbian. The
3 reaction in the unit to the news that she was lesbian was basically, "So what? What's the big
4 deal?" The unit reacted with shock to her discharge and so did I. I do not think that Major
5 Witt's sexual orientation has an effect on unit cohesion or morale.

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DATED this 19th day of April, 2010, at TACOMA, Washington.



Lisa Chisa

DECLARATION OF LISA CHISA -- 4
Case No. C06-5195-RBL

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on July 22, 2010, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the following:

Peter J. Phipps	<u>Peter.phipps@usdoj.gov</u>
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/s/Lily T. Laemmle
LILY T. LAEMMLE

NO. C06-5195 RBL

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