

DECLARATION OF LT. JAMES E. ETHRIDGE

Lt. James E. Ethridge hereby declares as follows:

1. I am a Lieutenant in the United States Navy and am currently assigned to the USS L.Y. SPEAR (AS 36) as the Officer in Charge of Submarine Site Support Detachment.

2. In connection with my assignment, I have come to know Lt. (j.g.) Richard Dirk Selland. My first professional association with Lt. (j.g.) Selland was during his assignment as the Supply Officer aboard USS HAMMERHEAD.

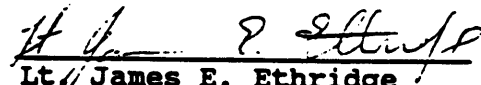
3. Since his reassignment to Submarine Squadron Six in January 1993, I have worked with Lt. (j.g.) Selland on a day-to-day basis. I understand Lt. (j.g.) Selland was reassigned to Squadron Six after his admission of being homosexual to his commanding officer.

4. The fact that I know Lt. (j.g.) Selland is gay does not affect my professional dealings with him. In my opinion and personal observation of Lt. (j.g.) Selland's professional execution of duty, I have seen no evidence that his personal orientation has disrupted the Squadron Supply operations or the Supply operations of Submarine Site Support Detachment and does not negatively affect the performance of our duties.

5. It is my opinion that Lt. (j.g.) Selland's continuation on active duty until adjudication of his case is completed will not cause any degradation of supply support effectiveness or decrease the morale and effectiveness at this Detachment.

6. I believe Lt. (j.g.) Selland's performance of duties has been professional and his abilities in assisting in the Supply Support mission have been of benefit to Supply Operations. He should be allowed to continue-on active duty until the issues of his case have been heard and ruled on.

Executed by me this 10th day of September, 1993, at Norfolk, Virginia.


Lt. James E. Ethridge