

MEMORANDUM

6640-1 (DPM 2-4)

25 Sep 86

DG Charter

CHARTER TASK FORCE REPORT

Ref: A. Your 1745-42-9 (Chart TF) - 24 Sep 86
B. Our 6640-1 (DPM 2-4) - 30 May 86

1. A general comment on ref A report is that this paper is well presented and gives one the impression of reasonably well balanced argument based on adequate research.

2. Using ref B as a guide, specific medical comments follow:

- a. para 47, line 1: "adverse medical consequences", while accurate, sounds harsh and sets a particular negative tone for what follows in succeeding paragraphs. Perhaps "several medical implications" is better.
- b. para 48, line 3: "many STDs" vice "a STD".
- c. para 49, line 3: "A screening program for STDs among male homosexuals would have to be seriously considered, at an estimated cost of \$46 per screened person" vice "Male homosexuals would ... STD."
- d. para 49, line 8: The original statement in reference B was "may become obligatory." Under an open recruitment policy, the CF will have more stimulus to make an extra effort to screen transfused blood for HB and HTLV-III infection. In the practical situation, once homosexual males are self-deferred, battlefield transfusion involves a comparison of the risk of dying from exsanguination to the (likely) much smaller risk of acquiring HTLV-III infection from unscreened blood. A general HTLV-III screening program of serving members would reduce the risk of HTLV-III transmission in the battlefield transfusion.

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- e. para 50a, line 5: "against hepatitis B infection (\$130 per vaccinee)" between "vaccine" and "has"; "Vaccination" vice "innoculation".
- f. para 50b: rewrite this as follows:
"Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Male homosexuals are the largest and highest risk group for AIDS. Prevention relies solely on avoiding high risk behaviour as no vaccine or treatment is available to counter it. Blood tests are available to detect antibodies produced in response to HTLV-III (the causative viral agent) infection. Medical care costs for a single AIDS case is estimated at \$40,000. To date, there has been one case of AIDS in the CF. A further five members have been identified as infected with HTLV-III but not AIDS cases. Only half of the six infected members have had homosexual contact". This office believes that the information regarding the "CF-wide survey" should be deleted. The survey has not been seen by this office nor is it mentioned in our brief (ref B). The survey is not relevant to "medical implications." It only indicates homophobia and fear of AIDS. Deferral for blood donation of homosexuals is now standard practice and blood recipients seldom know the donor, let alone his/her sexual orientation.
- g. para 51, line 1: "opinion" vice "facts".
- h. para 51b: delete, too dogmatic.
- j. para 51c: delete.
- k. para 51d, line 2: "will have to be seriously considered" vice "would be necessary".
- m. para 51d, line 2: "A recruit screening program" vice "This screening program".
- n. para 51e: delete.
- p. para 51f: "There is no compelling medical reason why an open policy toward homosexual recruitment could not be effected, although some increase in resources would likely be required to serve this population." vice what is currently written.

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- q. para 19: "OPTIONS" vs "options" to set it quite apart from the previous medical section.
- 3. If this office may be permitted some editorial comments:
 - a. there is inconsistency in the spelling of 'role' - Part 2 paragraph 3 and 'role' throughout the remainder of the paper;
 - b. misspellings as follows:
 - (1) part 3 page 26 para 91 - 'center' vice 'centre';
 - (2) part 3 page 29 para 98h 'implemented';
 - (3) part 4 page 4 'forces';
 - (4) part 4 page 9 para 24 'experiments';
 - (5) part 4 page 17 para 49 'community';
 - (6) part 4 page 18 para 50a "ratio" vice "ration";
 - (7) part 4 para 61 'reaction of them' should be 'reaction to them'; and
 - (8) part 3 page 30 para 99b insert 'immediately' before 'on diagnosis'.
- 4. A listing of references for part 4 was not included with reference A. Presumably the report's reference 20 is reference B.
- 5. In para 43 of part 34, the argument could have been strengthened if the report had included statistics on problems concerning homosexuals in those forces which recruit homosexuals. It is realized that these statistics may have been difficult to obtain.
- 5. It is hoped that these comments are suitable to your purpose.



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