

Donald Van Winkle's Rebuttal- Concerning Permanent Disqualification From PRP.....

I will attempt to address, and clarify the accusations that have been spelled out, in the letter received 30 Jan 2006, informing me of my Permanent disqualification from PRP.

1. STATEMENT: There is a lack of trust between you and myself(your certifying official) and the crew (your peers)
2. REBUTTAL: Admitting so, there is a lack of confidence on my behalf. Due to Mr. Bilyeu's, actions, After hearing my Safety concerns, He would not respond to "Clarify or Justify" any of my concerns regarding my safety issue's that concerned myself, or member's of the Chemical Crew. They were legitimate concerns that dealt with the safety of people on BGAD, as well as the community. As the Steward (IAM&AW) in the chemical division, I felt it was not only my personal safety concerns, but my responsibility as a steward to address these issues with Mr. Bilyeu. With no response from Mr. Bilyeu, I firmly believe that any reasonable person would have some trust issues with that kind of individual. "To this date" all questions concerning trustworthiness, has been directed towards me, my question is, In all fairness why haven't any inquires been made on the trust of subordinate's of Mr. Bilyeu's integrity, throughout the chemical worker's (Chemical Crew)..

Regarding the chemical crew's trust in me, As the Representative for the Bargaining Unit, I discussed the Safety Issue's with the "Crew" and they expressed to me the same concerns that I had. During the process of Mr. Hancock's official Investigation, why was I not afforded the opportunity to have my representative present during the questioning, to ensure that my peers were not being coerced, or intimidated by the investigator.

To explain the so-called intimidation of my peers, from me, The situation was my co-workers ask me one day, "What's going on with you and these safety Concerns" I explained that I have obtained an attorney, due to no reaction from Mr. Bilyeu, and as I told him of the Safety Concerns within the Chemical Crew, he ask me if anyone else that was at the meeting were Ms. Bonnie McCoy, stated that it was her decision to change the procedure of the use of the V to G conversions pads, and the attorney would like statements to that effect to confirm the information that I gave him. Mr. Flynn, and I had a brief conversation about this subject, and he said he could not remember for sure, what Bonnie McCoy, had said at the Feb,2005 Meeting about the conversion pad changes. I suggested to him, that he wrote down what he could remember, because in the future this issue would probably surface again, and if he didn't write it down, he would probably forget what he still remembers at the present time "if anything". This was said to a "co-worker" and "Friend" with no intention of any agenda, except our safety concerns.

3. STATEMENT: You show signs of behavior of a disgruntled employee, and display a lack of positive attitude...
4. Rebuttal: Webster's definition of disgruntle---- To be into a state of sulky dissatisfaction.

Since being placed on temporary disqualification, I have been placed at Bldg. 4, to assist in the mission outside of PRP. At which time I have displayed a "I do everything I can, to help complete the task at hand, and over-all mission. I challenge you to ask the people I've worked with at bldg.4, as well as my newly assigned supervisor, (Eddie Chasteen) have I giving 100% of anything that was ask of me.

My most recent appraisal was that of an exceptional employee. I haven't received any type of written documentation concerning my attitude, or job performance. Within the past 18 months I have received 3 "Commander's Coins", and a \$250.00 dollar cash award for "Job well Done". Besides following all safety regulations, and SOP's, and Army Guidance, I feel that I've maintained the conduct out-lined by AR50-6, E.O. 12731 of Oct 17,1990, as well as 55FR 42547 Dated Oct 19th, 1990.

Statement: Placing the Stockpile in Jeopardy:

REBUTTAL: In response to this statement that my behavior places the "Stock-Pile in jeopardy,,First let me say that I am appalled of the wide range of implications that this statement makes. It makes implications that I am a threat to "National Security". It questions my patronage, my loyalty, and my dedication to the greatest country in the world, "mine!". I made an oath to defend this country on June the 5th,1989 I would support and defend the Constitution of the united States of America against enemies foreign and domestic and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same. Now I was honorably discharged from active duty May 14th,1998 but the oath that I took is for life with no expiration date built into it. In defense of my country, I came to realization of that its not about national borders nor boundaries of real state but the oath is defending the people of this country, my state, my community, my family, and my work place against people who for one reason or another seeks to harm them.

I'm not asking you nor anyone else to see or understand my personal ideals of life but consider them when seek judge my actions in this matter. I believe God created each one of us for a purpose and gives us what we need to accomplish this purpose. For some, He makes strong to help the feeble. Some, He makes outspoken, to speak for those who can't, or won't speak for themselves. To emphasize my point, the "Bible" say's, that no greater love can a man have for another, than for him to lay his life down for the other. We can take the gifts that God gives us, and use them for personal gain, but its not until we use them to help others, that we understand the true meaning of man's humanity, to man. I did what I did, because I truly felt that the continued degradation of policies, and procedures, not to mention the in-

competent decisions would and will result in the handicapping of the operations overall and most important mission, which is to support and defend the chemical stockpile, ensuring its safe handling and storage until its inevitable destruction. I believe that people need to be held accountable for their decisions, regardless of grade or position.. To serve as a deterrent to others that seeks pay or position, without capability. I took necessary and proper actions to defend the stockpile, working within the Government systems that are currently in place, to bring about positive changes in addressing the command's weaknesses to make it a stronger, more capable organization. And for that, I am branded a person that jeopardizes the stockpile. I strongly compel that you strike these words from Tom Bilyeu's memorandum, because it is un-justified, and simply not applicable. Call me a patriot, you may call me boring, call me a "Pain in the Hind-end, but don't you dare insinuate, that I'm some sort of a terroristic threat.

IN CONCLUSION:

It has come painfully obvious to me, that this is completely about the fact of my actions, and the avenue's I took to try to resolve the safety concerns of many, dealing with the V to G conversion pads, which has got me in the condition with BGCA that I'm forced to respond to allegations completely un-justified. When my peers seen the actions taken against me, when first temp decertified, they were intimidated to the point that they would never say anything that would go against management's decisions on this matter. Any statements (if they really exist) taken under that kind of duress, simply is not valid, and constitutionally sound, therefore they should not be a part of your decision making in this matter to uphold Mr. Bilyeu's recommendation.

Donald Van Winkle (A Dedicated Employee)