

--original message --

From: Boyce, Paul Mr OCPA [mailto:Paul.Boyce@us.army.mil]
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2008 2:51 PM
To: elaine@cmrlink.org
Subject: FW: USA TODAY request: Army Sgt. Darren Manzella (SLDN Event 8 Jan. 2008) (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

As you requested

The Department of Defense and the U.S. Army must ensure that the standards for enlistment and appointment of members of the Armed Forces reflect the laws set by Congress and the American people. The military implements a 16-year-old Federal law that addresses "Homosexuality in the Armed Forces" -- found at Section 654 of Title 10, United States Code. Under this well-publicized and thoroughly debated public law, persons who state they are a homosexual or bisexual can not be allowed entry into the military services based upon the applicable laws and regulations governing sexual conduct by members of the Armed Forces.

This law has been reviewed thoroughly by the U.S. courts in the past decade. The law applies to the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force.

The law does not mean, though, that gays or lesbians can't join the Armed Forces. Gay, lesbian and bisexual Soldiers doubtlessly are serving in our Armed Forces today, as in the past. Lastly, the U.S. Armed Forces expects all service members to be treated with dignity and respect. While we don't discuss personnel matters involving individual Soldiers' personal situations, this particular Soldier's unit only recently returned from the war to Fort Hood, Texas, so it's premature to speculate on any future actions until the young man's situation can be considered by his chain of command.

Very respectfully,

-- Paul

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