



NEWS FROM HOF APRIL 2005

Dear friends,

I just want send some information about what's happening with the LGBT-issues in the Swedish Armed Forces.

The end of 2004 concluded the project Normgiving Diversity. The Swedish Armed Forces is from 1 January 2005 involved in another EU sponsored project called Fritt Fram This means that during 2005 we will have resources to work well with our issues. But from next year we are a little worried since a reorganisation within the Armed Forces HQ has reduced the number of people working with equality and diversity issues.

More positive news is that the Swedish Armed Forces recruitment branch has decided to attend this years Stockholm Pride. Hopefully they will also advertise in some of the pink papers in Sweden. From our perspective in HoF this is a great victory.

HoF has been mentioned in Swedish press quite a lot recently. One of the reasons is that we have criticised the Chief of Defence, general Syrén, because of the reductions of people mentioned in para 1. The other reasons are that we have taken a strong position against one of the commercial TV-channels in Sweden (channel 5). Channel 5 will soon start with a new production called "Gay Army". The series theme is that nine gay men will go to boot camp to become real men. After a couple of weeks they will compete with live militaries. Our stand is that "Gay Army" is a stupid production and that it will only add to the misunderstanding that gays can't be in the army.

I would like to conclude this information letter with some good news. Two colleagues and myself have an application for a scholarship to study Don't Ask Don't Tell approved. We (I, Leif I Ohlson and Ulrika Hansson) will during one week 28 May – 5 June be in USA to study the effects of DADT. The Swedish international military obligations are increasing and we co-operate with armed forces that do not share the Swedish view on LGBT-persons within the armed forces. From that perspective it is of great importance to have more knowledge of their respective policies. The study will hopefully give more knowledge about the situation in the US Armed Forces and how the Swedish Armed Forces can work in order to reduce the risk for tension in this matter when the two forces co-operate. Our program is as follows Washington DC 28 May – 1 June San Diego/Santa Barbara 1 June – 5 June. If you have any suggestions on people that we should meet don't hesitate to contact me (krister@hof.org.se)

Best Regards,

Krister Fahlstedt
Chairman

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