

The Homosexual Issue

As the decision on homosexuals being allowed to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces comes under serious consideration, these comments are provided as examples of traditionally minded individuals who hold strong, thoughtful beliefs.

Remember why we have a military. The reason is to be prepared to fight and win wars. That is our basic, fundamental mission. The military is not a social welfare agency, it is not a jobs program. We aren't there to run social experiments. We are there to fight and win wars.

—Richard B. Cheney

Quoted in *San Diego Union-Tribune*, 29Nov92

Odd and disturbing things go on in late-20th-century America. We, the people, put our various institutions at the service of subgroups with gnawing anxieties—racial, sexual, whatever kind. The functioning of the institution—even one so essential as the military—becomes secondary to the massaging of those anxieties. This is as true of the outcry to open up military combat roles to women as it is true of the agitation to allow uniformed homosexuals.

—William Murchison

Dallas Morning News, 18Nov92

It is not the mission or function of the military to lead the charge to abandon the traditional views of American society regarding homosexuality. The military is . . . a unique institution with unique requirements. Policies regarding force composition must be dictated by the mission, by national defense, not by notions of political expediency or furthering social agendas.

—Col William A. Woodruff, USA(Ret)
Unpublished manuscript

Homosexuals stand in the front ranks of any decaying society. Their deviant habits are evidence of character weakness, and recognition of them by schools and institutions, such as the military, as acceptable group activities is not a sign of democratic tolerance but of society's loss of direction and standards. . . . Organized and strident gays are disrespectful of the sensitivities and civil rights of the majority of the straight community.

—Col James A. Donovan, USMC(Ret)
Unpublished letter to MCG

Legislators and military leaders have a legitimate role to play in checking the spread of homosexual behavior, especially among young people whose minds and characters are in formative stages, thus preventing physical and/or psychological harm that could injure many innocent persons.

—Cdr Eugene T. Gomulka,
Navy Times, 7Sep92

The effort to lift the military's ban on homosexuals is the No. 1 priority of homosexual activists because the military is the last bastion of traditional morality. If the military caves in, it is only a matter of time before homosexuals win the right to 'marriage,' adoption of children, the teaching of children that homosexuality is on par with traditional sexual norms, and the legal clout to bully groups like the Boy Scouts into accepting homosexual men as role models for young boys.

—Gary Bauer

Washington Times, 30Nov92

This is not the time for "political correctness." It is time to stand up and be heard on this issue. In particular, it is time for all military leaders, both past and present, who have been in the trenches and know how important it is to build unit cohesion to speak out. We need to ensure Mr. Clinton understands. . . .

—Maj Darien L. Kearns
Unpublished manuscript

Do morality and virtue mean anything anymore? Do we really intend to vigorously pursue sexual harassers and tailhookers and just let sodomizers stroll right in the door?

—Capt Scott H. Kendricks
Unpublished letter to MCG

Unfortunately for homosexuals, most men find their sexual activities repugnant. The mental image of your commander engaging in oral or anal sex is just not conducive to followership . . .

—Quoted in *The New York Times*, 2Dec92

There just isn't any rational way Marines, sailors and soldiers can be at ease with men who consider the rest of us to be sex objects.

—Col Jeremiah O'Leary, USMC(Ret)
Washington Times, 19Nov92

In a combat unit, every individual has to click together, and what makes them click is trust. To survive in a killing field, a warrior has to believe he's invincible, that he's wearing golden armor; that he can buck 1,000-to-1 odds and live. To think that way, he has to be macho. When it goes, the warrior starts thinking, "Maybe I Won't Make It." And, from that moment, the unit goes to hell.

—David Hackworth
Newsweek, 23Nov92