

STATEMENT OF BRIAN JONES
SERGEANT MAJOR USA (RET)
CEO, ADVENTURE TRAINING CONCEPTS
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

In Support of Section 654, Title 10, the 1993 Law Stating that
Homosexuals are not Eligible to Serve in the Military
2118 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

July 23, 2008

I am a retired Sergeant Major, US Army. I am a Ranger first and always. The most common attribute that I see on Military evaluation reports is “selfless service”. I chose a career path that placed me in a Ranger Battalion, Delta Force, and as a Detachment Sergeant Major at the Ranger Regiment.

Selfless service is what makes a good team great within the US Military. You won’t find that , in truth, in the corporate world. Selfless Service is what an individual will do for the good of the team; self-service is doing what is in a personal self interest, at the expense of the team. Recently, a US Navy Seal received the Congressional Medal of Honor by throwing himself on a grenade to protect his team. That is selfless service.

While deployed to Somalia in 1993, commonly referred to as “Blackhawk Down”, two of our unit members received the Medal of Honor for asking to be inserted into a crash site to protect a pilot, knowing what their fate would be. That is selfless service, and combat effectiveness depends on it. It does not happen by accident—it must be taught with concentrated training—no distractions. Selfless service is reinforced with discipline, and encouraged by the example of combat leaders.

The Ranger way of life trained me for what I do now as the CEO of a company I started three years ago, [Adventure Training Concepts](#). The concept of ATC is to use the US Army training model to teach the value of teamwork during Corporate Team Building and Leadership Development Training.

Our clients are diverse—men and women, adventure seekers of all ages and, I suspect, some who are homosexual. All of them enjoy and benefit professionally from the lessons in teamwork taught by ATC programs. There is a notable difference, however, between the ATC environment and military units such as the infantry, special operations forces, and submarines. On my facility, people learn about teamwork and leadership for 6 hours over a couple of days, but they do not share close, intimate living conditions comparable to those in the military. The difference is critically important and disregarded at great risk.

In the civilian business world, decisions frequently are based on bonuses and job security. In the military environment, team cohesion, morale, and esprit decor is a matter of life and death. Bonus and job security come second to the reality of writing the hard letter to a loved one, or holding the hand of a team mate who is fighting for his or her life.

In my 21 years of service in the US Army, I sought, and performed in as many leadership positions that I could. As a leader, my first obligation was to the Nation. It meant keeping our soldiers ready for any situation for which our country called upon them. It meant taking care of each Soldier I had the honor of leading. It meant being fair and impartial to every Soldier. It also meant keeping the Soldiers under my charge as safe, secure, trained, equipped, and informed as I possibly could.

On their behalf, I would respectfully like to say that in this time of war, I find it surprising that we are here today to talk about this issue of repealing the 1993 law. Our Soldiers are over-tasked with deploying, fighting, redeploying, refitting, and deploying again. These brave men and women have achieved what many Americans thought impossible. With all of the important issues that require attention, it is difficult to understand why a minority faction is demanding that their concerns be given priority over more important issues.

As a US Army Ranger, I performed long range patrols in severe cold weather conditions, in teams of 10, with only mission essential items on our backs. No comfort items. The only way to keep from freezing at night was to get as close as possible for body heat—which means skin to skin. On several occasions, in the close quarters that a team lives, any attraction to same sex teammates, real or perceived, would be known and would be a problem. The presence of openly gay men in these situations would elevate tensions and disrupt unit cohesion and morale.

I have served along side many foreign militaries. None of them compares to the US Military. In every case, they would give anything to be like ours. Lack of discipline, morale, and values top the list of reasons why. Between 1997 and 2001 I worked with Armies from Poland, Italy, England, and France. The discipline, training, and core values are quite different. Here are two specific examples:

- Operation Deep Strike, 1999, 1st deployment exercise into Poland. I personally had to take charge of a Logistical Transfer point inside Poland when I stopped there (as a SGM) and was horrified at what was going on at this Polish Infantry base. The Captain (US) in charge displayed incompetence and poor judgment when, he placed the females in the Polish infantry barracks. The females were absolutely traumatized. They were surrounded by Polish Infantry in the shower, heckled and harassed constantly. I had to control my outrage while giving this Captain a lecture on “common Sense”. My point is that the culture of the Polish military force was very different from the high standards in ours.**
- 2004, Tallil, Iraq. Similar to the Polish Army, the Italian Army occupied a compound at Tallil, Iraq. Again, drinking during deployment is the norm for them. The Italians would lay in wait at the PX, and target females, inviting them to their “bunker” on the Italian compound. There were so many incidents of rape, harassment, and sexual misconduct reported, that the Italian compound had to be placed “OFF LIMITS”. This did not stop further incidents; the Italians always seemed to be one step ahead. Again, the culture, discipline, and leadership of the Italian military is different from ours. I am not a diplomat, and I hope you do not mind my**

saying this. My concern is our military—the men and women who courageously volunteer to serve.

As an American Soldier, I can't imagine comparing our Military to that of a foreign nation to justify a change in policy. We should be very proud of the fact that they would rather be like us. Let's keep it that way.

Repealing the 1993 law will not help us win this war on terrorism or any conflict that our military is called upon to fight and win in the future. Too much time is being spent on how we can hinder our great men and women in the Military, let's do what we can to lift their morale, give them more resolve, and motivate them to continue the absolutely great job that they are doing. I hope that this Congress will not make their jobs more difficult and dangerous than they already are by repealing a solid law that continues to support the morale, discipline, and readiness of our troops.

SGM (Ret.) Brian Jones
Chief Executive Officer
Owner, Adventure Training Concepts

3553 Periwinkle Way
Naples, FL 34114

Phone: 239-537-0356
Email: bjones@AdventureTrainingConcepts.com

Military Experience: Brian began his Army career in Special Operations, as a Ranger in the 2nd Ranger Battalion. In July, 1988 he was selected to serve in an elite anti-terrorist unit shrouded in secrecy. Before retiring, he returned to the Ranger Regiment and served as the Detachment Sergeant Major. His decorations include the Bronze Star with Valor device, Valorous Unit, three Meritorious Service Medals, two Joint Commendation Medals, five Army Commendation Medals, and six Army Achievement Medals. He has seen combat on numerous occasions to include: Operation Just Cause, Panama, Columbia, Kuwait, Iraq, and Somalia, in the Battle in Mogadishu, made famous by the book and movie Black Hawk Down.

During his 21 years serving in the Rangers and Special Operations, Brian participated in state of the art Team Building and Leadership courses. He is passionate about building cohesive, efficient teams that use all of their member strengths to gain desired results. His military training includes Ranger School, Airborne School, Jumpmaster School, Master Parachutist, Military Freefall (HALO), SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape) and the Sergeants

Major Academy. He retired from the US Army in March, 2001 as a Sergeant Major after 21 years of service.

He is married to Michelle Jones, who spent 13 years in the US Army. She was a Captain who commanded two companies in the Transportation Corps, to include one year in combat.

Education: Brian Jones earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration while serving in the Army.

Post Service Experience: Served as an Action Officer for the Department of Defense as a Special Operations Integrator. He was appointed to this position while with Alion Science and Technology as an Action Officer for Homeland Security.

While in this position, Brian was deployed to Iraq for 6 months, where he coordinated with the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Task Force and developed Counter Measures to help minimize casualties to Coalition Forces. He retired from the US Army in March, 2001 as a Sergeant Major after 21 years of service.

The Ranger Creed

Recognizing that I volunteered as a Ranger, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession, I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor, and high esprit de corps of the Rangers.

Acknowledging the fact that a Ranger is a more elite soldier who arrives at the cutting edge of battle by land, sea, or air, I accept the fact that as a Ranger my country expects me to move further, faster, and fight harder than any other soldier.

Never shall I fail my comrades I will always keep myself mentally alert, physically strong, and morally straight and I will shoulder more than my share of the task whatever it may be, one hundred percent and then some.

Gallantly will I show the world that I am a specially selected and well trained soldier. My courtesy to superior officers, neatness of dress, and care of equipment shall set the example for others to follow.

Energetically will I meet the enemies of my country. I shall defeat them on the field of battle for I am better trained and will fight with all my might. Surrender is not a Ranger word. I will never leave fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy and under no circumstances will I ever embarrass my country.

Readily will I display the intestinal fortitude required to fight on to the Ranger objective and complete the mission, though I be the lone survivor.