

# CSSMM CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SEXUAL MINORITIES IN THE MILITARY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

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## LIBRARY FOR PENTAGON BRASS TO ACQUIRE CSSMM STUDIES

CSSMM recently received a request from the research library of the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) to obtain and archive a full collection of its research studies. IDA is a Congressionally-funded think-tank serving the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and unified military commands.

"Empirically based research on sexuality and the military is difficult to find," according to Bradley Gernand, IDA's library manager. "We've seen CSSMM's work discussed in the national media," Gernand said, "and your research product adheres to the rigorous scientific standards we insist upon providing our patrons." Gernand added that UCSB is a respected research institution, and

that his staff had been unable to find reliable, continuing and current data from a respectable and scientific source in the fields in which the Center specializes.

IDA, which is closed to the public, will make the Center's reports available to military libraries and staff. Its web site notes that IDA staff members manage "a 12,000-volume collection of highly specialized scientific, technical, military, and naval science titles." The Center is forwarding 13 of its past research studies, and will send IDA all future studies as well. "These will be very welcome acquisitions," Gernand said.

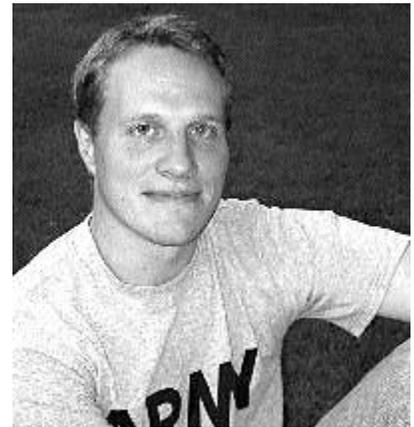
## CSSMM STUDY FEATURES GAY ARMY RANGER WHO HELPED RESCUE JESSICA LYNCH

On September 15, CSSMM released a study that assesses the impact of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" on U.S. military effectiveness in recent Middle East wars. Titled "Gays and Lesbian at War: Military Service in Iraq and Afghanistan under 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" the study was authored by Dr. Nathaniel Frank, CSSMM senior research fellow.

The study is based on interviews of thirty gay and lesbian service members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and concludes that gays and lesbians have served in the Middle East in a variety of occupational specialties, that revelations of sexual orientation have promoted greater bonding and morale, not less, and that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" has made it more difficult for service members to do their jobs.

Among the case studies included in the study is that of Brian Hughes, a former gay Army Ranger who was part of the task force that rescued Jessica Lynch. In the fall of 2002, Hughes was deployed to Afghanistan, where he carried out search patrols for personnel and weapons. He then cycled into Iraq for the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he participated in the Lynch rescue.

CSSMM's study as well as Hughes' story were covered widely by ABC *Good Morning America*, *Associated Press*, and more than forty newspapers throughout the U.S. CSSMM also organized a Congressional briefing in which Hughes, Frank, and Admiral Alan Steinman briefed more than fifty offices in Congress on the results of the research.



Brian Hughes helped rescue Jessica Lynch

## MILITARY TAKES ANTI-GAY ABUSE LESS SERIOUSLY THAN OTHER FORMS OF HARASSMENT, STUDY FINDS

In June, CSSMM issued a draft report concluding that despite official Pentagon assertions that the military takes anti-gay harassment as seriously as harassment against women and racial minorities, the military's policies and practices reveal markedly different enforcement and deterrent efforts for these three forms of abuse. Sharon Terman of Stanford Law School authored the report, which is titled "The Practical and Conceptual Problems with Regulating Harassment in a Discriminatory Institution" and which can be found at [www.gaymilitary.edu](http://www.gaymilitary.edu).

## CSSMM OBTAINS DATA ON CRITICAL SPECIALISTS DISCHARGED FOR HOMOSEXUALITY

In June, CSSMM released an analysis of newly-obtained data about many of the 9,682 service members discharged for homosexuality under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." CSSMM received the data from the Pentagon through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and CSSMM's analysis was covered by *CBS Evening News*, *MSNBC*, *Associated Press*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, and dozens of other newspapers throughout the U.S.

According to the data, the military discharged gays and lesbians serving in 161 different occupational specialties between 1998-2003, including 49 nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare specialists, 90 nuclear power engineers, 52 missile guidance and control operators, 150 rocket, missile and other artillery specialists, and 340 infantrymen. Even though "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" went into effect in 1993, a Pentagon spokesperson told CSSMM researchers that data prior to 1998 was not available.

## AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION CITES CSSMM RESEARCH IN CONDEMNING GAY BAN

After months of deliberation, on July 30, 2004, the American Psychological Association (APA) passed a resolution to oppose the U.S. military's ban on service by homosexual personnel. Titled "Sexual Orientation and Military Service," this resolution updates and reaffirms the APA's previous policy opposing discrimination against lesbian and gay service members and eliminates the APA's prohibition on publicizing advertisements from the Department of Defense.

In crafting the resolution, the APA relied heavily on social scientific research from the past decade, and cited extensively from research sponsored by the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military. Thirty years ago, when homosexuality was removed from the official list of psychiatric illnesses, advocates for the gay and lesbian rights said the decision signaled an historic shift in how U.S. culture understood gay and lesbian people.

## CSSMM IN THE MEDIA

Since our last newsletter, CSSMM's research has been covered in more than 120 newspaper, television, and radio stories. In July, CSSMM Senior Research Fellow Nathaniel Frank published an op-ed piece in the *Washington Post*, and Frank also appeared on *CBS Nightly News*. In September, CSSMM research was covered by ABC's *Good Morning America*.

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

CSSMM is extremely grateful for the generosity of our supporters, including the **Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund** for its \$50,000 gift, the **R. Gwin Follis Foundation** for its \$40,000 gift, an anonymous donor for a \$10,000 gift, **Andrew Tobias and Charles Nolan** for their 5,000 gift, **Reid Williams** for his \$2,500 gift, **Jeff Volk** for his \$2,000 gift, and **James N. Pritzker** for his \$1,000 gift.

## CSSMM PRESENTS RESEARCH TO MILITARY AUDIENCES

Over the past year, CSSMM has presented research on gays in the military to audiences at West Point, the National Defense University, the Army War College, and the Naval Postgraduate School (twice). During the discussions, CSSMM staff have discussed research that addresses whether lifting the gay ban will undermine military effectiveness.

## CONGRESSMAN CITES CSSMM RESEARCH

Congressman Martin Meehan (D-MA) cited CSSMM research in a "Question for the Record" that he posed to the House Armed Services Committee in July. After mentioning CSSMM's analysis of occupational specialties that have been lost as a result of the gay ban, Meehan added that, "It seems to me that discharging skilled service members, simply because they are gay or lesbian, hurts our military readiness, particularly if we are now ready to recall Individual Ready Reserve personnel with many of the same skills."

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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](http://www.isber.ucsb.edu).  
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