

# CSSMM CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SEXUAL MINORITIES IN THE MILITARY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2004

## NEW STUDY ON MULTINATIONAL UNITS AND HOMOSEXUAL PERSONNEL

On February 9, CSSMM held a research seminar at the National Defense University at Fort McNair, to release its latest study, "Multinational Military Units and Homosexual Personnel," co-authored by **Geoffrey Bateman**, CSSMM assistant director, and **Dr. Sameera Dalvi** of the University of Southampton.

Lieutenant Commander **Craig Jones** and Lieutenant **Rolf Kurth** of the Royal Navy as well as **Steve Johnston**, Chair of the Armed Forces Lesbian and Gay Association, and **Patrick Guerriero**,

President of the Liberty Education Forum joined CSSMM staff at the research seminar to discuss the study. They also briefed approximately sixty offices in Congress about the study's findings. Jones and Kurth are openly gay men who served on the same ship with Americans during recent hostilities in the Middle East.

The new study, posted at [www.gaymilitary.ucsb.edu](http://www.gaymilitary.ucsb.edu), surveys various deployments in which U.S. military personnel have served with openly gay foreigners in multinational units. Study authors present five cases of openly gay non-Americans who served alongside Americans. The study concludes that the presence of openly gay service members does not compromise unit cohesion in multinational units.



CSSMM organized a briefing in which Lieutenant Commander **Craig Jones** (left) and Lieutenant **Rolf Kurth** (right), two openly gay officers in the British Navy, addressed an audience of military professors and students at the National Defense University February 10. Their host was Professor **Greg Foster** of NDU (center).

## CSSMM IN THE NEWS

In November, op-ed pieces by CSSMM staff were published in the *New York Times* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. In "Why We Need Gays in the Military," CSSMM Senior Research Fellow **Nathaniel Frank** wrote that the ban on military service by gay and lesbian people undermines the military, especially when it forces the military to discharge well-qualified Arab linguists in this time of heightened national security. In "Gays in the Military: 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'—10 Years and 10,000 Discharges Later," **Tobias Barrington Wolff** argued that the current policy has failed to preserve unit cohesion and protect service members' privacy.

In December, CSSMM staff appeared live on *CNN* and CSSMM research was cited in a *Navy Times* article by retired veteran **Keith Taylor**, who argued that the Department of Defense should reconsider Don't Ask, Don't Tell. In January and February, the CSSMM was covered by the *Army Times*, *Detroit News*, *Washington Times*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Miami Herald*, and *Philadelphia Daily News*.

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

The Center is deeply grateful for grants of \$50,000 from the **Liberty Education Forum**, \$30,000 from the **Gill Foundation**, 5,000 from the **Silva Watson Moonwalk Fund**; \$5,000 from **Jody Cole**, \$1000 from **David Jenkin**, \$500 from **Ian Gibson-Smith** and the **IanThom Foundation** in memory of **Thomas G. Martin**, and \$500 from the **Lewy Gay Values Fund** at the **Horizons Foundation** as advised by **Jeffrey Lewy** and **Ed Eishen**.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional information on the topic of gays and lesbians in the military, please see the web pages for the Gay and Lesbian Service Members for Equality, a group of gay men and lesbians who currently serve in the military ([www.glsme.org](http://www.glsme.org)), and the Military Education Initiative, a non-profit that promotes the discussion of sexual minorities in the military in the veterans community ([www.military-education.org](http://www.military-education.org)).

## EVENTS NEWS

**Geoffrey Bateman**, CSSMM assistant director, participated on a panel on "The Impact of War on GLBTQ People" at this year's National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Creating Change Conference, which was held in November in Miami Beach, Florida. Bateman highlighted CSSMM research that shows how ethnic minorities tend to be integrated into the U.S. military during times of conflict, how gay and lesbian personnel have often been allowed to serve during war, and how U.S. military personnel have served alongside openly gay and lesbian service members from other countries in multinational engagements.

On November 17, the Center organized a briefing for 61 offices in Congress on gays in the military, focusing on the Center's research on foreign militaries that have lifted their bans.

Center staff delivered presentations on gays in the military at Harvard Law School (October 10), Washington University Law School (October 12), Fordham University Law School (November 19), San Francisco State University (January 20) and University of Florida Law School (January 24).

## TRANSITIONS IN CSSMM BOARD OF ADVISORS

CSSMM is proud to welcome **Tico Almeida** and **Carmen Poulin** as new members to its board of advisors. As **Alix Sabin** departs from her role on the board, we would like to thank her for her incredible service. She will be greatly missed.

Tico Almeida is a third-year student at Yale Law School, where he is Co-Chairperson of the Latino Law Students Association. During the summer of 2003, he served as a legal intern for the U.S. Army J.A.G. Corps as an openly gay man. He was rated by his supervising Army officers as a "must select" for commissioning in the Army J.A.G. Corps.

Carmen Poulin is a professor of Psychology and Women Studies at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, Canada. Her primary research focuses on the social circumstances and psychologies of women and marginalized groups from a variety of backgrounds (e.g., military lesbians, sexual minorities, people with disability).

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The Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military is an official unit of the Institute for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research at the University of California, Santa Barbara; [www.isber.ucsb.edu](http://www.isber.ucsb.edu). You can reach the Center at (805) 893-5664; (805) 893-3309 (fax); [belkin@polsci.ucsb.edu](mailto:belkin@polsci.ucsb.edu); or <http://www.gaymilitary.ucsb.edu>.

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