

19.00/1 - DISPOSITION OF CASES OF UNNATURAL OFFENCES -
NAVAL PERSONNEL

(1) This order is intended as a guide in dealing with cases involving unnatural offences and homosexual tendencies generally.

(2) All officers and men must persevere in eliminating this evil from the RCN. Apart entirely from the fact that specific acts of an unnatural character are criminal offences under the Criminal Code of Canada (Sections 147, 148 and 149), the homosexual is, from the security as well as the military standpoint, a dangerous liability to the Service. Disciplinary action should normally be taken when a specific offence is committed, and all known homosexuals shall be released from the RCN.

(3) In dealing with allegations of unnatural offences and homosexual tendencies, however, the Commanding Officer and all others concerned shall bear in mind the peculiar susceptibility of such cases to possible malicious charges, and the fact that once a charge is laid or other official action taken, irreparable damage is done to the character of the individual involved, be he innocent or guilty.

(4) The measures that must be taken to combat the evil of homosexuality fall under the following main heads:

(a) Appropriate action shall be taken to direct the attention of all concerned to the dangers - spiritual, moral and physical - of unnatural practices, and of condoning these practices in others. For this purpose, the Commanding Officer shall make the best use of all his personnel resources to convey to the ship's company the abominable character of unnatural vice and its evil effects in sapping the moral character of those who indulge in it or condone it in others. He shall also cause it to be understood that it is the obligation of every officer and man to bring to the attention of superior authorities any unnatural offence of which he becomes aware.

(b) Where a specific offence under Sections 147, 148 or 149 of the Criminal Code of Canada is alleged to have been committed, and the Commanding Officer is satisfied that the evidence appears to be sufficient to support the charge, he should normally make application for trial by court martial, always bearing in mind, however, the factors detailed in (3) of this order.

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(c) Where a person, although not charged with a specific unnatural offence has admitted aberrations of behaviour or character deviations of a homosexual nature, or his behaviour has given sufficient grounds for the conclusion that he has homosexual tendencies, he shall be released under QRCN article 15.01 (Table) Item 5 (b) (ii) (being considered unsuitable for reasons other than misconduct, inefficiency or medical unfitness). It is in the latter category that especially careful consideration is required, since the individual will not have the opportunity of defending himself on specific charges at a trial. The final decision as to release will, in all cases, be made by Naval Headquarters.

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