

CSSMM CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SEXUAL MINORITIES IN THE MILITARY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

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SPRING 2000

NEW STUDY FINDS THAT GAYS AND LESBIANS DO NOT UNDERMINE COHESION IN CANADIAN FORCES

The Center has released its first research report, an analysis of organizational performance in the Canadian armed forces in the wake of Canada's 1992 decision to lift its gay ban. The report, which is available in the "Center Publications" section of the Center's web page (www.queermilitary.ucsb.edu), shows that the presence of open gays and lesbians in the Canadian military has not undermined organizational performance or cohesion.

The report shows that lifting of restrictions on gay and lesbian service in the Canadian Forces has not led to any change in military performance. Self-identified gay, lesbian, and transsexual soldiers describe good working relationships with peers in supportive institutional environments.

BOARD MEMBERS PUBLISH OP-ED IN NEW YORK TIMES

Two members of the Center's Executive Committee published an op-ed on gays in the military in the New York Times on January 13, 2000. **Coit Blacker**, Senior Director for Russian, Ukrainian, and Eurasian Affairs on the National Security Council under President Clinton, and **Lawrence J. Korb**, Assistant Secretary of Defense under President Reagan, argued that there is no evidence behind the notion that gay and lesbian soldiers would undermine unit cohesion if they were allowed to serve openly. According to Blacker and Korb, evidence from foreign armed forces as well as domestic police and fire departments indicates that when military and paramilitary organizations lift their gay bans, neither unit cohesion nor organizational performance suffer.

In addition, the percent of military women who experienced sexual harassment dropped 46% after the ban was lifted. While there were several reasons why sexual harassment declined, one factor was that lifting the ban freed women to report assaults without fear that they would be accused of being a lesbian.

Before Canada lifted its gay ban, a 1985 survey of 6,500 male soldiers found that 62% said that they would refuse to share showers, undress or sleep in the same room as gay soldiers. After the ban was lifted, however, follow-up studies found no increase in disciplinary, performance, recruitment, or sexual misconduct problems.

FOR A COPY OF NEW REPORT ON CANADIAN MILITARY

Visit the Center's web page at:

WWW.QUEERMILITARY.UCSB.EDU

Improvements and additions to the site will be forthcoming throughout the year. Designed by Stanford Ph.D. Jeff Crierie, the web page includes information on the CSSMM as well as resources for scholars and veterans.

CSSMM ESTABLISHES INFORMATION CLEARING HOUSE

The Center received a grant of \$30,000 from **The Compton Foundation** in Menlo Park, California. The grant will be used to create a research clearing house, a one-stop shopping center for academics, journalists, and policy-makers that will include bibliographies, military archives, web-sites, oral history collections, and video resources on gays and lesbians in the military. In addition, the clearing house will include a service in which research staff will conduct immediate on-demand research for members of the policy community who need specific information. For example, according to **C. Dixon Osburn**, co-Executive Director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, the SLDN often requires research assistance from the scholarly community to sift through data regarding the military's administrative and criminal justice systems, to survey and analyze veterans' experiences with the military's policies on lesbians, gays and bisexuals, and to consider strategic tactics that other human rights entrepreneurs have followed. Finally, project staff will prepare and publish press-releases, pamphlets, and working papers summarizing findings of recently-published scholarly work. By producing such materials, the project will ensure that policy makers and journalists can learn about and use academic research in their policy deliberations.



CAPTAIN MIKE RANKIN addresses a course at UCSB on gays and lesbians in the military as COMMANDER BETH COYE watches.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS, WINTER 2000

The Center thanks **The Compton Foundation** for its grant of \$30,000; **Jennifer and Kathy Levinson** for their gift of \$5,000; and **The Uncommon Legacy Foundation** for its grant of \$1,500. The Center thanks **Ken Sherrill** and **Dennis Winstead** for the considerable work they did coordinating fundraisers in New York and Washington. Finally, the Center thanks **American Airlines**, **SLDN**, and **Neal Mazer** for donating free airline tickets.



BUD ROBBINS of the Alexander Hamilton Post #448 and STACEY SOBEL of SLDN

CENTER OFFERS FIRST FELLOWSHIPS

The Center has offered its first fellowships over the past several months. Part of the Center's purpose is to create and expand resources for graduate students and junior and independent scholars and we are pleased to announce the following awards.

Deanna Morrow, Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte has been awarded a grant to modify her syllabus on Lesbian and Gay Issues in Social Work Practice, a course that she offers to students who include active military personnel and ROTC members. She is using the grant to support the acquisition of a mini-library on sexual minorities in the military.

Joseph Hawkins, a graduate student at the University of Akron, has received a fellowship to pursue his dissertation

research on homosexuality in Japan. He is interviewing gay veterans stationed in Japan during the allied occupation and also studying parks in postwar Japan that welcomed American soldiers who were interested in meeting Japanese transvestites.

Peter Hegarty, Assistant Professor of Psychology at City University of New York, Staten Island, has won a fellowship to conduct research on military psychologists' attempts to make the Rorschach test function as a "technology of self-report" that could reveal sexual orientation during World War II, as well as attempts to isolate "homosexual signs" among Rorschach responses during the Cold War.

The Center for the History of Sexual

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CALENDAR EVENTS, 1999-2000

Bud Robbins, Alexander Hamilton Post #448, and **Stacey Sobel**, Staff Attorney, SLDN, November 13, 1999, "Building Bridges Between Activism and Academic Research: the Case of the U.S. Military and Don't-Ask, Don't Tell".

Commander Beth Coye, USN (ret.), **Captain Mike Rankin** USN (ret.), and **Lucian Truscott**, author, November 30, 1999, "Veterans and Military Discrimination".

Leisa D. Meyer, Assistant Professor of History, College of William and Mary, February 16, 2000, "Gays in the Military: The Practical Implications of the Absence of Lesbians from the Debate".

Laura Miller, Assistant Professor of Sociology, UCLA, April 21, 2000, "Are Open Gays a Threat to Cohesion"?

Diversity in San Francisco has won a fellowship to continue cataloguing the records, tapes, photographs and memorabilia collected by **Allan Bérubé** in the research and writing of his seminal work **Coming Out Under Fire**. This collection consists of nine cubic feet of papers and about 150 audio-tapes, mostly oral histories of veterans of the Second World War. Most of the oral histories have never been duplicated or transcribed.

Armando X. Estrada, graduate student in Psychology at the University of Texas, El Paso, has won a fellowship to compare the attitudes of military personnel to civilian groups in the United States. Estrada will administer a survey that assesses attitudes toward lesbians and gay men to 72 members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

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