



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
West Point, New York 10996

9August 2010

Subject: Written Statement of Resignation and Formal Disclosure of Homosexual Orientation

1. REFERENCES:

- a. U.S.C. Title 10 §654 policy concerning homosexuality in the armed forces

2. PURPOSE:

- a. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a formal statement of resignation from the United States Military Academy for CDT Katherine A. Miller for reasons pertaining to U.S.C. Title 10 §654 policy concerning homosexuality in the armed forces.

3. STATEMENT OF RESIGNATION:

- a. As of 9AUG2010 I am officially announcing my resignation from the United States Military Academy as a result of U.S.C. Title 10 §654 policy concerning homosexuality in the armed forces.
- b. I have not engaged in homosexual acts while a member of the U.S. Army, however I identify unequivocally as a lesbian. At present, I find military service to be incompatible with personal values.
- c. My resignation is a completely personal decision; I was not pressured by military or civilian personnel to pursue resignation or disclose my sexual orientation.

4. BACKGROUND:

- a. While a cadet I have maintained a CQPA of 3.829, been named to the Distinguished Dean's List all semesters, been designated as a Distinguished Cadet, and been awarded the Superintendent's Award for Excellence. I am currently on track to graduate with honors from the academy, ranking 9th out of 1,157 cadets in my class in the Order of Merit List as of AY2010-1. I was inducted into the Golden Key International Honour Society my third class year.
- b. I regularly "super max" the APFT (scoring as high as 367), and I earned an IOCT tab on my first attempt for PE117 Military Movement course. My fourth class year I was a member of the women's club rugby team, and my third class year I was a member of the club triathlon team. Both teams have achieved national recognition.
- c. I have maintained a MPSC of 3.942, graduated U.S. Army Airborne School, completed Cadet Basic Training (CBT), Cadet Field Training (CFT) where I earned the Recondo Badge, and Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) with an aviation unit at the National Training Center (NTC) in Ft. Irwin, CA.

- d. I organized academic individual advanced developments (AIADs) with the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) in my third class year and the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) at Patrick AFB, FL my second class summer. I also presented research at the International Network for Social Network Analysis (INSNA) conference in Riva di Garda, Italy during my second class summer.
- e. I participated in “The Gray Zone: West Point on Leadership”, a BS&L sponsored blog on the *Washington Post Online*. One of my blogs was featured in the Sunday print edition of the paper in MAY2010. I am also an active member of the Margaret Corbin Forum, West Point’s women’s group.

5. RATIONALE FOR RESIGNATION:

- a. I have committed myself to evaluating the military’s gay ban from an academic standpoint. I published an academic style op-ed with the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs, presented my research “A Network Evaluation of Cadet Attitudes toward Gays in the Military” at an INSNA conference, and was scheduled to present my DEOMI junior research “An Estimate of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Deaths in the War on Terror” before the Undersecretary of Defense in July (the presentation was postponed for the fall). I have also attended a Military Leadership Diversity Commission (MLDC) meeting and a House Armed Services Committee hearing addressing military personnel policies. Through my academic endeavors I cannot objectively rationalize the military’s policy concerning homosexuality.
- b. The entire Office of Personnel and Readiness under OSD is devoted to development, education, and enforcement of personnel policies in order to ensure recruitment, retention, and maximization of DoD personnel. I intend for my resignation to offer a concrete example of the consequences of a failed law and social policy.
- c. Specifically, I have created a heterosexual dating history to recite to fellow cadets when they inquire. I have endured sexual harassment for fear of being accused as a lesbian by rejecting or reporting these events. I have been coerced into ignoring derogatory comments towards homosexuals for fear of being alienated for my viewpoint. In short, I have lied to my classmates and compromised my integrity and my identity by adhering to existing military policy.
- d. While at the academy, I have made a deliberate effort to develop myself academically, physically, and militarily, but in terms of holistic personal growth I have reached a plateau. I am unwilling to suppress an entire portion of my identity any longer because it has taken a significant personal, mental, and social toll on me and detrimentally affected my professional development. I have experienced a relentless cognitive dissonance by attempting to adhere to §654 and retain my integrity, and I am retrospectively convinced that I am unable to live up to the Army Values as long as the policy remains in place.

6. INTENTIONS FOR FUTURE SERVICE:

- a. In the event that §654 is repealed and replaced with a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, I plan to rejoin the military later in my career and serve as an officer in the United States Army. Service to others remains a core value to me, and I intend to repay my country for all the freedoms I enjoy as a U.S. citizen. I will continue to develop

myself physically and mentally so that I will be properly prepared to rejoin the military in the future.

- b. I will attend Yale University in September 2010 and reapply to West Point for AY2011-2012 in the event of repeal of §654 and enactment of a non-discrimination policy.
- c. As a civilian, I will participate in formation and implementation of the repeal of §654 via means of academia and political activism. I have made it a personal responsibility to aid in the improvement of military personnel policy- as civilian or as soldier- in order to enhance force readiness and improve national defense capabilities.
- d. The point of contact for this memorandum may be reached at _____ or _____

KATHERINE A. MILLER
CDT SGT
CO B2, USMA '12

DISTRIBUTION:
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