



Bush Administration: Enforce Gay Ban In Military

TVC SPECIAL REPORT

- The court martial of Air Force Tech. Sergeant Eric Marcum is a good argument for banning homosexuals from serving in the military. In May, 2000, Marcum was sentenced to ten years in prison on charges of sexually molesting young soldiers who were training to become linguists for the Air Force. Marcum also received a dishonorable discharge for committing forcible sodomy on some of his victims.
- In March, 2001, lesbian Air Force Sergeant Sharon Dejesus Harris was arrested for molesting a 13-year-old girl. Harris had pretended to be a boy on the Internet to attract young girls for sexual seduction. In fact, Harris *continued* to pretend to be a boy even as she was sexually molesting her female victim. Investigators are convinced she has attempted to molest other girls through her Internet connections.

THESE MOLESTATION CASES point up the need for President George W. Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to re-institute the Congressional ban on homosexuals being allowed to serve in the military. The Pentagon is on the verge of issuing an anti-harassment policy to protect homosexuals from verbal or personal attacks, but this isn't the correct solution to this problem.

The solution is to abolish the Clinton "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and establish sound policies based upon Public Law 103-160, passed by Congress in 1993. This law clearly states that persons who engage in homosexual conduct pose an unacceptable risk to the Armed Force's standards of morale, good order, discipline, and unit cohesion.

Both Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Colin Powell have spoken out strongly on this issue in the past. When he served as Secretary of Defense, Cheney wrote: "Remember why we have a military. The reason is to be prepared to fight and win wars. That is our basic, fundamental mission. The military is not a social welfare agency; it is not a jobs program. We aren't there to run social experiments. We are there to fight and win wars."

Former General Colin Powell, as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff once wrote: "I have given a great deal of thought to my position and continue to hold the view that the presence of homosexuals in the military is prejudicial to good order and discipline."

There Is No "Right To Serve" In The Military

U.S. Army Major Melissa Wells-Petry (Ret.), writing in *Exclusion: Homosexuals and the Right to Serve*, points out a fundamental fact that is frequently missed by homosexual apologists: No one has the "right to serve" in the military. The military "discriminates" against people with medical conditions, prison records, handicaps, mental conditions, and height and weight problems. The military also has a right to discriminate against men who are sexually attracted to other men.

Wells-Petry notes that homosexuals constitute a serious security threat to the military. "Compromising relationships between hostile intelligence agents and soldiers begin with identification of individuals who are perceived as vulnerable," says Wells-Petry. These individuals are targeted with money and sexual favors by foreign agents. The former KGB had long been interested in targeting homosexuals for blackmail and exploitation. Even "open" homosexuals in the military can be subjected to coercion if their sex partners do not want their own homosexuality to be exposed. Homosexuals frequently feel hostility toward their nation because their behavior is still looked upon as abnormal. They are prime targets for exploitation by foreign nations.

As Wells-Petry observes, "...the Army reasonably can conclude that anything which increases hostile intel-

ligence activity is detrimental to the force, without regard to whether or not that activity results in actual breaches of security.”

Retired Marine Colonel Ron Ray, in his thoroughly researched book, *Military Necessity & Homosexuality* observes that the sexual promiscuity and sexual diseases spread by homosexuals are also compelling reasons why homosexuals should be banned from military service. Ray writes: “Among the most obvious dangers homosexuals pose for the military is the threat of AIDS, which would increase for all military members if homosexuals were openly admitted to the services.” He also points to numerous studies that have shown that homosexuals frequently have as many as 1,000 sexual partners over a lifetime. The more partners they have, the more likely they are to spread a variety of venereal diseases—thus impacting military readiness. The military should not be converted into a government hospice for those dying of AIDS or suffering from crippling venereal diseases.

Abolish “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” Policy

In a discussion of homosexuals serving in the military, it is often overlooked that the act of sodomy is a criminal offense in the Armed Forces. Article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) describes sodomy as a criminal act that can be punished by imprisonment and discharge from the service. According to Col. Robert Maginnis in the Family Research Council report, “A 2000 Status Report on Homosexuals in the Military,” he notes that the criminalization of sodomy has been in place within the military since General George Washington discharged a soldier in 1778 for engaging in homosexual acts.

The Articles of War in 1916 proscribed sodomy as a criminal act. In 1950, the Uniform Code of Military Justice included Article 125, which described the behavior and penalties for engaging in homosexual behavior.

Article 125 should be vigorously enforced to protect heterosexual soldiers from the predatory behavior of homosexuals. In 1993, retired General William Weise released an analysis of a study of 102 homosexual discharge cases between 1989-1992. Of these cases, 85% of these discharges involved non-consenting victims who were sodomized. In 65% of these cases, both were military members with a senior military person victimizing a subordinate. An astounding 49% of these cases involved the molestation of children by military personnel. Only 12% involved off-base offenses.

In 1993, Congress passed Public Law 103-160. In this law, under Section 654, Title 10, Congress reaffirmed the long-held ban on gays in the military. Former President Bill Clinton, however, distorted this law and created the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, which has proven to be a failure.

Under Public Law 103-160, Congress affirmed the following:

- Congress has the authority to make laws governing the military.
- Success in combat requires military units that are characterized by high morale, good order and discipline, and unit cohesion.
- The presence in the armed forces of persons who demonstrate a propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts would create an unacceptable risk to the Armed Forces’ high standards of morale, good order and discipline, and unit cohesion that are the essence of military capability.
- Military standards of conduct apply both on duty and off duty.
- There is no “right” to serve in the military.

These are elements of the law passed by Congress, but these standards were ignored by the Clinton Administration in its creation of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) policy.

Under DADT, a person who *voluntarily* admits he is a homosexual may be released from the service. A person who *engages* in homosexual acts can also be released. A soldier who *says* he is a homosexual, but will not engage in homosexual conduct, can be retained.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and President George W. Bush would be wise to study the works of Major Wells-Petry and Colonel Ron Ray before they institute pro-homosexual “anti-harassment” policies within the military. The Bush Administration should abolish all Clintonian policies involving homosexuals and create military regulations on homosexuals based upon Public Law 103-160. Homosexuals should be banned from the military and those currently serving should be permitted to resign.

Traditional Values Coalition is an inter-denominational public policy organization comprising over 43,000 member churches. For more information on the work of TVC, call our Washington, DC office at 202-547-8570 or access our web site at: www.traditionalvalues.org. TVC, 139 C Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003.