

PROTECTED BMILITARY POLICIES OF EIGHTEEN COUNTRIES
REGARDING HOMOSEXUALITYAPPROACH

1. Descriptions of policies which deal with the presence of homosexuals, and/or the commission of homosexual acts by members within the military forces of 18 NATO/Western influenced-countries are provided below. The country, type of military service required, policy on homosexuality and its currency, and the source of information are all given.

DESCRIPTION OF EACH COUNTRY'S POLICY

2. Australia All-volunteer force. Current as of Dec 91, the Australian Defence Forces do not knowingly enrol or retain homosexuals. Homosexual behaviour by any member in the Defence Forces is also not permitted.

Refs: 2125-040/24 4269 (CFA CNBRA) 22 Sep 89; [REDACTED]

3. Austria Conscription. Current as of 1989, the Austrian military does not knowingly enrol or retain homosexuals either as regular members or conscripts. Homosexual behaviour by members is not tolerated.

Ref: Telecon Col McGill/LCdr Avis 6 Apr 89 and [REDACTED]

4. Belgium Conscription. Current as of 1991, homosexuality is not a reason in itself for exclusion from the Belgian Armed Forces. However, overt homosexual behaviour that involves other service members is not tolerated and will be the subject of a neuropsychiatric evaluation, while administrative action* may be taken if a member's homosexuality is reported to non-medical authorities and circumstances deem such action necessary. (* e.g. limiting of access to confidential documents, restricting of duties/postings, change of medical category, etc.) Individuals whose homosexuality interferes with their ability to perform required duties effectively will be discharged.

Ref: [REDACTED]

*Differs from summary.

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5. Denmark Conscription. Current as of 1991, homosexuality is not a reason, in itself, for persons to be excluded from the Danish military. However, if known homosexuality is found to interfere with a member's ability to perform duties effectively, such persons are discharged.

Ref: [REDACTED]

6. Finland Conscription. Current as of 1990, "proven certain cases" of homosexuality lead to those persons being exempt from military service in peacetime. The Finnish Defence Forces also do not knowingly retain homosexuals.

Refs: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

*Differs from sexual orientation summary.

7. FDR (West Germany) Conscription. Current as of 1989, on a case-by-case basis, "homosexually oriented" men (i.e. self-declared), including those having had homosexual contact, are fit for military service in the Bundeswehr as conscripts, if the induction examination shows them capable of integrating into the military all-male community. However, known homosexual men are not permitted to enrol as temporary career volunteers or regular soldiers. Should a member's homosexuality become known while serving as a regular soldier or temporary career volunteer, he is not promoted nor assigned certain duties including direct leadership assignments.

Refs: Letter 2005-1 (CFA) Bonn 5 Dec 89; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *Differs from CTF summary.

8. France Conscription. Current as of 1991, there are no provisions in any statutory document or general discipline regulations of the French Armed Forces restricting the enrolment or employment of homosexuals as part of either compulsory or regular military service. Most individuals who declare their homosexuality before enrolment are referred for psychiatric examination, and declared unsuitable for military service when the alleged homosexuality is confirmed. However, homosexual men who

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do not declare their homosexuality at the induction stage, or during their career, may serve in the French Army.

Ref: [REDACTED]

*Differs from summary.

9. Greece Conscript. Current as of 1989, enrolment of known homosexuals is permitted although exemptions can occur for either physical or mental health reasons. During their service in the Greek Armed Forces, homosexuals are given "special administrative handling" that entails "personal contact" with their commander and their unit doctor so to ensure that any problem can be "directly solved and their personality within the Forces supported". Dismissals can occur if problems arise.

Ref: [REDACTED]

10. Iceland Although a member of NATO, Iceland has no standing armed forces.

11. Italy Conscript. Current as of 1989, the Italian Armed Services do not knowingly enrol or retain known homosexuals in either their conscript, or voluntary and long service forces.

Ref: [REDACTED] Msg CFA Rome
WTDR0286 8 Sep 89; summary of nations.

12. Netherlands Conscript. Current as of 1990, there are no restrictions on the enrolment or retention of known homosexuals in the Netherlands Armed Forces. An official advisory group entitled "Homosexuality in the Armed Forces", as well as the "Homosexuality and Armed Forces Institute" have also been established among other initiatives to improve conditions under which homosexual serving members are employed. Homosexual members have also founded the Organization for Homosexuality in the Armed Forces.

Ref: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Summary of nations.

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13. New Zealand All-volunteer force. Current as of 1989, homosexuals may serve in the New Zealand Defence Force; however, homosexual acts between service personnel are prohibited. It is the policy to discharge service members where it is established that they have engaged in homosexual activity, or who are considered to be practising homosexuals.

Ref: [REDACTED] CTF
Report Sep 86; Summary of nations.

14. Norway Conscription. Current as of 1989, the Norwegian Armed Forces permits the enrolment and service of homosexuals in both its conscript and regular forces. Sexual activity, either heterosexual or homosexual is expected to be conducted in private, with sexual misconduct the subject of disciplinary or administrative measures.

Ref: Letter CFAO 5000-1 19 Sep 89; summary of nations.

15. Portugal Conscription. Current as of 1990, the Portuguese Armed Forces do not knowingly enrol or retain homosexuals.

Ref: [REDACTED]

16. Spain Conscription. Current as of 1986, "homosexual activity between superiors and subordinates involving abuse of rank or position, or acts committed on ships, bases, quarters or other military premises, are illegal".

Ref: CTF Report Sep 86 Vol 1, Part 4, pg 15.

17. Sweden Conscription. Current as of 1990, there is no restriction placed on homosexuals serving in the Swedish Armed Forces.

Ref: [REDACTED]

18. United Kingdom All volunteer force. Current as of 1990, the British Armed Forces do not knowingly enrol homosexuals, and homosexual conduct by serving members leads (may lead) to compulsory release.

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Ref: CTF Report Sep 86 Vol 1, Part 4, p 14; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

19. United States All volunteer force. Current as of 1990, persons who engage in homosexual conduct, or who, by their statements, demonstrate a propensity to engage in homosexual conduct are not permitted to enrol or remain in the United States military services.

Ref: [REDACTED] summary of nations.

SUMMARY

20. A review of the personnel policies of 18 NATO or western oriented countries suggests that homosexual members and homosexual conduct are officially tolerated by the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. All other countries have internal policies within their military forces to investigate, psychologically evaluate, and administratively, or legally, decide the continued suitability of a person for military service. Of interest, the Netherlands which has been the most vigorous in its attempts to integrate homosexuality into the military culture acknowledges the tremendous difficulty homosexual members have had trying to be accepted.

21. Difficulties with the foreign nation material provided by the 18 countries include: certain countries are unwilling to be quoted publicly regarding their policy; there are discrepancies in public statements made and actual policies followed; much of the information is now dated, and may not reflect current policies; and finally, it is unclear in certain statements provided by countries whether declared homosexuality as well as homosexual conduct committed on an experimental basis by heterosexuals can be cause for a member's release.

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