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British army bans adultery, homosexuality **BRITAIN**

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By Peter Almond
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LONDON — Adulterers in the British army can expect to be punished, split up, posted, dismissed from the service or otherwise made to feel that they have brought the army into disrepute, by direction of a new code of conduct sent to all troops.

The code also directs that homosexuals — male or female — will not be tolerated in the British army, and neither will sexual harassment.

The army has set out the standards it expects from all soldiers and seeks to separate itself from what it says are the declining attitudes toward authority in society.

The document describes adultery as "the most serious cases of social

misconduct within the military community."

It goes on: "It is essential that military personnel are not worried about the integrity of their marriages at any time, but especially when deployed away from their home base.

"Equally, the morale of families is *see BRITAIN, page A13*

dependent on the knowledge that, whilst the unit is deployed away from its peacetime location, any extra-marital relationships will be considered unacceptable."

Adultery by married or single officers with civilians is not excused. "It jeopardizes their status as an officer should the affair become public and if it brings either the officer or the army into disrepute."

The document, titled "The Standards and Discipline Paper," covers social conduct from drinking to bullying and racial discrimination. It was prepared late last year as the result of a perception of falling standards in the army. After being sent to senior officers, it is now being received by junior officers.

It says that the operational roles of the army and its group cohesion must not be undermined by changing attitudes.

"More liberal attitudes prevail, leading many parts of society to reject or reduce in importance those values which the armed forces seek to maintain and regard so highly: sense of duty, loyalty, self-discipline, self-sacrifice, respect and concern for others . . .

"The increase in individual freedom now available to the citizen has, in many cases, led to decline in both individual and corporate responsibility. This has led to an erosion in respect for the law, with increases, for example, in street crime, burglary, and drug misuse . . .

"The army cannot remain wholly immune from the changes in the society it serves, and from which it recruits, but neither must it allow itself to follow trends which tend to undermine the traditional values essential to its unique responsibilities and operational role."

While the code will tolerate sexual relations between junior noncommissioned officers (NCOs) — corporal or sergeant — and a private, it will not stand for a similar liaison between an officer and an NCO.

"Such relationships diminish the authority and standing of the superior in the eyes of his subordinates." Marriage between officers and NCOs is not banned, but the code says that they "will inevitably cause difficulties, as the couple will not be permitted to serve in the same unit, and are therefore to be discouraged."

There are no set punishments for breaches of the code, but censure increases with the level of command. For minor offenses a young soldier could receive a "recorded rebuke"; junior officers could receive a "warning within their unit." For the most serious cases a senior officer could be called upon to resign.

One battalion commander said yesterday: "The code is as much for those issuing the discipline as for those receiving it. I have to wonder how well it will work, however. It's one thing to be overseas, but it may be more difficult to maintain group cohesion when most of the army is now based in Britain and naturally becomes more part of British society."