

MEMORANDUM

6635-2-2 (D Surg Gen)

19 Mar 90

DG CREW

POLICY ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION -  
MEDICAL IMPLICATIONS

Refs: A. Discussion D Surg Gen/DG CREW/D Chart 12 Mar 90 .  
B. 6635-2-2 (DPM 2) 13 Mar 90 (enclosed)

1. It was requested at Ref A, that the Medical Branch view be provided on this matter. Ref B can be taken as the Surgeon General's view and can be summarized as follows:

there are some medical implications, but the magnitude of the associated risks is fairly low; in addition, there are ways to reduce the risks and even eliminate them altogether.

2. This view, you will note, is somewhat at variance with that expressed in 1986 within the context of the Charter Task Force. The reason for this, is that AIDS, the major concern, is a new and rapidly evolving disease, and major changes in knowledge, technology and attitudes have taken place since then.

3. As I indicated at Ref A, any argument that could be advanced on medical grounds would apply only to male homosexuals, the implications of which is fairly obvious.

4. The matter has been fully discussed with the Surgeon General prior to his departure on two weeks of temporary duty and he agrees that medical arguments against the liberalization of the homosexual policy in the CF would be very difficult to defend under challenge.

*P. R. M. [Signature]*  
for C. J. Knight  
RAdm  
Surg Gen  
992-0431

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