

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

May 26/89

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3045-16

Subject:

Canadian Forces (CF) policy on inappropriate sexual conduct involving CF members

Policy:

Canadian Forces policy concerning inappropriate sexual conduct has as its purpose the safeguarding of CF operational effectiveness. While sexual orientation alone may not have a significant detrimental effect on operational effectiveness, it is considered that certain confirmed acts, offers or requests of a sexual nature, both homosexual and heterosexual, most certainly will. Consequently, it is only with these confirmed acts, offers or requests that the present policy is concerned.

Inappropriate sexual conduct impacts negatively on CF operational effectiveness by reducing the level of cohesion and morale essential to an effective fighting force, and by compromising the principles of leadership and discipline upon which the force is based. Members of the CF, unlike individuals within the private sector, or even in other elements of the public sector, are required by law to perform any lawful duty at any time. This obligation regularly requires members to live and work in close proximity with little or no privacy and with no choice as to with whom they associate. Isolated posts, barrack life, mess decks in ships and field operations particularly, place members in continued close contact that may last for weeks or even months. In times of war and other emergencies, these conditions would become even more pronounced as increased numbers of personnel are congregated in limited facilities under circumstances of operational stress.

These conditions would inevitably raise the sensitivity of other members to the presence of active homosexuals. To force heterosexual members to sleep and shower next to active homosexuals under such conditions would clearly be an intrusion on their heterosexual life-style. Further, given that homosexual activity

Copy
Mary Gussella

F.Y.I.

② Catherine
Thanks. Now... what
about pedophiles
transvestites, and other
people...
"let's get a copy
of the CFAO referred to."

31 etc.


Shanku -
[Signature]

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has not reached a level of universal acceptance in society, it must be expected that the presence of active homosexuals within the military would decrease the overall appeal of a service career to prospective recruits.

In addition to the above, based on our experience, active homosexuals in positions of leadership and authority do not command the respect of their subordinates. In a system dependent on obedience to authority and discipline, the command structure cannot be compromised by such a situation.



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Action:

Based on the above, it is considered that the issue of the revised Canadian Forces Administrative Order on the subject of inappropriate sexual conduct, both heterosexual and homosexual, which reflects the policy described above [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] should receive government approval as a matter of urgent necessity.

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