

# US Air Force starts gay purge

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MAINE — During the past nine months, a dozen women have been drummed out of the US Air Force in violation of their constitutional rights. According to the Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU), the women, stationed at the Loring Air Force Base in Maine, were discharged for alleged "homosexual activities."

The MCLU is representing Mary DePalo, one of the airwomen who filed suit after being denied non-commissioned officer status and the right to re-enlist. DePalo's four-year enlistment expired September 26, and the Air Force refused her request for re-enlistment because she "harbours homosexual tendencies and associated with a homosexual."

"The fact that she is being punished for associating with certain other individuals in the Air Force is completely objectionable and violates her First Amendment rights," said MCLU executive director Jean Sampson.

In an unrelated case, nine marines have been discharged and four others disciplined after Los Angeles police and military intelligence personnel cracked an alleged "male prostitution ring" at nearby Camp Pendleton. Master Sergeant Donald O'Neal of Camp Pendleton's community relations office said the activities of the young men included "visiting the homes of homosexuals to perform acts and appearing in pornographic motion pictures."

In a third case, a 25-year-old Army sergeant who recently wore a black evening gown, high-heeled shoes and a wig to his battalion mess hall has received an honourable discharge from the military.

Staff Sergeant Little (Bill) Douglas appeared in drag at the mess September 1 to protest the Army's foot-dragging on his discharge. The Army had not been convinced previously that Douglas was homosexual and had demanded notarized statements from his sexual partners. The drag incident, however, was found equally convincing and the discharge was processed within the week. □