

Clinton, courts could crack military homosexual ban

WASHINGTON — As president, Bill Clinton will be forced to deal with one of the most difficult issues affecting the military in decades — the Pentagon's 50-year ban on homosexuals and his promise to end it.

Clinton has not said when or how such a policy change would be instituted. And few inside the Pentagon have begun to prepare the military's 1.8 million members for such a major change, officials say.

But Lawrence Korb, Pentagon personnel chief during the Reagan administration, predicted, "Even if he doesn't act — which he could by signing an executive order — the

Change inevitable, official says, but Pentagon not yet prepared

courts will make the Pentagon do it." Just Tuesday, a federal judge in Los Angeles reaffirmed his order that the Navy reinstate a homosexual sailor, though the judge did not rule on the overall issue of whether the military ban is legal under the Constitution.

Speaking to reporters Wednesday in Little Rock, Clinton said, "I don't think (homosexual) status alone, in the absence of some destructive behavior, should disqualify people" from serving in the military.

The president-elect said he intends to consult with military leaders about "the mechanics" of a change in policy,

but did not say when that might occur. Spokesman George Stephanopoulos said Clinton "understands the opposition" but is committed to the change.

Revoking the ban would be one of the most far-reaching social changes imposed on the armed services since President Truman ordered blacks integrated into the military in 1948. Proponents of a change in the policy have expressed hope that Clinton will remove the ban in his first days in office.

About 14,000 men and women have been kicked out of the services during

the past 10 years because they were homosexual.

In the past, the courts have backed the Pentagon directive that states that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service" and that the presence of homosexuals in the military impedes "discipline, good order and morale."

And two of the Pentagon's most senior officers — Gen. Colin Powell, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Gen. Gordon Sullivan, the chief of staff of the Army — have repeatedly declared their opposition to any change in the policy.

Both four-star generals — who are expected to continue in service under

Clinton — contend the issue affects troops' battle readiness, morale and rights to privacy.

"It is difficult in a military setting where there is no privacy, where you don't get choice of association, where you don't get choice of where you live, to introduce a group of individuals who are proud, brave, loyal, good Americans but who favor a homosexual lifestyle," Powell said in congressional testimony earlier this year. "I think it would be prejudicial to good order and discipline to try to integrate that in the current military structure."

President, Gore honor veterans at Vietnam wall

WASHINGTON — Veterans led by Vice President-elect Al Gore laid wreaths in the rain at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wednesday after President Bush paid a midnight visit to the wall where the names of 58,183 war dead are inscribed.

Ceremonies marking the 10th anniversary of the memorial highlighted the nation's observance of Veterans Day.

Maya Lin, the artist who designed the monument, told a crowd estimated by National Park Police at 30,000, "I may be the author, but I would like to remain fairly silent. This wall is designed for you."

Bush and his wife, Barbara, slipped away from the White House about midnight, hours before the main ceremony, and joined volunteers at the wall who were reading the names of those killed and missing.

"It was a very moving tribute," said Bush. "I've been there several times before, but it was extraordinarily moving for Barbara and me."

Gore, whose appearance at the afternoon event was not listed on the program, expressed thanks to the president "for coming here and participating in the reading of names."

"I think it is time to put the divisions of the Vietnam War out of our political process once and for all," Gore said.

Many-colored umbrellas dotted the crowd of people who jammed the grounds as a steady rain, heavy at times, fell through most of the 90-minute program.

Terry Anderson, the longest-held American hostage in Lebanon, who served a tour in Vietnam with the Marines, asked his fellow veterans, "Is everybody cold and wet? Does this bring back memories?"

"This memorial is dedicated to those who gave their lives in Vietnam," Anderson said. "It is a fitting memorial. But it seems to me it is also a penetrating reminder that they were not the only ones who paid a price in that war, great as theirs was."

Soviets held, killed U.S. soldiers after WWII, Yeltsin tells senators

No Americans remain detained, Russians certain

WASHINGTON — Russian President Boris Yeltsin told U.S. senators Wednesday in a letter that Americans were held in prison camps after World War II and some were "summarily executed" while others still live in his country voluntarily.

Yeltsin's letter also said some Americans had been forced to renounce their citizenship.

Russian leaders are almost certain no U.S. citizens are still being detained, Yeltsin said in his letter, read to a Senate committee by the general who serves as Russian head of a U.S.-Russian commission searching for American POWs and MIAs.

Gen. Dmitri Volkogonov told the Senate Committee on POW-MIA Affairs that he has pored through Russian archives but has so far found no evidence that any

Americans captured in the Korean or Vietnam wars were taken to the former Soviet Union. He said he was aware only of nine American servicemen who deserted in the Vietnam War and went to the former Soviet Union.

He added, however, "hypothetically we cannot dismiss the possibility that Americans were taken from Vietnam to the Soviet Union, but we have no precise information" about any specific cases. It is "a possibility and I believe not a very strong possibility," he said.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., chairman of the committee, characterized as revelations the Russians' acknowledgements that Americans held after World War II were forced to renounce their citizenship, that some were killed and some still lived in the former Soviet Union voluntarily.

"They will be talked to... and asked whether they want to come home," Kerry said, adding that the list of names and addresses that Volkogonov delivered to the committee would be made public.

Last August, Volkogonov signed

a statement printed in a Soviet newspaper which said several dozen Americans were jailed by Soviet secret police during and after World War II and that one of them was executed on orders of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin. The statement said most were forced to renounce their citizenship. Two Americans trapped in the Soviet Union for years were interviewed by an Associated Press reporter shortly thereafter.

In answer to a reporter's question Wednesday, Volkogonov said through a translator that 119 Americans were held in Soviet camps after World War II. But he did not say how many were executed or how many were still living in the former Soviet Union.

Committee aides did not immediately make available any of the information that Volkogonov turned over to the panel. Kerry also said it was too early to say definitively whether any Americans captured in Korea or Vietnam were later taken to the former So-



Boris Yeltsin Brian Shaller/DN

viet Union. "I think you have to go through this process considerably further before you start making judgments," he told reporters.

The committee is finishing its work and plans to issue a report in mid-December before it goes out of existence at the end of the year. Some committee members planned to visit Southeast Asia this month.

Neighborhood still in shock after Detroit beating

DETROIT — At the intersection of Warren and 23rd, where empty lots and boarded buildings still bear witness to the riots of the 1960s, there's a new focal point: the police violence of the 1990s.

On a wall adorned by flowers is a plastic-covered picture of Malice Green, a 35-year-old man beaten to death by police last week.

It has become a gathering point for neighborhood residents who come to see the spot where Green died, to see where gravel has been spread to hide the blood stains.

"I can't believe this is happening in my city," Carrie Washington, a mother of three grown children, said

in frustration. "The police used to be our friends."

The death of Green, who was black, at the hands of a racially mixed group of police has roiled this city, noted for its integrated, neighborhood-based policing.

The case resounds with disquieting echoes of the Rodney King case. But those familiar with Detroit's police say Malice Green's death points to something else: an undermanned force lacking the money or leadership to weed out "thumpers," the violent cops of both races.

Green, an unemployed father of five, died from head injuries in a fracas Thursday with police.

While no official details have been released, witnesses say the confrontation began as Green dropped off a friend near a boarded-up hair salon suspected to be a crack house.

Two plainclothes officers in a "power unit," an unmarked car assigned to high crime areas, confronted Green. Witnesses said police began beating him when he refused to drop something in his hand, identified variously as a wallet, a piece of paper or drugs.

Other officers arrived. Lee Hardy, an emergency medical technician flagged down by police, told The Detroit News he saw four white officers kick Green in the chest and beat his

head, arms and hands with a flashlight.

Six white officers and a black supervisor were suspended. Mayor Coleman Young and Police Chief Stanley Knox, both black, decried Green's death — Young going as far as to call it murder.

Residents of Green's neighborhood huddled under umbrellas and sheltered flickering candles in their hands Tuesday night during a vigil at the death scene.

"I'm surprised they went that far," Washington said of the police. "They used to come to the house and tell us about our kids. They used to run track with them."

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Rape

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"Rape, it's not just a woman's problem," Strong said. Purple fliers and ribbons will be distributed throughout the week to symbolize awareness and support, she said.

"Rape is something people always talk about but never do anything about," Strong said. "I hope this week makes people pro-active about rape."

The first event of the week — a teleconference about sexual harassment — is today from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. Eric Jolly, director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Diversity, organized the teleconference.

Titled "Confronting Sexual Harassment on Campus," the teleconference will be broadcast live from Washington, D.C., Jolly said. Audience members at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will be able to call and ask questions of the

teleconference's six panel members. "Stopping sexual harassment in the workplace or in classrooms is the responsibility of everyone," Jolly said. "We need to lift the burden off the victims."

After the teleconference, a panel comprised of Jolly, Lyn Jakobsen, assistant director of the Housing Office, and Judith Kriss, director of the Women's Center, will speak to the audience about UNL's policies on and solutions to sexual harassment.

Matt Basta, a rape educator from the University of Missouri-Columbia, will speak Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union Ballroom as part of Rape Education Awareness and on-Campus Training, sponsored by Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Dave Smith, philanthropy chairman for Pi Kappa Phi, said Basta would focus on rape-awareness issues for college students and how men and women could avoid rape.

On Tuesday, a panel discussion

Stopping sexual harassment in the workplace or in classrooms is the responsibility of everyone.

Jolly director, Office of Affirmative Action and Diversity

titled "He said... She said" will be presented by Ken Cauble, chief of the UNL Police Department; Janet Crawford, head of community health education at the University Health Center; Deputy County Attorney Lori Yardley, who prosecutes UNL sexual assault cases; Linda Schwartzkopf, director of Student Judicial Affairs; and Peg Miller, counseling coordinator at the Women's Center. The panel will be from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

Other events scheduled for Tues-

day include a self-defense training workshop titled "When No Isn't Enough" from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Campus Recreation Center's Martial Arts Room. Local comedian T. Marni Voss will talk about issues of and attitudes toward sexual assault at 8 p.m. in the Nebraska Union Ballroom.

On Wednesday, Kriss and Pat Tetreault of the health center will speak about rape victimization after a showing of the video "Playing the Game" at 6:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union Regency Suite.

Kriss said rape victims were victimized more than once. "They are victimized by the rape itself, the legal system and then again when anybody asks about it," she said.

Kriss said Rape/Sexual Assault Awareness Week couldn't help but raise students' awareness about the issues.

"Students aren't going to be able to walk into the union without knowing something is going on," she said.