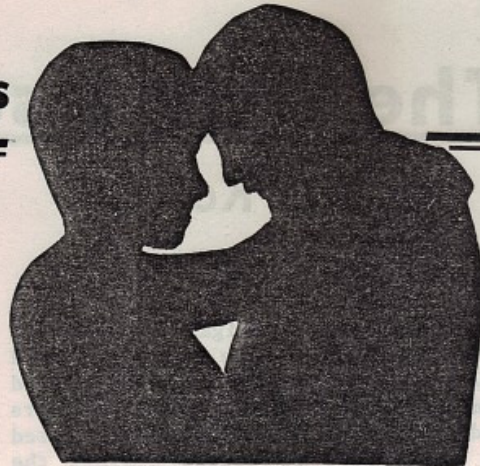


Is it causing problems



Sp4 Maria Delgado, a pregnant 440th Signal soldier said, "the Army should give more birth control classes instead of trying to Chapter Eight pregnant soldiers out of the Army".

Sgt. Marita King, a secretary and driver for 17th Signal said she believed pregnant soldiers should be sent back to the states immediatly so replacements could take up the slack. The 22-year-old from Louisville Ky. said, "When they get pregnant they are not as busy as they use to be and they miss a lot of time".

Sick call

King went on to say, "When pregnant soldiers say they don't feel good most supervisors say 'Well go on home', but if anyone else feels bad they say, 'Well go on sick call'. A lot of them take advantage of their pregnancy", King added.

First rate soldiers

1st. Sgt. Wray Hall, C Co. 32nd Signal says a large majority of his female soldiers are "first rate, highly reliable and take better care of themselves and their equipment". But the soon-to-be Sergeant Major had different views about some pregnant soldiers, "They consider themselves special, reluctant to do the same duties they did before," Hall said. The 36-year-old enlisted leader concluded that pregnant soldiers think of themselves and the baby before job and mission and pay less attention to detail.

1st. Sgt. Neil Manley, HHC Brigade, estimates more than 50 duty days are lost per soldier due to pregnancy in his company.

SFC Noah Lockett, First Sergeant of Co A 32nd Signal says he personally believes "the Army experiment with pregnant soldiers has definately caused severe problems as far as the units effective-ness is concerned".

Guilty

Sp4 Patricia Cabrera, a pregnant 20-year-old administrative Specialist from San Antonio Texas said, "pregnant soldiers hurt the unit because its one less person. If my unit went to war, I would feel guilty about going back to the states. I'm here to do a job".

Special privileges

1st. Sgt. Bobby Williams, C Co. 440th added, "male soldiers do not see or understand why pregnant females should get special privileges. They are still soldiers in uniform and the choice was there to be a mother or not".

Pregnancy in the Army is not a social issue, nor an equal opportunity problem. Pregnancy in the military is a combat readiness question, and someone, somewhere, someday will have to answer it.

