

CSSMM

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SEXUAL MINORITIES IN THE MILITARY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

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CSSMM RESEARCHERS DISCOVER FAR MORE ARABIC LINGUISTS FIRED THAN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED

Dr. **Nathaniel Frank**, CSSMM Senior Research Fellow, published a January 2005 article in *The New Republic* reporting that between 1998 and 2004, the Department of Defense fired twenty six Arabic and Farsi language speakers for being gay. The story generated national media attention including coverage by the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post* and *Daily Show*, as well as three wires services, *Associated Press*, *Scripps-Howard*, and *United Press International*, which distributed the news to hundreds of newspapers and radio and television stations.

Titled, "Canning Gay Linguists: Stonewalled," Frank's article follows his November 2002 *New Republic* story that revealed that

the U.S. military had fired seven Arab language specialists. According to Dr. Frank, research indicates that the ban on gay and lesbian service members undermines the war on terrorism, because the shortage of Arabic language speakers may have contributed to the U.S.'s lack of preparedness for the attacks on September 11, as well as compromising current military efforts.

Frank's most recent report draws on information from a Freedom of Information Act request submitted by CSSMM with the assistance of the office of Representative **Marty Meehan** (D-MA).

CSSMM RESEARCH CITED IN CONGRESS

Representative **Tammy Baldwin** (D-WI) cited CSSMM research during her testimony on the floor of the House of Representatives on February 2, 2005. During a debate on gays in the military, Baldwin urged the House to focus on the costs that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" imposes on the armed forces.

Citing CSSMM's research on gay discharges between 1998 and 2003, Baldwin noted that many critically needed specialists were fired solely for their sexual orientation, including 88 linguists, 90 nuclear power engineers, and 150 rocket and missile specialists.

CSSMM obtained the data from the Defense Manpower Data Center in Seaside, California via a Freedom of Information Act request.

NEW STUDY EXPLORES EUROPEAN GAY BANS

A new study commissioned by CSSMM was published in the December 2004 issue of the *Journal of Law and Public Policy*. Written by Dr. **Sameera Dalvi**, the study asks why some European countries retain their bans on gays and lesbians in the military despite a 1999 ruling by the European Court of Human Rights that forced Britain to lift its gay ban.

CSSMM plans to use Dr. Dalvi's study as the basis of an exploratory initiative on the Greek military. The initiative, which will involve Greek scholars, politicians, and leaders of grassroots and nongovernmental organizations, will attempt to promote a national conversation in Greece about the legal status of gay service members in the Greek armed forces. Depending on the outcome of the initiative, other European countries that continue to ban gays may be included as well.



Professor Cynthia Enloe spoke at UCSB. See back page for details.

CSSMM IN THE MEDIA

A December 16, 2004, *New York Times* op-ed, titled "Ready, Willing, Disqualified" and written by CSSMM Senior Research Fellow **Nathaniel Frank**, underscored the irony surrounding the ongoing discharges of gay and lesbian service members during a manpower shortage. A January 19, 2005, *Los Angeles Times* op-ed, titled "Military's Self-Inflicted Wounds" and written by CSSMM Director Aaron Belkin, addressed the Pentagon's argument that in discharging gay and lesbian service members, it is simply following Congressional law.

A December 16, 2004, *Los Angeles Times* editorial titled "Military Ins and Outs" says that "[r]esearchers from UC Santa Barbara's Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military have found that many gays and lesbians, including Army Ranger Brian Hughes, who helped rescue POW Jessica Lynch, served openly in Iraq and Afghanistan without problems from their comrades.... Surely those findings ought to torpedo a policy that drains skilled and willing soldiers even as generals force weary and reluctant ones to stay."

CYNTHIA ENLOE SPEAKS AT UCSB

Professor **Cynthia Enloe** of Clark University visited UCSB on November 10, 2004, to deliver a lecture titled, "Launching Wars, Counting Votes and Investigating Masculinities: Feminist Post-Election Insights." Dr. Enloe, one of the world's foremost experts on how militarization shapes women's lives, visited UCSB as a guest of CSSMM and a coalition of other groups on campus. During her visit, she met with the Military and Society Faculty Reading Group, a group of UCSB faculty and graduate students who study civil-military relations. Enloe is Research Professor in Clark's Department of International Development, Community and Environment. Her books include *The Curious Feminist: Searching for Women in the New Age of Empire* (2004); *Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives* (2000); and *The Morning After: Sexual Politics at the End of the Cold War* (1993).

Director	Aaron Belkin
Assistant Director	Geoffrey Bateman
Senior Research Fellow	Nathaniel Frank
Senior Research Fellow	David Serlin
Senior Research Assistant	Alastair Gamble
Newsletter Designer	Karla Milosevich
Web Designer	Shivaun Nestor
Filmmakers-in-Residence	Tom Shepard, Michele Sieglitz

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.
You can reach the Center at (805) 893-5664; (805) 893-3309 (fax); belkin@polsci.ucsb.edu; or <http://www.gaymilitary.ucsb.edu>.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

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FELLOWSHIP NEWS

CSSMM is proud to announce the following fellowships recently awarded to scholars pursuing research on sexuality and the military. Fellowship recipients include Professor **Stevens Amidon** of Indiana University, who is working on an ethnographic inquiry of his experience in the military and his 1993 testimony before Congress; **Stacy Vasquez**, who is studying how biographic representations of gay military couples enter public discussion; Professor **Donald Smith** of Hunter College, who is examining the lived experiences of gay service members actively involved in Operation Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom; Professor **Steve Estes** of Sonoma State University, who is completing an oral history of GLBT veterans, and whose interview transcripts will be deposited in the Library of Congress and the GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco; Professor **Jeanne Zaino** of Iona College, who is creating an interactive simulation of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" for classroom use; and **Arthur Dong**, who is developing a viewer's guide for his documentary film *Coming Out Under Fire*.

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93106-9420