

For Immediate Release
January 17, 2013

Recently, the Association of Bragg Officers' Spouses (ABOS) has received media attention concerning the eligibility requirements of its membership. There has been a lot of the information in the media about the issue and some of this has been false or misleading.

In mid-November, ABOS received an inquiry from the American Military Partners Association Director of Family Affairs, Ashley Broadway, requesting information on the eligibility for membership in ABOS of a same sex spouse. As this was a case of first impression, she was told that such a request would need to be studied. ABOS' membership application does not explicitly require a valid DoD ID Card but some member benefits and events do require a valid DoD ID Card. ABOS received Ms. Broadway's letter requesting reconsideration on Friday, December 7 and by Monday, December 10 a similar letter to the ABOS President was published on her organization's website.

ABOS' by-laws were never changed retroactively in an attempt to exclude anyone. The ABOS Board's bi-annual review of the by-laws began in July, 2012, at which time the by-laws were removed from the ABOS website and continue to be under review. Since the by-laws were written and adopted well before the repeal of "Don't Ask Don't Tell", the term "Spouse" is not defined.

In a continued attempt to support all military families, the ABOS Board would like to offer Ms. Broadway a special Guest Membership. Additionally, LTC Mack, as an active duty Officer, is and has always been eligible to become a Member of ABOS and participate in ABOS events.

It always has been and will continue to be our mission to support all military families.

Respectfully,
The ABOS Board