

## **Statement of AB Edward M. Novak, II**

Words cannot express the relief and the joy I feel with the verdict in my court-martial. I have been waiting for this day for three years and three months. All the time, I've been under a cloud of suspicion, unable to leave Cannon AFB or Clovis, New Mexico. Everyone abandoned me. Only my family supported me. The whole process was very hard. Finally, though, the truth is known, and it took the members of this court-martial panel to clear my name. I thank the members of this court-martial. I am forever indebted to them. Thank you. In addition, I want to thank my attorneys Maj Shawn Vandenberg, Maj Jeff Palomino, and Capt Sterling Pendleton. These Judge Advocates worked tirelessly for me. They believed in me and in my case. I could not have hoped for better lawyers or better men. They pled my case and zealously represented my interests at every turn. It's a direct result of their work that I am free.

As I've said, this whole process was very difficult. I pray for anyone who gets in the sights of the United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations. So often, one is presumed guilty and helpless to do anything. Specifically, I want to make an appeal to the Air Force Chief of Staff and the Air Force Inspector General to do a full and fair investigation into the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. This detachment, then under the charge of SA Robert Lomurro must be investigated for their lack of investigation and professionalism in my case. Please investigate what this detachment did to me, and how they presumed my guilt and put me in their sights to engineer this case to this court-martial, without considering any other possibility. SA Kelly Siler, SA Thad Payne, SA Ryan Smith and SA Keith Crook were derelict in every aspect of their investigation. I know I'm just an Airman Basic and one who is on the way out of the Air Force, but please investigate what happened to me. Investigate it and make sure no one ever gets treated the way I did.

In the end, all of this comes back to Kimberly, my wife. I love her. I miss her. I know despite my innocence, her family, Don and Patricia Bollman will likely not let this go. I pray for them that they may find peace.

I thank everyone involved in the defense of my case. The military justice system works and worked for me. I now plan to move away from Cannon AFB and start a new, free life. Thank you.