

- Q.7 Do not homosexuals present a health risk to other members of the CF?
- A.7 It is the opinion of the Surgeon General that homosexuals as a group do not present any more of a health risk than do heterosexuals as a group. While some homosexuals are carriers of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), so are some heterosexuals. By definition, STDs are normally transmitted by intimate sexual behaviours rather than by casual, non-sexual contact. Some members have been concerned about the possible transmission of the HIV virus leading to AIDS. This concern is unfounded because, as is now well known, casual non-sexual contact by itself does not lead to HIV transmission. Sharing personal space is not a health problem; sharing bodily fluids is. The 1986 Charter Task Force report referred, in part, to "--- battle conditions, where the use of members as a walking blood donor pool is necessary to meet transfusion requirements ---". The implication was that the integrity of the CF blood supply could be put at risk unless expensive testing were instituted. In fact, the CF does not rely on a "walking blood donor pool" for blood supply and medical staff are neither trained nor equipped to implement such a concept.
- Q.8 Will homosexuals and lesbians be tested for the HIV virus? What will the Canadian Forces do about homosexuals and lesbians serving in occupations relating to the delivery of health care, food services, etc?
- A.8 Declared homosexuals and lesbians will be treated in the same manner as any other member with respect to medical testing and treatment. (There is no compulsory HIV testing in the Canadian Forces. Testing, when it is done, requires informed consent by the member.)