

For Immediate Release  
June 15, 2011

**AIR FORCE SERGEANT SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN  
PRISON FOR FEDERAL CHILD ABUSE CONVICTION**

LAS CRUCES – Today in federal court in Las Cruces, **Derek Wulf**, 35, was sentenced to a three-year term of imprisonment for child abuse not resulting in death. Wulf, who pled guilty to the offense on December 7, 2009, will serve one year of supervised release after he completes his prison sentence. Wulf, a technical sergeant in the United States Air Force who currently resides in Montgomery, Alabama, was assigned to Holloman Air Force Base at the time of the offense. Wulf remains on conditions of release until the United States Bureau of Prisons designates the correctional facility at which he will serve his prison sentence.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Wulf's three-year-old daughter died of dehydration and malnutrition on Holloman Air Force Base on January 26, 2006, after being neglected by her mother, Rebecca Christie. On November 11, 2009, a federal jury sitting in Las Cruces convicted Christie of murdering and abusing her daughter after a three-week trial. On May 23, 2011, Christie was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

In Wulf's plea agreement, he admitted to neglecting his daughter's health and not adequately monitoring her medical and nutritional needs despite knowing that the child had health problems and special nutritional needs. Wulf was not in the family home when the child died and had not been in the home since January 17, 2006.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Maria Y. Armijo and Nathan J. Lichvarcik.

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