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Sex scandals of female | â\204¢ WOW

ae CO?

warriors

WASHINGTON. â\200\224 Sex-
with-recruit scandals at
military trainingâ\200\231 facili-
ties and the now aban-
doned court-martial trial
of Americaâ\200\231s first fe-
male B-52 bomber pilot
for~ adultery have sent
newspaper headline wri-
ters into overtime and
become the grist for
talk-radio_ programmes
around the United States.

Have Americaâ\200\231s uni-
formed services become a
hotbed for illicit - and
sometimes coerced â\200\224 sex?

Antiquated

Are authorities â\200\224 over-
whelmingly maleâ\200\231â\200\224 fol-

lowing antiquated guide-â\200\231

lines that unrealistically
try to arene EY
impulses?â\200\234

Is there*a double-stan-
dard appliedâ\200\231 when those
rules are broken?;

In fact, some areâ\200\231 ques-
tioning the. wisdom itself
of a gender-integrated
military and speculate a
return to the more segre-
gated model of the past,
may be wise.
ere is a lot of mis-
conception out there about

what the gender segregat-_

ed military Was like,â\200\235 said
Judith Youngman, a polit-

ical science and: public
policy professor at the US
Coast Guard Academy.

Men and women did
work together side by
side. We also had prob-
lems back then harassment
-ment was more blatant. I
can attest, as can anyone
who served back in that
time, that things have got

; instructors having sexual
relations with trainees

| By Richard Tomkins

dramatically better since
the gender-integrated mil-
itary. ©

Harassment is not a
new problem. These is-
sues are not new at all, she said.

Latest Pentagon figures
show about 60 percent of
women in uniform have
been sexually harassed by
male colleagues in some
way. Slightly less than
one-third report having
been fondled or pawed,
while six percent have re-
ported sexual assaults. _
/The most blatant cases
to make the headlines
recently have involved

under their command,
either consensually or
through intimidation by
virtue of authority.

The sergeant-major of
the US Army, the highest-

ranking enlisted man in
theâ\200\231 military service, has
even been caught up in the
wave of scandals. He is
under investigation for
adultery, solicitation for
adultery and i sOpropeE sex

Forbidden

Under military codes,
sex between drill instruc- Â©
tors and recruits is totally
forbidden. â\200\234Sex between
military personnel of dif-
fering ranks can also be
illegal: â\200\234depending on the
service and other circum-
stances. ..

Youngman, a member

of the Defence â\200\230Advisory

Committee on Women in
the Services, said harass-
ment figures were â\200\234aw-
fulâ\200\235, but she was disin-
clined to attribute it solely
to gender integration.
â\200\234The numbers are aw-
ful and stil! too high, but
they are still low,â\200\235 she

; said.

â\200\234Women are 14 percent of our active duty forces. As any one of these cases suggests, sex harassers appear to be multiple perpetrators. But even in the worst, case, that every woman is harrassed by a different soldier or sailor,

~ that still means only 5 to 7

percent of soldiers and sailors are engaging in this behaviour.â\200\235

Tensions

Youngman attributes some of the incidences of sexual harassment to tensions brought on by an overworked military force, caused by downsizing and increased deployments, lack of clarity and consistency in enforcement of rules governing fraternisation between sexes.

(â\200\234 She also says the mili-

tary, unlike other employersiy faces the monumental

job in socialising newer

service members â\200\224 average age 18 to 19 years â\200\224 to military rules on interpersonal relations which are often at odds with the more permissive civilian society.

â\200\234The military is a very

â\200\230different place from any

civilian business or pri-

FIRST LIEUTENANT KELLY J FLINN, Americaâ\200\231s first B-52 bomber pilot,

leaves the legal building holding a bouquet of roses at Minot Air Force

Base near Minot, North Dakota. She will be allowed to resign rather than
face a court-martial on adultery and other charges.

I
yate-sector n
she said. The military is
a very young group, and
every year they are bring-
ing in these large numbers
of soldiers and sailors

. who have to be trained

and educated on appropri-
ate behaviour. and rela-

18: and 19-year-old re-
cruits do not have the

same respect for authori-
ty, which made adher-
ence to the rules more
: propinete. Youngma

The days Of separate -

Snilitaryfinitis for women

in the armed forces ended .

nearly 20 years ago, and

- with it a steady erosion on

employer, which

restrictions and ceilings

on pay, promotions and 1973, when conscription

military specialities, or ended and America adopt-
jobs, open to women. ..ed an all-volunteer force,

The result has been a WOmEn in the military ser-
steady increase in women _ Vices accounted for only
joining the ranks, in 1,6 percent of more than 2

million troops, according
to Defence Department
figures. 224

As a percentage of Te-
cruits today, women ac-
count for about 20 percent
of enlistees overall:

which they serve with
males in the same units .
and share facilities.

Not surprised

When you put men

and women together in a Â»
confined environment and Â». .
shake vigorously, donâ\200\231t,
be surprised if sex oc-
curs,â\200\235 said Charles Mos-

â\200\234same reasons men do,â\200\235
Marine 2nd Lieutenant
Courtney Wykoph said.

kos, a military sociologist â\200\234Theyâ\200\231re looking for ad-
at Northwesternâ\200\231 Uni! ted venture, challenge, pride,
sity. service, educational op-

In fiscal 1996, roughly
14 percent of Americaâ\200\231s *
1,45 million active duty

ing.â\200\235
. Women

Â© professional

personnel were female. In

al
â\200\234Women join for ;theâ\204¢

portunities and job train-

â\200\230in â\200\230theâ\200\231 US :

armed services flyâ\200\231 com-
bat aircraft, serve on
most combat â\200\224 ships,
drive fuel tankers to for-

ward armoured units
and handle forward
communications sys-
tems.

Women areâ\200\231 barred
from ground positions .
likely to result in brutalâ\200\235
hand-to-hand fightiggâ\200\235
with the enemy. ts

In the Gulf War, some
40 000 women worked
among the force of more
than half-million mile
soldiers the _ UnitÃ@dâ\200\231
States sent to dislodge.
Iraq from Kuwait. ~

Love boat ::
Complaints by wo-
men of sexual harass-!
ment were relativelyâ\200\235
low, officials said. But a
navy supply ship in the
Gulf had to sendâ\200\2313
females home = the
pregnancies earned the ,
vessel the nickname
â\200\234the love boatâ\200\235. â\200\234 ...Â°Y
Â» â\200\234You canâ\200\231t eliminat
all hormones by fiat, but
you can insist that in:
environ-
ment people behave pro-
fessionally,â\200\235 â\200\230said C&h-
gresswoman Janeâ\200\231 Har-Â«'
mon,
Military authorities|
have appointed a special
panel to review rults
and regulations govem~-
ing sexual fraternisation \Â\$
in the military. Althoughâ\200\231
there areâ\200\231 strong pres-
sures for rules to: be
relaxed to reflect civil
ian society, Mr Moskos,
Youngman and others
do not, expect major
hanges. - â\200\230
Greater clarity, con-
sistency and enforce-
ment, they said, was. Â\$
viewed â\200\230by the military {
as preferable to allowing
more lax, civilian stan-
dards to infect a closed
society in whichâ\200\231 disci-
pline â\200\230is paramount. â\200\224
Sapa-DPA.

