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MINUTES OF THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION WORKING GROUP

HELD IN ROOM 2207

234 LAURIER AVENUE WEST

12 OCTOBER 1989

Ottawa, Canada

REPRESENTATIVES

<u>Chairman:</u>	Col	B.E.	Swan	DPCAOR
<u>Members:</u>	Col	R.M.	Belanger	DMTS
	LCol	R.A.	McDonald	D Law/HRI
	LCol	K.W.J.	Wenek	DPPS
	LCol	J.W.	Stow	DPCAO
	Mr	E.A.	Flewelling	DRS
	M.	R.	Brockley	D Pers A
	Lt(N)	P.N.	Brunt	D Hist
	Capt	A.T.	MacIntyre	DPPS
	Lt	L.D.	Taylor	D Secur
<u>Secretary:</u>	Capt	T.	Falardeau	DPCAOR 4-2-2

INTRODUCTION

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1030 hrs.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION BY</u>
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I STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH JUSTICE

2. LCol McDonald outlined the present situation with the Justice Department. Justice still had problems with DND's Privacy argument but believed that it was the strongest point on which to base the defense. At the moment they were doing their risk evaluation and their conclusions were due on 13 Oct 89.

II DPPS REPORT

3. LCol Wenek said that he identified 6 issues while studying the psychological data. These issues were:

a. Negative stereotypes. Did the negative stereotypes about homosexuals have any basis? It appeared that most stereotypes were anecdotal and/or the result of media sensationalism. Many homosexuals did not fit the stereotype (ex. Rock Hudson) and there are numerous historical instances of highly successful military personnel who were homosexuals. Since there was no way of readily identifying homosexuals, stereotypes do not really reflect reality.

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*Handwritten initials and date: 26/10*

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ITEM DISCUSSION ACTION BY

b. Defensibility of the Charter Task Force Report. The methodology and the reasonableness of the conclusions of the Task Force Survey on attitudes was currently under review. The results of the 1986 survey were still current since these types of attitudes remain fairly stable in society over the course of a decade. Hence, it was not recommended that a new survey be done.

c. Cohesion/Morale. The importance of cohesion was easy to establish by proving the link between cohesion and performance through historical data. However, cohesion was not a strong argument in favour of DND's position since it was not possible to prove what the behaviour of the heterosexual soldiers would be. Experimentation was not possible, hence no empirical data could be accumulated. The effect on morale was even more difficult to quantify but the Task Force survey did indicate that military personnel did not want to work with or under homosexuals. Once again, the extent of these feelings was impossible to predict especially in view of possible harassment policies.

d. Privacy. The presence of homosexuals is an invasion of the privacy of heterosexuals and the Task Force survey strongly supported this. However, it could be argued that the CF requires personnel to give up privacy for military reasons anyway. Additionally it could be asked why, if there were already homosexuals serving and living with heterosexuals, though they were not known to be such, would it suddenly become an invasion of privacy once their proclivities were known?

e. Stability of attitudes. There was strong evidence to suggest that attitudes of military personnel towards homosexuals would not change significantly (Task Force Survey). Behaviour towards homosexuals may change but through coercion (i.e. orders and regulations).

4. Col Belanger asked what the attitude of parents would be if known homosexuals were to be instructors at a cadet camp. LCol Wenek replied that there was a very strong negative feeling towards this. Col Belanger also asked if there was any data available to examine the effect of lesbians on a male heterosexual group. Col Swan replied that men usually did not have problems with lesbians and women usually did not have problems with male homosexuals. LCol Wenek discussed the reasons for this citing anxiety as a major factor.

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ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION BY
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III	<p>5. LCol McDonald asked if there were any data about the occurrence of heterosexual versus homosexual incidents of pedophilia. Pedophilia was often not gender directed but was directed at children in general on an opportunity basis.</p> <p><u>HISTORICAL DATA</u></p>	
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IV	<p>6. Col Swan asked Lt(N) Brunt to find historical data on homosexuals in the military.</p> <p><u>SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS</u></p>	
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	<p>7. Lt Taylor stated that if a homosexual member's sexual orientation was known to his family and his CO then there was no security problem and he/she would retain his/her security clearance. Col Swan cautioned that there might still be a risk if the member does not wish anyone else to know about his/her proclivities.</p>	
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	<p>8. At present, the study of military police reports on incidents of homosexuality and the compilation of the requested data is proceeding. LCol McDonald asked Lt Taylor to pass the security data to DPPS for behavioral analysis. Col Swan requested that all cases for the past 5 years be studied.</p>	D Secur
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	<p>9. The RCMP and the Correctional Services were contacted to determine their policies on homosexuality. Neither were prepared to discuss the subject but stated that homosexuals were allowed to serve.</p>	
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V	<p><u>RECRUITING IMPLICATIONS</u></p>	
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	<p>10. Mr Flewelling said that 1986 CROP survey to determine if people would be more or less likely to recommend the CF as a career if homosexuals were allowed to serve did not support DND's position very clearly. The type of questions asked may have been a factor for these results. He proposed a new survey on this subject and after discussion, the members agreed. Col Swan asked him to contact DG Info to advise them of this decision. LCol Stow proposed that survey questions also touch on the subject of homosexual trainers in cadet corps, CFRS, CMC, etc. The questions should be prepared in collaboration by the DRS and DPPS staffs.</p>	DRS DPPS
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ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION BY
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VI POLICIES OF OTHER ARMED FORCES

11. LCol Stow reported on the responses received to date. The ADF responded that they did not permit homosexuals to serve while the Norwegians responded that they did. The initial response from Italy was that they did not permit them while the Dutch indicated that they did. The reply from Germany is still to come but their attitude is that homosexuality is not a ground for evading compulsory military service. Informal contacts indicated that the IDF does permit homosexuals to serve. The replies from the UK and France are still to come.

DPCAO

12. LCol McDonald requested that LCol Stow contact the NZ Armed Forces for their policy so that all 5 major western all-volunteer armed forces could be covered.

VII MEDICAL ASPECTS

13. Col Belanger said that he needed statistics on the number of sexually active homosexual and bisexual males to evaluate the potential medical problems for the CF. He emphasized that the medical problems were limited to male homosexuals and bisexuals. Lesbians generally had no medical problems associated with their sexual orientation.

14. The two major diseases associated with male homosexuality are Hepatitis B and HIV. Hepatitis affects 70% of all homosexual males (compared to 3% of the general population), is transmitted through body fluids, including blood transfusions and precludes the victim from giving blood. HIV is a virus mainly transmitted through homosexual contact and 81% of AIDS victims are homosexuals. Of all HIV infected people, 54% develop AIDS or an AIDS related disease within 10 years. It is estimated that there are 5 times more people infected by HIV than there are AIDS cases.

15. Col Belanger discussed the military medical implications of these two infections. Firstly, members infected who were wounded on the battlefield could easily infect the first aider, health care workers and hospital personnel. This represented a grave danger to non-infected personnel. Secondly, infected personnel could not give blood to wounded comrades and finally, people would be afraid to give first aid to homosexual soldiers because of the risk of infection, with all the attendant effects on cohesion and morale.

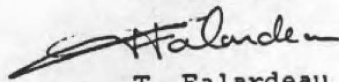
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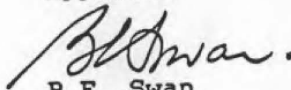
<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION BY</u>
VIII	16. It would be possible to immunize (at some cost) all personnel against Hepatitis B and to prevent people with AIDS from enrolling but a member could become HIV infected once in the CF.	
	<u>NEXT MEETING</u>	
IX	17. Col Swan announced that the Working Group would meet again in early November.	
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	
	18. The meeting was adjourned at 1230hrs.	

Recommended



T. Falardeau  
Capt  
DPCAOR 4-2-2  
996-5610

Approved



B.E. Swan  
Col  
DPCAOR  
992-1106

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