

—The back page—

The dirtiest word in the Army

By Jim Koenig

Fraternization is a dirty word in the Army and can ruin a soldier's career in a heartbeat. But men and women Army-wide take the chance everyday, including some within the ranks of the 22nd Signal Brigade. Those who choose to indulge are playing with fire.

Policy letter

In a recent policy letter, Col. Joseph D. Schott, Brigade Commander, said, "Fraternization is any non-professional social relationship of a personal nature outside of any duty association required to accomplish the mission." The commander went on to say that, "Fraternization is prejudicial to good order and discipline and tends to bring discredit upon the Armed forces."

Early 1960's

During the early 1960's there was only 8,000 enlisted women in the Army and fraternization usually referred to officers or NCO's associating with enlisted men, and it still does. But with over 62,000 female soldiers on the scene the word fraternization has taken on a new meaning.

Prohibited practices include socializing, dating, kissing, hugging, hand-holding and physical caressing between a leader and a subordinate in the same chain of command.

In the Commander's policy letter he points out that these rules do not apply to socializing between immediate family members and functions or activities expressly permitted by Army regulations or with permission from Brigade Headquarters or a higher command.

The Commander further stated that "couples of any grade who feel their personal relationship has developed to the point of violating the command policy against fraternization will report it to their unit commander. A nonpunitive transfer of one of the parties involved will be made at the earliest opportunity."

Career

Fraternization can destroy a soldier's career, hurt unit morale and result in punitive action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. It's just not worth it!

Brigade soldiers take religious retreat

By Jim Fahey

April 14-18, members of HHC Brigade, and the 17th and 32nd Signal Battalions took part in a religious retreat to Grendelwald Switzerland.

Activities included skiing, ice-skating, souvenir hunting and sight seeing, but the main emphasis of the retreat was spiritual rejuvenation.

Guest speakers were Dr. Lebron Fairbanks from the Nazarene Bible College in Busingen, W. Germany and First Sergeant Norm Rutherford from the 44th Signal Company in Mannheim.

Music was provided by Contemporary Christian recording artist Bobby

Michaels.

The event was organized by the unit Chaplains and primarily funded by the Chaplain's Fund for soldier retreats. The McNair soldiers paid \$75 which included round trip transportation by motor coach, first class rooms, continental style breakfast and five course dinners.

Chaplain Carrol Hutcheson, 22nd Signal Brigade, summed it up best by saying, "The retreat was a total success." (Pvt.2 Fahey is a stringer for HHC Brigade)