

Pregnant soldiers:

By Jim Koenig

Having a pregnant soldier in a potential combat environment, such as Germany, is as absurd as an ice-making machine at the North Pole, its just ridiculous", said SFC Ray Galmiche, Brigade S-1, NCOIC. Other officers, NCO's and junior enlisted persons interviewed agreed with Galmiche that the American soldier is here to deter war and fight one if we have to.

If that war does come, all pregnant soldiers will leave Germany immediately for a safe area. Who will take their place? And how long will it take to replace them?

1st. Sgt. William Raynor, who has seen a lot of changes in the army since first enlisting in 1959, said he recommends pregnant soldiers be discharged along with sole parents.

Pregnancy in the Army is considered a problem by many male and female soldiers. A great number of leaders, Army-wide, agree with Raynor that sole parenthood makes it worse.

Official records checked recently indicated that more than 50 percent of the pregnant soldiers in the Brigade are not married. One company has 80 percent. These figures do not reflect children already born to unwed mothers, only those pregnant now.

"The Army is a fighting machine", Raynor said, "and no place for a social

experiment in child rearing. Every pregnant female and sole parent renders the Army less effective. The U.S. public", the HHC, 17th Soldier added, "is paying for something they are not getting".

Just a job

One pregnant soldier assigned to the 22nd Brigade said, "This is peace time and the army is just a job". Continuing she said, "Pregnancy is something most women want. God gave us that blessing to have children. If women don't have them where are the future soldiers coming from?"

Capt. Sharon Remaly, Commander of A Co. 32nd Signal said that when she took command 57 percent of her women soldiers were pregnant. Now, only one soldier is. "Yes, pregnancy is a problem when in a tactical environment," Remaly commented, "its not good for their safety as well as other soldiers".

"I've heard a lot of girls say they got pregnant to get out of the Army because they couldn't handle it", said PFC Sue Wilson, who is expecting twins this month.

Put them out

"Pregnant Soldiers should be put out of the Army", said Sgt. Elbert Daniels, a 32nd Signal Supply Sergeant. The seven year Veteran of Army service added, "It's a real problem, especially when it comes to work load. In some cases", the 25-year-old said, "they use the pregnancy to their advantage. Its a game, just a joke to them".

One pregnant soldier, who asked not to be identified said, "Yes I've had birth control classes, but I'm not a teenager anymore, I know what's happening, I don't need the classes". Later in the interview the soldier admitted her pregnancy was an accident.

