

ANNEX A
TO CF POLICY ON
SEXUAL ORIENTATION
(HOMOSEXUALITY)
DATED 17 MAR 85

CANADIAN FORCES POLICY ON
SEXUAL ORIENTATION (HOMOSEXUALITY)
SUPPORTING INFORMATION

GENERAL

1. Canadian Forces records contain substantial information on problems which have arisen through the presence and activities of homosexual members. Representative examples taken from specific incidents are described in the following paragraphs. Of necessity they are described in general terms to protect the privacy of the individuals involved. Some anecdotal information is also provided together with detailed statistical information.

DISCIPLINE

2. The use of rank or authority to effect or influence sexual activities is both reprehensible and corrosive of discipline. The rank and authority structure of the Canadian Forces, an essential element of any armed force in which members must be conditioned to accept orders which may place their lives at risk, has the potential for abuse which in turn may undermine the effectiveness of the structure itself:

- a. Incident 1. A sergeant involved a private in homosexual activity and allegedly told him "that he (the private) could get promoted fast as he knew a high ranking officer with influence".
- b. Incident 2. A corporal made sexual advances to a private and threatened him by telling him he would charge him for disobeying a lawful command because the private would not accompany him to a club.

.../A-2

A-1

003696

AGC-1685_0001

ANNEX A
TO CF POLICY ON
SEXUAL ORIENTATION
(HOMOSEXUALITY)
DATED 17 MAR 85

- c. Incident 3. A captain performed sexual acts on a private. The private was offered his requested posting and was told that if he said anything about the acts, nobody would believe a private confronted by a captain.

3. Discipline can also be impaired by the lack of acceptance of homosexuals by their peers and their subordinates. On occasion, this has led to physical assaults, or the threat of assaults, on known homosexuals. Such activity is not tolerated by the Canadian Forces and constitutes an offence. Nevertheless, the presence of homosexuals can give rise to problems which would otherwise not occur:

- a. Incident 4. Two privates beat up a master corporal and put him in hospital with injuries because he had made homosexual advances towards them.
- b. Incident 5. A private punched another private in the face after receiving sexual advances.
- c. Incident 6. A homosexual warrant officer took a drug overdose after receiving verbal threats.

COHESION AND MORALE

4. The presence of homosexuals has the potential to prejudice unit cohesion and morale which is essential to the successful completion of team tasks:

- a. Incident 7. A voluntary unit recreational activity was rejected by many unit members because the activity was dominated by homosexuals.
- b. Incident 8. Jealousy, arguments, possessiveness, and abusive language characterized the activities of a clique of homosexuals in a small unit.

.../A-3

ANNEX A
TO CF POLICY ON
SEXUAL ORIENTATION
(HOMOSEXUALITY)
DATED 17 MAR 85

LIVING CONDITIONS

5. Living conditions in the Canadian Forces do not, in many cases, provide the privacy necessary for homosexuals to conduct their relationships discreetly and without giving offence to other members. Living quarters are frequently shared with common ablution areas and shower facilities. Non-homosexual members have been known to move out of single quarters rather than be exposed to the activities or the advances of practicing homosexuals.

6. Recent press reports have given prominence to the release, in 1984, of a number of homosexual females from Canadian Forces Station Shelburne. The Editor of the Canadian Forces Personnel Newsletter received a telephone call from a female service member in the week of 28 Feb 85. This service member expressed concern that public reaction to the releases might cause the Canadian Forces to change its policy on homosexuality. The basis for her concern was the contention that the physical closeness of military life makes the Canadian Forces exactly the wrong place to tolerate homosexual activity. She stated that she felt that if she had to live in a barracks and shower in a common washroom she should be able to do so without being either sized up for a relationship and/or being blatantly ogled.

LEGALITY

7. Members of the Canadian Forces are, in many cases, recruited at an early age. Moreover, the Canadian Forces also provides support to the Canadian cadet movement: some 60,000 cadets between the ages of 13 and 19 are involved. The acceptance of homosexuals in the Canadian Forces would place these youths at risk of being targets of homosexual advances and illegal acts:

- a. Incident 9. A sergeant offered a cadet the unlimited use of a vehicle in exchange for his sexual services once a month.

.../A-4

A-3

003698

ANNEX A
TO CF POLICY ON
SEXUAL ORIENTATION
(HOMOSEXUALITY)
DATED 17 MAR 85

- b. Incident 10. A captain fondled a cadet while on tour. The cadet was asked to share a room with the captain: he did not want to do this but "due to the captain rank he was afraid to refuse".

SECURITY

8. The risk to security posed by homosexuals varies depending on the individual and the nature of his or her relationships. Admitted homosexuals may not be at as much risk as those who have kept their sexual preferences confidential. However, a partner is inevitably involved and the partner may fear public disclosure: both individuals thus become vulnerable.

9. The threat or actuality of public disclosure of an undisclosed homosexual can be devastating to the individual. For this reason, the Canadian Forces processes confirmed homosexuals for release with speed, compassion and discretion.

PUBLIC IMAGE

10. The public image of the Canadian Forces is an essential concern for a voluntary military force which requires an annual intake of about 10,000 new members. Not all homosexuals are promiscuous, but those who are have the potential to do grave damage to the public image of the forces. Moreover, it is believed that many service members do not wish to be associated with homosexuals: support for this belief is found in the general level of non-acceptance of known homosexuals. This non-acceptance, of course, is based in most cases on personal assessments of the damage homosexuals can do to a military organization in terms of discipline, unit cohesion and morale, and public image. There is no evidence that service members extend this lack of acceptance to the wider civilian community: the rejection of homosexuality by service members appears to be limited to the presence of homosexuals in the Canadian Forces.

.../A-5

A-4

003699

ANNEX A
TO CF POLICY ON
SEXUAL ORIENTATION
(HOMOSEXUALITY)
DATED 17 MAR 85

STATISTICS

11. Each year a number of cases of homosexuality/suspected homosexuality are reviewed by personnel staff in National Defence Headquarters. Each case is reviewed most carefully. When it has been confirmed that the individual is a homosexual, that member is released: no career action is taken when there is insufficient confirmation. Statistics for the past four years are as follows:

	<u>Total Reported</u>	<u>No Career Action (Inadequate Confirmation)</u>	<u>Released</u>
1981	43	6	37
1982	60	15	45
1983	61	17	44
1984	48	10	38