

TX ARNG Record

----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (6) USARMY NG NGB (US)

Sent: Monday, July 01, 2013 11:00 AM

To: (b) (6)

[REDACTED]

(b) (6)

Fw STRONG BONDS TELECON--IMPORTANT! (UNCLASSIFIED).txt

(b) (6)

Subject: FW: ***STRONG BONDS TELECON--IMPORTANT!*** (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Chaplains,

Due to continued developments related to Strongbonds and the Repeal of DOMA we will host a phone conference tomorrow, 02 Jul, with your Strongbonds action officers. You are welcome to join us.

Sincerely,

CH (COL) (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) MAJ USARMY NG NGB ARNG (US)
Sent: Monday, July 01, 2013 11:19 AM
Cc: (b) (6)

Subject: ***STRONG BONDS TELECON--IMPORTANT!*** (UNCLASSIFIED)
Importance: High

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

ALCON,

BLUF: See attached TELECON schedule for tomorrow. These TELECONS are extremely IMPORTANT and all action officers must participate or have a representative present.

Due to the nature of the information that will be covered please feel free to invite your Senior Army Chaplain, Joint Force Headquarters Chaplain, or Full-time support Chaplain.

Be aware that each TELECON bridge is limited to 25 participants (please see attached slide).

On Friday, June 28 this office sent a message to all ARNG Strong Bonds actions officers on behalf of CH (b) (6) regarding recent events impacting Strong Bonds (the text of the message is below).

Information related to this message will be discussed and your questions will be passed along to CH (b) (6).

BEGIN MESSAGE SENT ON BEHALF OF CH (b) (6) ON 6/28/2013 AT 8:07 AM

ALCON,

The office of the chief of the Chaplains of the US Army (OCCH) has approved

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FW STRONG BONDS TELECON--IMPORTANT! (UNCLASSIFIED).txt
execution of 4th Quarter FY 13 Strong Bonds events (attached). Fiscal
prudence, using the guidelines provided by the ARNG Strong Bonds Program
manager (attached), is expected by all state and territory action officers.

As you know the Supreme Court ruled that the Defense of Marriage Act is
unconstitutional. The OCCH, per guidance from the Director of the Army Staff
(DAS) requests that legally married same-sex couples be deferred from
attending 4th quarter FY 13 Strong Bonds events until the Army has fully
implemented the new policy extending benefits and entitlements to all married
military personnel.

Please treat all military personnel and their spouses with the utmost respect.
Work closely with your PAO and COS to insure proper handling of media
inquiries. I will be happy to help you answer any and all questions as we
implement this new policy. See below for our Secretary of Defense's press
release on the DOMA ruling.

CH (b) (6)
Staff Chaplain, Army National Guard
W-703 607-0578
BB (b) (6)

Secretary Hagel's message follows:

U.S. Department of Defense Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Public Affairs) News Release

On the web:

<http://www.defense.gov/Releases/Release.aspx?ReleaseID=16119>

Media contact: +1 (703) 697-5131/697-5132 Public contact:

<http://www.defense.gov/landing/comment.aspx>

or +1 (703) 571-3343

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE No. 468-13
June 26, 2013

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Statement by Secretary Hagel on DOMA Ruling

The Department of Defense welcomes the Supreme Court's decision today on the
Defense of Marriage Act. The department will immediately begin the process of
implementing the Supreme Court's decision in consultation with the Department
of Justice and other executive branch agencies. The Department of Defense
intends to make the same benefits available to all military spouses --
regardless of sexual orientation -- as soon as possible. That is now the law
and it is the right thing to do.

Every person who serves our nation in uniform stepped forward with courage and
commitment. All that matters is their patriotism, their willingness to serve
their country, and their qualifications to do so. Today's ruling helps ensure
that all men and women who serve this country can be treated fairly and
equally, with the full dignity and respect they so richly deserve.

Sent on behalf of CH (COL) John Morris

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FW STRONG BONDS TELECON--IMPORTANT! (UNCLASSIFIED).txt

V/R

(b) (6)

Chaplain (MAJ), ARNG
Strong Bonds & Personnel Chaplain
National Guard Bureau
CSO-CH
NIPR: (b) (6)
Phone: 703-607-7507
DSN: 329-7507
BlackBerry: (b) (6)

National Guard Bureau
ATTN: ARNG-CSO-CH
111 South George Mason Drive, E2S135
Arlington, Virginia 22204-1382

***ARNG Strong Bonds Knowledge Center (AKO)

<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/678971>

***ARNG Strong Bonds Knowledge Center (GKO)

<https://gkoportal.ng.mil/arng/STAFF/D08/B02/sitePages/Home.aspx>

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

ARNG Staff Chaplain Update FLASH (UNCLASSIFIED).txt

From: (b) (6) USARMY NG NGB (US)
Sent: Friday, June 07, 2013 4:24 PM
To: (b) (6)

[REDACTED]

Subject: ARNG Staff Chaplain Update: FLASH (UNCLASSIFIED)
Attachments: 1239604877_060713_080711 (2).pdf; Pastoral Care for Sexual Assault.pptx; Chaplains and assistants as Gatekeepers Alaract for 600-23.docx

Importance: High
Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Senior Army Chaplains,
BLUF: Below find information critical to your mission.
Background: Having served in your position for eight years I am very sensitive to being overloaded by emails from NGB. Consequently, I will only send a 'alcon' email when I believe I have information that is vital to your mission.

That being said:
1) Recent board results. See attachment. Congratulations to the gaining
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ARNG Staff Chaplain Update FLASH (UNCLASSIFIED).txt

states.

2) DOMA, Strongbonds and recent decision by SECDEF to extend benefits to gay couples. Many of you have asked for an update. Here it is:

"The decision by the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) to provide benefits should not be confused with the current implications of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). The DoD may grant benefits, but only Congress can authorize entitlements by law. DOMA remains law until/unless the Supreme Court of the U.S. (SCOTUS) renders differently its rulings on two cases (expect those rulings to be public the final week of June 2013). Until that time - DOMA remains effective and impacts directly Strong Bonds and other Chaplain-led events where we provide services to married couples and "spouses" (Title 10 USC sect 1789, and Title 1 USC Section 7). Currently Strong Bonds execution remains severely constrained by lack of resources."

3) The office of the Chief of Chaplains of the Army will be surveying every chaplain in the near future. The Chief wants to gain information from the field on a variety of topics. I highly urge you to participate in the survey and encourage all of your Army Chaplains to do the same. Here is guidance regarding the survey:

" The window for a Branch-wide survey of Chaplain Corps will open next week. As with the Stakeholder Assessment last fall - this will be a key opportunity to capture and collect important feedback.

It will be conducted by third-party contracted source to protect the non-attribution nature of respondents (no Personally Identifiable Information collected at all).

It will be distributed by third-party email invitation to participate in the online survey. The subject line will be "OCCCH Survey" and the originating email address will be: (b) (6)

Please alert your teams to this information - so that the email doesn't get overlooked or routed to the junk/spam box."

4) Sexual Harassment and Assault

This is a pressing problem that has received a lot of national attention. Attached find a very helpful product from the Office of Chief of Chaplains that will guide you in your response to this problem. Please feel free to share with your chaplains.

5) Suicide Prevention

The ARNG is on pace for a tragically record year of completed suicides by our soldiers. This is a problem that also is receiving a high level of national attention. It is critical that you understand that chaplains and assistants are 'gatekeepers'. By regulation all chaplains and assistants are to be trained in the two day ASIST training. (see attached Alaract for 600-23). ALL state suicide prevention program managers have recently been instructed by NGB to give chaplains and assistants top priority for seats in the two day ASIST training events within their states. Please insure all of your personnel are trained. We will be contacting each of you to find out if your teams are trained as part of the Director of the Army Guard's initiative to insure we have done all we can to prevent suicide in our ranks.

Again, I do not want to clutter your email box with needless information. What I have provided I believe to be critical in light of the severity of issues and impact on your ministry. If this method of 'flash' traffic works best for you, please let me know and I'll continue. If not, let me know a better method for reaching all of you and I'll consider using your idea.

Finally, FACEBOOK..we have an Army National Guard Chaplains page. We will slowly shift to using that page as a primary communication tool for the field. Please consider joining the group.

Thanks for your great ministry.

ARNG Staff Chaplain Update FLASH (UNCLASSIFIED).txt

God bless,

(b) (6)

Chaplain (Colonel)
Staff Chaplain
Army National Guard
111 South George Mason Drive, WGS231
Arlington, VA 22204-1382

Wk: (703) 607-0578

BB: (b) (6)

DSN: 327-4630

(b) (6)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Talking points for Senior ARNG Chaplains Strongbondsrepeal of DOMA (UNCLASSIFIED).txt
From: (b) (6) USARMY NG NGB (US)
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2013 6:58 PM
To: (b) (6)

[REDACTED]

(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6)

Talking points for Senior ARNG Chaplains Strongbondsrepeal of DOMA (UNCLASSIFIED).txt
(b) (6)

Cc: Dolan, Patrick J BG USARMY (US)
Subject: Talking points for Senior ARNG Chaplains: Strongbonds/repeal of DOMA

(UNCLASSIFIED)

Attachments: Strong Bonds FY13 4thQtr_TPs (2).docx

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Alcon,
Attached please find talking points for your use. The Talking Points come from the Department of the Army Office of the Chief of Chaplains.
Break

Department of Army Record

Talking points for Senior ARNG Chaplains Strongbondsrepeal of DOMA (UNCLASSIFIED).txt

Sincerely,

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

TX ARNG Record



-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) COL USARMY NG NGB (US)
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2013 8:46 AM
To: (b) (6)



(b) (6)



(b) (6)

Dolan, Patrick J BG USARMY (US)
Subject: UPDATED Guidance from OCCH regarding Strongbonds for the remainder of
FY 13 (UNCLASSIFIED)
Importance: High

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

JFHQ Command Chaplains and Strongbonds action officers,

Below please find a question from a Senior leader regarding the recent SECDEF
announcement (14 AUG) of the extension of full benefits and entitlements to
legally married same sex couples and the implications for Strongbonds events

FW UPDATED Guidance from OCCH regarding Strongbonds for the remainder of FY 13 (UNCLASSIFIED).txt
for the remainder of FY 13. Please take time to carefully read this.

Have you meet with your TAG, JAG and COS to consider how you will handle your remaining FY 13 Charlie Strongbonds events within your state/territory? Have your chaplains initiated a request for guidance from their endorsers?

QUESTION FROM SENIOR CHAPLAIN:

"Good afternoon! I need your assistance. Please provide guidance on any moratorium re: Family and Couple Strong Bonds events in light of the SECDEF's guidance for extending benefits to same-sex couples on or before 3 Sep 13.

I was informed that in the last Strong Bonds OPT meeting, the team discussed a moratorium on all Family and Couple events until implementation guidance was issued by the OCCH. The discussion seemed to anticipate the moratorium starting at the beginning of October-FY14.

However, the SECDEF's announcement creates a grey area for the remainder of FY13. There has four FY13 Couples events scheduled after 3 Sep 13. Registration for all Strong Bonds events closes 30 days prior to the event, meaning that these events are now closed and no additional couples will be allowed to attend.

There is the potential for some risk in continuing with these events given their timing. Even though they are now closed, a couple may claim they were excluded for other reasons in violation of the SECDEF's guidance. We also assume some risk in cancelling these events as it will be seen by some (on both sides of the issue) as a negative reaction to the DOMA ruling. If the moratorium is to go into effect 3 Sep 13 and require the cancellation of these events, we need to contact the participants as soon possible and prepare appropriate talking points for the TAG and his staff.

I look forward to your guidance,"

ANSWER FROM OCCH:

Department of the Army Record

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

(b) (6) [REDACTED]

Staff Chaplain
ARNG

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

TX ARNG Record



-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) COL USARMY NG NGB (US)
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2013 10:42 AM
To:



(b) (6)



(b) (6)
(b) (6)

Subject: Chief of Chaplain Corps discussion on current complex enviroment
(UNCLASSIFIED)
Importance: High

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

ALCON,
Message forward from Chief of Chaplains office:

Department of the Army Record




Department of the Army Record

[REDACTED]

Department of the Army Record

[REDACTED]

Department of the Army Record

[REDACTED]

Department of the Army Record

[REDACTED]

Strongbonds 4th quarter FY 13 guidance from OCCH and SCOTUS repeal of DOMA (UNCLASSIFIED).txt

From: (b) (6) COL USARMY NG NGB (US)

Sent: Friday, June 28, 2013 7:06 AM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Strongbonds 4th Quarter FY 13 guidance from OCCH and SCOTUS repeal of DOMA (UNCLASSIFIED)

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Alcon,

The office of the Chief of the Chaplains of the US Army (OCCH) has approved execution of 4th Quarter FY 13 Strongbonds events. Fiscal prudence, using the guidelines provided by the ARNG Strongbonds Program manager, is expected by all state and territory action officers.

As you know the Supreme Court ruled that the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional. The OCCH, per guidance from the Director of the Army Staff (DAS), requests that legally married same-sex couples be deferred from attending 4th quarter FY 13 Strongbonds events until the Army has fully implemented the new policy extending benefits and entitlements to all married military personnel.

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Strongbonds 4th Quarter FY 13 guidance from OCCH and SCOTUS repeal of DOMA (UNCLASSIFIED).txt

Please treat all military personnel and their spouses with the utmost respect. Work closely with your PAO and COS to insure proper handling of media inquiries.

I will be happy to help you answer any and all questions as we implement this new policy. Please acknowledge receipt of message.

See below for our Secretary of Defense's press release on the DOMA ruling.

Secretary Hagel's message follows:

U.S. Department of Defense
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) News Release

On the web:

<http://www.defense.gov/Releases/Release.aspx?ReleaseID=16119>

Media contact: +1 (703) 697-5131/697-5132 Public contact:

<http://www.defense.gov/landing/comment.aspx>

or +1 (703) 571-3343

--
IMMEDIATE RELEASE No. 468-13
June 26, 2013

--
Statement by Secretary Hagel on DOMA Ruling

The Department of Defense welcomes the Supreme Court's decision today on the Defense of Marriage Act. The department will immediately begin the process of implementing the Supreme Court's decision in consultation with the Department of Justice and other executive branch agencies. The Department of Defense intends to make the same benefits available to all military spouses -- regardless of sexual orientation -- as soon as possible. That is now the law and it is the right thing to do.

Every person who serves our nation in uniform stepped forward with courage and commitment. All that matters is their patriotism, their willingness to serve their country, and their qualifications to do so. Today's ruling helps ensure that all men and women who serve this country can be treated fairly and equally, with the full dignity and respect they so richly deserve.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

TX ARNG Record

-----Original Message-----

From: Grass, Frank J GEN USARMY NG NGB (US)

Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2013 12:41 PM

To: NG NCR ARNG List NGGB TAGs; NG NCR ARNG List NGGB TAGs Asst

Cc: Lengyel, Joseph L LTGEN USAF NG NGB (US); Ingram, William E Jr LTG USARMY ARNG (US); Clarke, Stanley E III LTGEN USAF (US); Watson, Marianne E BG USARMY NG NGB (US); Treacy, Jonathan T MAJGEN USAF NG NGB (US); (b) (6) COL USARMY NG NGB (US); Ketchum, Gerald W MG USARMY NG NGB (US); Wojtecki, Timothy J BG USARMY NG NGB (US); Mcgregor, Donald A BGEN USAF NG NGB (US); (b) (6) COL USARMY NG NGB (US); (b) (6) COL USAF NG NGB (US); (b) (6) COL USARMY NG NGB (US); (b) (6) LTC USARMY NG NGB (US); (b) (6) MAJ USAF NG NGB (US); (b) (6) CPT USARMY NG NGB (US)

Subject: FW: Extension of Benefits to Same Sex Partners (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Adjutants General:

In light of the recent Supreme Court decision on the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), A DoD Same Sex Benefits working group, on which NGB participates, will review the ruling and facilitate the development of changes to policy. The SECDEF is expected to release new policy guidance once the group has completed it's work.

BG Marianne Watson (NG-J1) directed the establishment of a Joint Planning Team to develop a plan of action which reviewing NGB policies, develop a strategic communications plan, and educate National Guard leaders and members before full implementation.

Currently, the only benefits that a Service member and their partner are eligible for are based on the 11 Feb 13 SECDEF memo addressing the rescinding of "Don't ask Don't Tell." This memo addresses 20 educational, survivor, travel, and transportation benefits that the Service member can designate, as well as an additional 22 benefits including dependent ID cards, commissary and exchange privileges, legal assistance, and Space-A travel, that can only be

extended once the Service member and their same-sex partner have signed a declaration attesting to the existence of their committed relationship. The declaration form is currently being revised by DoD, and is expected to be released prior to the implementation phase of the benefits on 31 Aug 13.

We will work to ensure benefits are made available to all Service members, regardless of sexual orientation, as quickly as possible. Benefits resulting from the Supreme Court's ruling on DOMA may however require substantial policy revision, training and technical enhancements before implementation can occur.

We will continue to provide updated information as it becomes available. In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns over Same Sex Benefits, please contact BG Marianne Watson; NG-J1; 703-604-9540.

Fjg

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

TX ARNG Record

-----Original Message-----

From: Grass, Frank J GEN USARMY NG NGB (US) [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Friday, August 16, 2013 1:31 PM
To: NG NCR ARNG List ARNG GREENGO; NG NCR ARNG List NGGB TAGs; 'ANG.BLUEGO@ang.af.mil'
Cc: Lengyel, Joseph L LTGEN USAF NG NGB (US); Watson, Marianne E BG USARMY NG NGB (US); Treacy, Jonathan T MAJGEN USAF NG NGB (US)
Subject: Extending Same Sex Benefits Message (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Leaders,

Today, the Department of Defense announced its plan to extend benefits to same-sex spouses of uniformed service members and Department of Defense civilian employees. After a review of the department's benefit policies following the Supreme Court's ruling that Section Three of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional, and in consultation with the Department of Justice and other executive branch agencies, the Defense Department will make spousal and family benefits available no later than Sept. 3, 2013, regardless of sexual orientation, as long as service member-sponsors provide a valid marriage certificate. The Department of Defense remains committed to ensuring that all men and women who serve in the U.S. military, and their families, are treated fairly and equally as the law directs. Entitlements such as TRICARE enrollment, basic allowance for housing (BAH) and family separation allowance are retroactive to the date of the Supreme Court's decision. Any claims to entitlements before that date will not be granted. For those members married after June 26, 2013, entitlements begin at the date of marriage. We recognize that same-sex military couples who are not stationed in a jurisdiction that permits same-sex marriage would have to travel to another jurisdiction to marry. That is why the department will implement policies to allow military personnel in such a relationship non-chargeable leave for the purpose of travelling to a jurisdiction where such a marriage may occur. For civilian benefits administered government-wide to federal employees, the Department of Defense will follow the Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Labor's guidance to ensure that the same benefits currently available to heterosexual spouses are also available to legally married same-sex spouses.

Key Components of the Announcement:

1. Entitlements are retroactive to the date of Supreme Court decision, June 26, 2013.
2. Any claims before 26 JUN 13, will not be granted.
3. For those Service Members married after June 26 2013, entitlements begin the date of the marriage.
4. Due to the limited number of States that recognize Same-Sex Marriage, DoD allows the use of non-chargeable leave for the purpose of travelling to a jurisdiction where such a marriage may occur. Any Service Member entering into a same-sex marriage may be granted up to 7 days of non-chargeable leave. Any Service Member assigned OCONUS may be granted up to 10 days of non-chargeable leave.
5. The SECDEF memo dated February 11, 2013 is rescinded and superseded by the attached August 13, 2013 SECDEF memo. Further Guidance is provided in the attached Under-Secretary of Defense memo, and DOMA /Same Sex Marriage Briefing Card.
6. All benefits are expected to be made available to same-sex couples no later than September 3, 2013. This is a change from the original August 31, 2013 implementation date. We will provide updated information as it becomes available.

My POC is BG Marianne Watson at 703-604-9540.

Thanks,

fjg

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE