

CSSMM CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SEXUAL MINORITIES IN THE MILITARY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

FALL 2003

NPR COVERS CSSMM STUDY ON INTEGRATION OF ETHNIC MINORITIES

In July, National Public Radio's **Sandip Roy** interviewed **Rhonda Evans**, author of a recent CSSMM study on the integration of ethnic minorities in the US military.

Titled, "A History of the Service of Ethnic Minorities in the US Armed Forces," Evans' study shows that throughout its history, the US military has succeeded at integrating ethnic, religious, and racial minorities. Even when such inclusion was forced upon military leaders due to political mandate or battlefield realities, the armed forces has found a way to manage diversity and promote tolerance within its ranks.

The study traces the history of integration from the Civil War up through the present day and discusses a number of groups that faced intense hostility both in the civilian sector and in the military. In spite of wide-spread discrimination against groups like Irish immigrants, Jewish service members and chaplains, Native Americans, and African Americans, each of them has served

JEFF CLEGHORN WILL COORDINATE NEW VETERANS OUTREACH PROJECT

In October, the CSSMM began a new project that will distribute research on gays and lesbians in the military to veterans' organizations. A veteran and former staff attorney for Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, **Jeff Cleghorn** is coordinating this new program. The project reaches out to veterans groups and engages them in a conversation about the Center's research.



Jeff Cleghorn joins CSSMM to direct the Military Education Initiative.

successfully and shown that discrimination against them did not warrant their exclusion from the military.

During the interview, Evans also discussed the military's affirmative action program and its success compared to civilian efforts. The military has often been cited as one of the most successful institutions in fostering diversity in the workplace. In fact, as Evans notes in her study, the military presently has a higher percentage of African American generals and admirals than corporate America does of comparable black executives.

CSSMM released the study in June. It can be found at our website at www.gaymilitary.ucsb.edu under the section titled 'Publications.'

CSSMM IN THE NEWS

In the past few months, CSSMM research has been cited numerous times on television and in the press. In June, a CSSMM study published in *Parameters*, the official journal of the US Army War College, was cited in an interview on NBC's *Meet the Press* with retired General **Wesley Clark**. In the interview, Clark, who has subsequently announced his campaign for presidency, criticized the gay ban and said that he would "absolutely" look at changing it.

In the June 27th issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the *Parameters*' article was also highlighted. The article summarized CSSMM research from the last two and a half years and emphasized that this study is the first to question the rationale of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and be published by the Department of Defense. CSSMM research was also featured on *The O'Reilly Factor* and on CNN this summer. Transcripts are available on the Center's web page under 'Media Room.'

AMICUS BRIEF QUESTIONS GOVERNMENT RATIONALE IN SODOMY CASE

Nine experts on unit cohesion including Professor Charles Moskos, one of the architects of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, have filed an amicus brief on October 2, 2003 in *US v. Marcum*. After the Supreme Court's ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas* that decriminalized sodomy in the civilian sector, Technical Sergeant Eric Marcum appealed his conviction for private consensual sodomy on the grounds that the military's sodomy ban is unconstitutional. The government responded to Marcum's appeal by claiming that if sodomy is decriminalized, unit cohesion will deteriorate. The amicus brief questions the government's argument. See www.gaymilitary.ucsb for more details.

ACTIVELY-SERVING GAY SOLDIERS ORGANIZE

The CSSMM is working with a group of currently serving gay and lesbian soldiers, known as Gay Lesbian Service Members for Equality (GLSME), to help the group generate media coverage. GLSME cannot issue statements directly to the media, so CSSMM is handling the group's press relations. Within three months of working together, the GLSME president has been interviewed on ABC's Prime Time Live (behind a screen), and GLSME has attracted coverage in several LGBT newspapers. Endeavoring to put a human face on the military, GLSME has launched a new web page: www.glsme.org.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The CSSMM is proud to award three fellowships.

Charles W. Lewis, II, Department of Sociology at Stony Brook University, will explore how US courts' use of the concept of "tradition" has limited gay men and lesbians' arguments for equal protection. He will look specifically how this discourse has evolved in challenges to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

A professor of Political Science at Iona College, **Jeanne Zaino** will create an interactive simulation of the ban on sexual minorities in the US military, which she will incorporate into the courses she teaches. This simulation will encourage students to become familiar with the issues surrounding "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and approach the material in an active learning format.

Captain **Yantsislav Yanakiev**, senior research fellow at the GS Rakovski Defense and Staff College, in Sofia, Bulgaria, will study the US experience in managing diversity in its all-volunteer force and determine how to apply these lessons to the Bulgarian Armed Forces.

Director: Aaron Belkin

Assistant Director: Geoffrey Bateman

Director, Military Education Initiative: Jeff Cleghorn

Senior Research Fellow: Nathaniel Frank

Senior Research Fellow: David Serlin

Senior Research Assistant: Alastair Gamble

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The Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military is an official unit of the Institute for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research at the University of California, Santa Barbara; www.isber.ucsb.edu.

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DEVELOPMENT NEWS

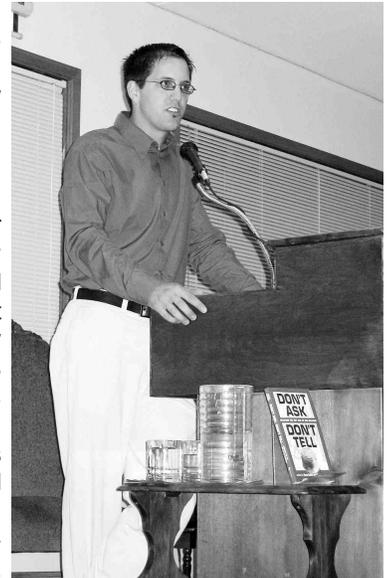
The CSSMM is extremely grateful to announce that the **R. Gwin Follis Foundation** has generously provided a \$35,000 grant, the **Silva Watson Moonwalk Fund** has generously donated \$10,000 and the **Michael Palm Foundation** has generously provided a \$5,000 grant. As well, the CSSMM is very grateful for \$1,000 gifts from **Jeff Cleghorn and Kevin Kirby**, and **Jeff Wolk**; for a \$750 gift from an anonymous donor; for a \$500 gift from **Rick Jacobs**; and a \$250 gift from **Mike Rankin**.

EVENTS

Assistant Director, **Geoffrey Bateman**, appeared at a book-signing event on June 12, at the Tattered Cover Bookstore in Denver, Colorado. He spoke to a crowd of more than thirty people and discussed the recent book, *Don't Ask, Don't Tell: Debating the Gay Ban in the Military*, which Lynne Rienner Publishers published in February.

On September 20, Geoffrey Bateman spoke on a panel at the Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary History Conference. He served as the commentator for a panel on "Masculinity and Identity in US Maritime and Military Culture, 1800-1974," highlighting CSSMM's recent work on the integration of ethnic minorities and its studies of foreign militaries' decision to lift bans on gay and lesbian personnel.

On September 12, 2003, Senior Research Fellow, **Nathaniel Frank**, and Senior Research Associate, **Alastair Gamble**, appeared on a panel that Frank had organized at the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association's annual conference in Los Angeles. Along with the prizewinning Los Angeles Times reporter, **Patricia Ward Biederman**, Frank and Gamble discussed their participation in last fall's media blitz over an Army purge of gay Arabic translators.



Geoffrey Bateman discusses *Don't Ask, Don't Tell: Debating the Gay Ban in the Military* at the Tattered Cover in Denver.