

Subject: Trooper Integrity, Character

From: Sarah Palin <spalini@mtaonline.net>

Date: ~~Wed~~, 10 Aug 2005 15:50:45 -0800

To: julia\_grimes@dps.state.ak.us

Dear Colonel Grimes,

It is my understanding that you are aware of problems within the Alaska State Trooper family that stem from one of your officers, Michael Wooten. My concern is that the public's faith in the Troopers will continue to diminish as more residents express concerns regarding the apparent lack of action towards a Trooper whom is described by many as being "a ticking timebomb", and a "loose cannon".

Mike Wooten has continued to boast about incidences regarding his unethical and illegal actions that reflect so poorly on the Troopers, and appears to relish in the fact that he can "do anything because I'm a Trooper", as he's proclaimed to people who question his actions.

Let me share again with you just a few of the many episodes in Wooten's recent past that have been discussed with Wooten's supervisors after the episodes were publicly discussed by Wooten with many in our community who are left scratching their heads regarding Wooten's poor reflection of the Trooper mission to prevent loss of life and property as a result of illegal or unsafe acts. (These are just a few, as I have received many calls and comments over the past four years about Wooten's questionable actions and his relationship with my family. Wooten is my brother-in-law, but this information is forwarded to you objectively, and I trust it is received and considered by you objectively.)

**March 26, 2005** Officer Wooten was off-duty, drinking at the Mugshot Saloon in Wasilla when he pulled out his Trooper badge and demanded the bartender (Mr. Chris Brightbill) remove a patron whom Wooten disliked. The bartender knew Wooten was off-base with his demands and subsequently testified that Wooten was out of control, was abusing his position and authority and should not be in the position of a licensed Trooper, as he believes Wooten is a "loose cannon". (Private Investigator Leonard Hackett, interview and statement of Brightbill on 6/27/05.) Wooten eventually left the bar, was pulled over after a REDDI was called into Trooper dispatch after the caller observed Wooten driving drunk, and Wooten was pulled over. (Ironically, Wooten has been a member of your DUI Task Force and is featured in your television DUI Task Force PSAs.) The Trooper who pulled Wooten over is Officer Dave Harrell. He has served as a subordinate to Wooten. He did not cite Wooten for drunk driving, but merely gave Wooten a ride to a friend's house after responding to the REDDI. Wooten then called his wife (Molly McCann, 376-0302), explained that he was over the legal limit, and his wife picked him up at the friend's house and warned Wooten that his drinking and driving would "catch up with him" as he continued to disregard warnings about his drinking and driving practice in our small town. Wooten told others about this incident as a braggart way of reminding others that he is "untouchable" as a Trooper.

Around this time, Wooten rode with his girlfriend, Mrs. Angie Johnson, home from another local bar after another night of drinking. Mrs. Johnson was pulled over by a Trooper for suspected drunk driving. According to Wooten's account of the evening, he leaned over from the passenger window and demanded the responding Trooper to turn off his recorder and not cite Mrs. Johnson. She was not cited for DUI. Wooten subsequently bragged about this incidence to others, including Steven Menard (phone # 232-2120), again casting doubt in the public about the sincerity of the Trooper's mission.

Wooten drinks excessively and has showed extremely poor judgement and disregard for others' safety with his practice of drinking and driving, including on Jan. 19, 2005 drove home drunk; Jan. 23, 2005 drove home drunk after Super Bowl party in Anchorage; Feb. 6, 2005 in Anchorage leaving the Sullivan Arena's WWE Pro Wrestling event, drove very drunk as he drank Crown Royal straight from bottle, brought the Crown Royal into the Sullivan in PowerAde bottle and pettified his stepson who was with Wooten in the vehicle; Feb. 12, 2005 in Wasilla; Feb. 13, 2005 drove drunk in Big Lake (leaving Call of the Wild Bar, next day so hungover he had to call in sick to Trooper Headquarters); March 13, 2005 drank at least three beers in car while driving family home from Glennallen snowmachine trip, driving over the speed limit and scaring his wife and kids who begged him to stop drinking on the drive home. Wooten's consumption of alcohol while driving with small children in his vehicle (as witnessed by his wife and stepson, Molly and Payton McCann, 376-0302) is deplorable. He's even left a friend's home in his Trooper car, waving with beer in hand, again drinking and driving in an arrogant public statement declaring he is above the law (as witnessed by Adrian and Marilyn Lane, 376-9060).

Court documents regarding Wooten's past marriages and divorces, and according to Wooten's own admission, there's factual evidence that he is an abusive individual and has undergone mandatory alcohol abuse counseling and anger management counseling, but it's evident Wooten's drinking problem needs to be addressed more fully.

Wooten was recently transferred to Fish and Game as a Wildlife Investigator. He stated he would "do whatever needed to be done" to keep him from transferring to rural Alaska, as he unabashedly states his disrespect and dislike of Alaska Natives and did not want to serve Native communities. His transfer raised [redacted] amongst those who have discussed with Wooten his past illegal hunting acts, including killing a cow moose [redacted] the Krik River in the Fall of 2003. He shot the moose on a tag that was not his own, and bragged about this. He had no intention of processing the meat, so dropped the animal off at his father-in-law's house (Chuck Heath, 376-5790) and never returned to even pick up the meat after Mr. Heath processed it for him so it wouldn't go to waste. Mr. Heath delivered the meat to Wooten's house after Wooten showed no intention of retrieving the meat. This hunt was witnessed by Wooten's wife and Wasilla Police Officer Chris Wachus. Wooten continues to brag about the strings he says he pulled to get this transfer, where he says he's bored, but "the free hunting trips and Cabela credit card make it worth it." He's recently stated he's determined to get on with the Anchorage Police Dept., due to his boredom at Fish and Game, though APD officers whom Wooten has shared this with have let others know that he wouldn't make a good APD officer.

Another example that Wooten likes to share with others regarding his unethical and illegal hunting techniques involves a wolf hunt where he illegally chased down the animal with his snowmachine to kill it unfairly. This was witnessed by Chuck Heath and his hunting partners.

Wooten's total disregard for the safety of others was blatantly apparent when he shot his 11-year-old stepson, Payton, with his Taser gun. My 14-year-old daughter, (Bristol Palin, 373-3113) was terrified as she witnessed this incidence, and pleaded with Wooten not to follow through on his intended action of "letting Payton feel what a Taser can do". Wooten "offered" to shoot Bristol with the Taser after Payton was knocked over by the shock and Bristol continued to protest Wooten's action, and he followed up by offering to spray them both with pepper spray so they could "feel that, too". Wooten's wife aggressively protested during the Taser gun incident, she cried, he calls her and Payton "f\*\*\*\*\* pussys" for protesting.

Wooten's physical abuse of his wife is documented in their pending divorce case. He pushed her down on more than one occasion, including when she was holding their one-year-old son. Molly has been very reluctant to bring the physical abuse to light because Wooten's temper causes her to believe he'll be even more physically violent towards her, and others in her family whom he has threatened to "bring down", with the revelations. Wooten's gun, car and badge were evidently taken from him while a DVRO was in effect this spring, that turned into a No Contact rule between the parties and Wooten brazenly shows off his Trooper equipment now that he has it all back in his possession.

February 17, 2005 Wooten's marital infidelity surfaced publicly after his Trooper-sponsored trip to Idaho "for official business" on Jan. 28, 2005 included his married girlfriend's accompaniment. When confronted with this affair that others in the community were talking about, Wooten threatened to kill his wife's father, Chuck Heath, if Mr. Heath followed through with is offer to help Molly by getting an attorney to help her if they were to divorce. Wooten's words were, "I will kill him. He'll eat a f\*\*\*\*\* lead bullet, I'll shoot him." if our father got the attorney to help Molly. I heard this death threat, my 18-year-old son heard it (Track Palin, 373-3113), Molly heard it, as did their small children. Wooten spoke this with his Trooper gun on his hip in an extremely intimidating fashion, leaving no doubt he is serious about taking someone's life who disagrees with him.

Other recent examples of Wooten's abuse of authority include Spring, 2005 Wooten refused to pay a fine at the Mat-Su Borough Landfill when told his uncovered load would cost him a \$5,00 fine. (Private Investigator Leonard Hacket interview and statement 6/28/05.) Wooten introduced himself as a Trooper, was agitated and trying to be intimidating (indicated by Landfill Manager Mr. Greg Goodale, and Goodale's subordinate who had to deal with Wooten that day). Wooten eventually paid the small fine after trying to get out of it because of his Trooper status, and after the Landfill Manager had to be called in to settle the dispute caused by Wooten. This type of incident has resulted in citizens calling me, assuming there is something I can do about an abusive and intimidating Trooper who is giving the State of Alaska such a black eye.

Wooten has threatened to "bring down" anyone whom he dislikes, or anyone who would support his current wife (his third) during their divorce. When asked by Molly how he would accomplish this, Wooten states he can trump up charges against anyone and "I'll be believed by any attorney or judge in this state because I'm a Trooper." Specifically, on April 4, 2005 Wooten was counseled by my husband (Todd Palin 373-3113) to join Molly in acting

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civility and with maturity during their divorce - for the sake of the nine kids they and Wooten's girlfriend have between them all - and who are adversely affected by these circumstances. Wooten evidently took umbrage with the advice and that day told Molly she'd better "put a leash on your sister" or he'd "bring Sarah Palin down".

Wooten has threatened Molly that she'd better not talk about any of this, as he claims he has "bugged her phone" and, ~~using his State investigation equipment, knows everything she's doing and saying.~~ Molly is justifiably extremely intimidated and scared for her and her kids' safety.

April 11, 2005 Wooten did not show up for work, where he was to be served a DVRO. Sgt. Burke Waldron talked to Wooten's wife and encouraged her to get the DVRO, though Molly was scared to death that Wooten could, and would, destroy her if she did. Molly was told that Judicial Services would handle the DV "in order to keep things a little more confidential." Molly expressed concern that even those in Judicial Services may know Wooten (as Wooten continually reminded Molly that he had the court system and personnel on his side because he was a Trooper), and Molly was told that since they do know Wooten, Molly needed to "stay safe and be protected."

Julia, as lifelong Alaskans, my family and I and concerned community members who have witnessed your employee's actions still want to have faith in the Alaska State Troopers. But with recent public disclosure of abuses in the Trooper organization, and our own knowledge of Wooten's blatant disregard for the laws he is hired to enforce, our faith is waning. I feel strongly that Wooten is a loose cannon. He's a ticking timebomb, as others describe him, and I am afraid his actions do not merely reflect poorly on the State, but his actions may cause someone terrible harm.

It is my understanding that months ago you were made aware of Wooten's problems. Wooten's supervisors, the Alaska Police Standards Council, and others in positions of authority are aware of these circumstances. So the question begs: is it acceptable for an Alaska State Trooper to use his badge and power in these aforementioned ways? Granted, Trooper Investigator Ron Wahl was sent to asked questions regarding some of these incidences, but his selective questioning and his personal responses to answers given (and his assurance that it's Wooten's Union that prohibits certain lines of questioning) makes one wonder about the seriousness taken here. Wooten does not tell the truth. He intimidates people and abuses his position. I don't know what more can be said, except that considering just a few examples from those I've shared with you (namely, the death threat against my father who is merely trying to help his daughter escape a horribly abusive relationship, the illegal hunting, and the drunk driving!) all would lead a rational person to believe there is a problem inside the organization.

Sincerely,

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373-3113 or 715-8917

ps. Again, Wooten happens to be my brother-in-law, and after his infidelity and physical abuse of his wife (my sister) surfaced, Mike chose to leave his family and has continued to threaten to "bring down" anyone who supports her. I would ask that you objectively consider this information, disregarding my sister's pending divorce from Wooten, as I have objectively separated the divorce and Wooten's threats against me and my family with the fact that the Troopers have a loose cannon on their hands.