

CSSMM

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SEXUAL MINORITIES IN THE MILITARY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

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CSSMM BREAKS STORY OF GAY ARABIC LINGUIST

CSSMM senior research associate, **Nathaniel Frank**, published an article in the *New Republic* in November that broke the story of **Alastair Gamble**, one of seven Arab linguists fired from the Army for being gay. Gamble had completed more than 30 weeks of Arabic at the Defense Language Institute (DLI) in Monterey, California, and the Army considered him a model soldier and student.

Frank's story sparked a torrent of media coverage that included over 100 newspaper articles across the country, including pieces in *USA Today*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and many regional papers. It also generated extensive radio and television coverage including National Public Radio, CNN, NBC, ABC and Fox. Frank appeared live on MSNBC, debating retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Robert Maginnis on *The Abrams Report*.

TULANE JOURNAL OF LAW AND SEXUALITY PUBLISHES CSSMM STUDY

Rhoda Evan's study of highly visible lesbian and gay service members in the U.S. military has been published by the *Tulane Journal of Law and Sexuality*. The study, titled "U.S. Military Policies Concerning Homosexuals: Development, Implementation and Outcomes," is available at www.gaymilitary.ucsb.edu.

The study surveys the U.S. military's changing treatment of sexual minorities throughout its history. Evans shows that over time the military has increasingly moved away from criminally prosecuting homosexuals to discharging them. In spite of the fact that the U.S. military has officially prohibited sexual minorities from serving since the 1940s, the study found that the implementation of the ban has fluctuated greatly across historical epoch and service branch, as well as among commanders.

A key finding of the study is that rates of discharge for homosexuality have fluctuated relative to the manpower needs of the service. During times of war or conflict, when the need for unit cohesion is greatest, discharges for homosexuality decrease, raising questions about the validity of the unit cohesion rationale.

The study also examines four case studies of highly visible gay and lesbian service members. All four personnel were exemplary service members whose sexual orientation was well known by their peers. Their experiences reinforce other research that suggests that gay and lesbian personnel can be integrated successfully into military organizations.

Gamble's partner **Rob Hicks** – a Korean language expert – also was discharged for being gay under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Following the episode, Gamble published an op-ed in the *New York Times* and Frank published an op-ed in the *Washington Post*. Both pieces are available in the media section of www.gaymilitary.ucsb.edu.



Arabic language specialist Alastair Gamble receives a commendation for distinguished service prior to his discharge for homosexuality.

CSSMM AND LIBERTY EDUCATION FUND TO STUDY 10-YEAR HISTORY OF GAY BAN

The CSSMM and the Liberty Education Fund are collaborating on a project to assess the impact of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on military effectiveness. Ten years after the inception of the policy, enough data has amassed to allow for an assessment as to whether the ban has undermined or enhanced the armed forces. CSSMM will conduct the research for the report and LEF will disseminate results on Capitol Hill.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

The CSSMM is extremely grateful to announce that **Bill Davenport and The Liberty Education Forum** has generously donated \$40,000. In addition, the CSSMM is very grateful for grants of \$15,000 provided by the Gill Foundation (its fourth grant in four years); \$10,000 provided by the Arcus Foundation; \$4,500 provided by **Ambassador James Hormel, Tim Wu**, and the **Small Change Foundation**; and \$2,500 provided by the **Servicemembers Legal Defense Network**. Finally, the CSSMM is very grateful for \$1,000 gifts from **Fred Hochberg and Tom Healy; Adam R. Rose and Peter R. McQuillan**; and an **anonymous donor**.

EVENTS NEWS

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network's **Jeff Cleghorn** and CSSMM's Aaron Belkin visited the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to discuss the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in front of an audience of about 300 senior Army officers. At one point in the discussion, which took place on December 16, 2002, Professor **Charles Moskos**, the architect of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," claimed that the CSSMM's research on Israel, Britain, Canada, and Australia had concluded inaccurately that foreign militaries had lifted their bans without problems. Three senior officers from foreign countries who were attending the presentation then took the microphone and responded that their countries had in fact lifted their gay bans without problems.

On November 9, 2002, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network's **Sharra Greer** and CSSMM's **Geoffrey Bateman** presented a workshop at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Creating Change Conference in Portland, Oregon. Titled "Why Should Social Progressives Care About the Military's Ban on Service by LGBT Persons?" the workshop placed the current policy on GLBT service members in historical context to show how the military as a state institution has affected all GLBT people regardless of their involvement in the military. It also highlighted the disproportionate impact that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" has on women, people of color, and youth. The presentation received a top rating from the conference.

The CSSMM has created a new "Military and Society" faculty reading group at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Professors **Sabine Fruhstuck** of East Asian Studies and **John Lee** of the History Department are serving as co-organizers, and other participants include Professors **Lisa Hajjar** of the Law and Society Program, **John Majewski** of the History Department, and **Christopher Parker** of the Political Science Department.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The CSSMM is proud to award a fellowship to **James W. Gilliam** of Loyola Law School Los Angeles, who plans to write a law review article that will survey efforts that have been made at various law schools to limit military access to campus. He will compile all this information into a comprehensive resource that administrators and students can use to address the Solomon Amendment, a federal law that requires law schools to provide equal access to military recruiters.

In addition, the CSSMM has awarded a fellowship to **Ian Lekus**, who will create an interdisciplinary course on the connections among gender, sexuality, war, and military service. His course will investigate how women and men of diverse sexualities have experienced warfare and the armed forces from a wide range of positions, such as combatants, policy makers, veterans, and nurses.

Finally, CSSMM has awarded a fellowship to **Nguyen Van Thanh**, who will conduct an assessment of sexuality and HIV/AIDS among young soldiers in Vietnam.

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