

uhlib_2023_001_ah_19971108_t1_02_edit_ac

Mon, Nov 20, 2023 4:13PM 44:07

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

military, lesbian, women, sexual harassment, good, gay, call, report, civilian, female, married, coast guard, transsexual, catholic chaplain, stationed, sprague, case, army, talk, service

SPEAKERS

Sarah DePalma, Jimmy Carper



00:00

You know, when they start a a security clearance on you, you know, you stopped going out to the bars, or you stopped going to the gay areas. You know when it started you know when it's concluded stayed



Jimmy Carper 00:14

home and watched. You



Sarah DePalma 00:15

don't want to figure your finger anybody else so you learn to say yeah and that's tough.



Jimmy Carper 00:20

What is your really?



Sarah DePalma 00:21

What is your job? How can you tell an undercover FBI agent, he's the one who looks too good to be a drag queen and too ugly to be a woman



Jimmy Carper 00:33

now the The Goddess has been a tough life now. For that year and a half.



00:37

Yeah. It was very, it was very rough.



Sarah DePalma 00:40

What held you together? I mean, besides the fact that you love each other. I mean, how do you stay sane?



00:45

Just you it was just having each other. There was about the only thing that got us through that.



Jimmy Carper 00:52

No wonder they call you the Bobo's?



Sarah DePalma 00:56

Yeah, but in this case, I'd say it was a pretty good rep. pretty a pretty good rep to have. Yes. Yes. No. Let's talk about the experience of women in the military for a minute. From from my own research, what I was able to gather is that women are damned if they do and damned if they don't, right. If they report sexual harassment, first thing this is, oh, well, you're just a lesbian. What's the matter? Don't you like guys? That sound familiar?



01:19

That's very much true. Very much true. When I graduated boot camp, I was stationed in Cape May New Jersey. We had to take a bus to Philadelphia to fly back home for leave. And almost the whole graduating class was there at the airport, along with our CEO coincidentally. And he was hitting on several of females. I was one of them. The next year, I ended up in Norfolk, Virginia, again with several of my former classmates. And I found out that he had started a rumor that he and I had had an affair. And this was a very large black man. And I'm not racist, but he certainly wasn't to my liking wasn't exactly your type. No, not at all. Besides the fact that he was married had five kids. Yeah, he was he was a real winner. All the way around. Now. Let



Sarah DePalma 02:09

me see. So so there so there's there would have been no punishment for him for adultery?



02:13



No, no, there doesn't seem to be it's a good old boy.



Sarah DePalma 02:17

And you know, boys will be boys



02:19

not not at that point in time. There's a code



02:21

for it. But it was it was to my benefit to allow that rumor to continue and to learn



Sarah DePalma 02:25

from it better to be known as sleeping around and to be known as a lesbian. Yeah, so



02:30

that's better than a lesbian anytime.



02:31

Boy.



02:34

That's that's the life of, you know, trying to serve your country. Do something good. That's big time. Because then you have all the guys who think you're easy, right?



Jimmy Carper 02:45

You know, cuz they're all knocking on your door. Exactly.



Sarah DePalma 02:48

When we're reading. Let me read an incident that I found in the research here. We see one foot in in spring 1996 Lieutenant Colonel Colonel Abraham Turner at the US Military Academy at West Point, confronted Cadet Nicole Galavan about her sexual orientation in front of four Cadet

eyewitnesses. She refused to answer his questions. At the suggestion of a faculty member Galavan submitted a memorandum complaining about his harassing actions. Within weeks Lieutenant Colonel Turner ordered the seizure of gal vans personal diary. Under the ruse of investigating a reported fight between gal van and another cadet. Grief counselors at West Point had suggested that gal van keep the diary to help her deal with the death of her mother facing investigation into her sexual orientation and private life based on information contained in her diary and disillusioned by military actions. Gal van resent resigned from West Point. So they can they can seize your your private diary. Yeah,



03:58

that's that's something we didn't cover either. Anything you tell a medical doctor or a psychiatrist is not confidential? Wow, there is no patient. Confidentiality confidentiality?



04:13

Well, the only confidentiality at all is to a chaplain and not just to a chaplain has to actually be a ordained chaplain. So



Sarah DePalma 04:26

if you want to, if you went to a psychologist or psychiatrist and you want it to talk them to look, you know, I think I may be trained science, transsexual or transgendered. And they decide they want to question your psychiatrist. He's got to talk. If



04:40

I had done that at Keesler Air Force Base, which was the last place I was at, he would have been on he would have been on the phone to the Judge Advocate General as soon as I left the office and I



Sarah DePalma 04:50

suppose I mean, this sounds naive. Now I'm curious. Suppose you went to see



04:56

him there for Well, that's why you don't have a lot of military or homosexual no military servicemembers beating down doors to talk to medical personnel.



Jimmy Carper 05:03

Talking to psychiatrists for anything that



Sarah DePalma 05:08

was suppose you went to private psychiatrists, you put out your, like the military pays, you said what you can afford to do this.



05:17

At keister, I did I went to a private psychologist and campus actually paid for it.



05:24

Oh, you can.



05:28

And that confidentiality cannot be broken without a court civilian court order.



Sarah DePalma 05:32

So that so their civilian rules apply,



05:35

right? Because the person that they are applying them to is a civilian. Now, you said that



Jimmy Carper 05:40

you must have known the rules, like backward and forward. You



05:44

can I spend a lot of time in training command.



05:47

I was gonna say, Yeah, it's like I went to a Catholic chaplain, when I started struggling with my sexuality. And I told him, what was going on. And his response to me was, if you think you're gay, you need to get out of the service, because there's no place for you here. That's from a Catholic chaplain from a Catholic chaplain, and he and his basic opened the door and put me

out the door. That was it. Now he actually I was lucky, because at that point, he could have turned around and said, this service member has identified himself as possible homosexual. They, they can abide by their values, valid silence, but they can also break that vow of silence in the military does not look down on them for it. So he was kind enough, not always turned me when he was kind enough not to turn me in. But then I also have a battle, I had not exactly given him all of the truthful information about where I was stationed and what my name was.

S

Sarah DePalma 06:47

When not curiosity, then suppose you report a rape. You know what, I'm just I'm trying to think this through. You go to male rape or female? Well, suppose you're, I'm thinking in terms of this case, you're a female and you said, You've been raped by an officer? Oh, boy, okay. Or even just another another member of the military, for that matter? That is not confidential information? No, no, no. Well, then if you're a female, why would you go and report it?

i

07:16

Good question. You wouldn't? Chances are, if you were going to report something like that you would go to the civilian authorities.

S

Sarah DePalma 07:26

civilian authorities can't come on base and prosecute for military or military personnel. Can people live off base it live off base?

i

07:34

It depends on where did it take place, and that kind of stuff. If it took place at the EM club on base, and nobody involved as a civilian,

S

Sarah DePalma 07:45

don't even bother. So women are really damned in the military, no matter what they do, they lose.

i

07:49

Same thing with the men. I have heard cases where there were male rapes or, and of course, instantly, even if it will take a perfectly heterosexual male that was physically raped by another male,

J

Jimmy Carper 08:04

it happens a lot. It's just never instant,



08:05

instantly. Even the victim was homosexual and obviously had something to do with it. And he is usually summarily dismissed as well. Right? So it's not



Jimmy Carper 08:20

believable. It's the old crap of oh, he must have been asking for it. Yeah, it's unbelievable.



08:24

The thought patterns in the military still are very much 1930s. When you go into the military, you're going into a situation that has been the 1930s. None of it started to change until tail hook, or to the change. It started. It's nowhere near where most people think it is.



Jimmy Carper 08:45

Yeah, but I think for the old boy system, that was a jolt.



08:49

About two months ago, I watched a piece on CNN, where there's what they call the smokers club. That is a group of Air Force officers that range in rank from a three star general all the way down, that basically support womanizing, boozing, and just playing it up. And they have covered up their activities, and other officers who were not in favor of their activities. They have accused them of it, and made cases against them actually had one officer, relieved of his command, and flown back from his command in Europe, to the United States under under a very big credit cloud of disgrace. And all of the allegations have proved out to be false, or what a bunch of scum, so no, it has not changed. The good old boy system is still very much alive in the military.



Jimmy Carper 09:50

I have to let you know that you're listening to after hours. Queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and K E O S college today nation.



Sarah DePalma 10:00

Let me give you another example of how things happen in the military. This involves a Coast Guard case this past summer Captain Howell, of the US Coast Guard, count CLU T w ell count. Well cut. Well, I'm not sure. reportedly asked SS three. I guess that's the rink Kelly Sprague.

Have you ever told anyone on the ship that you are gay? Have you ever been confused about the way you walk? Like there's anybody who isn't confused about the way they are? You know? Have You Ever Have you ever acted on this confusion? Captain Howell reportedly threatened Sprague with criminal prosecution for making a false official statement if she did not answer the questions and answer them truthfully. under great pressure, she admitted to being a lesbian lesbian. In a contemporaneous memorandum for record, she stated, when your commanding officer asks you a question and informs you that lying is against the Uniform Code of Military Justice. What choice do you have except to tell the truth, Sprague was discharged based on her response to Captain house questioning. She has pleased planning to file a complaint with the inspector general. In another case at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, an airman was hounded by unit members who asked him at least 10 times if he were gay, during the course of a week, not knowing how to stop the harassment, he finally answered truthfully, that he is gay. The airman's command at Lackland subsequently discharged and based in his response, don't ask violations increased 16% over last year's figures, the Coast Guard which had no don't ask violations in 1995, contributed to the increase with six violations this past year. I mean, you're damned if you do you're damned if you don't if you don't tell the truth. It's criminal prosecution. And if you do tell the truth, you're kicked out?



11:57

Well, you have to remember to the Coast Guard falls under some different laws, their Department of Transportation, Department of Defense. So they fall kind of like under military law and civilian law, and is a real gray line there.



Sarah DePalma 12:13

Let's talk a little bit about being transgendered in the military. I know that I know quite a few people who are transgendered who had been in the military. And many of them told me they volunteered for the most dangerous duty they could think of because they felt like they had to overcompensate. They were fighter pilots, you know, where they can't they were in the Green Berets or something. Tell a little bit about your story.



12:35

Well, when I went in, it was right after my 21st birthday. And I'd had a discussion with Patricia and I was having problems dealing with my gender identity. And I tell people who Patricia is, Patricia is my spouse we've been will be married 15 years this December.



Sarah DePalma 12:55

You're right. 15 years. Yeah.



12:58

And we were having problems. And basically, she woke me up and I said, Okay, I'm gonna go join the military. That was my brother's suggestion. It was going to straighten you out. It was

join the military. That was my brother's suggestion. It was going to straighten you out. It was going to give me a purpose in life. Okay. I and I, I sort of agreed that I had lost purpose. So you know, I went and finished my associate degree and then joined the Air Force. And basically, I finished my associate degree. Two days later, I got married and 10 days later, I was in the Air Force.

S

Sarah DePalma 13:33

Wow.

U

13:36

And I'm pretty much buried myself. I made e five in three and a half years. And

S

Sarah DePalma 13:44

what's an E FF I see most of the audience is in grade five. Pardon? Enlisted grade five, okay, which is what I mean is that a good high grade low Staff Sergeant,

U

13:53

there are nine grades, okay, you started out as one and I was five and three and a half years. And then after about six or seven years in my gender ambiguity, feelings started coming back again. And basically, by the time I got transferred to my last post, I was pretty much I had already told Pat that I was a crossdresser. And I was beginning to come out in the community as a crossdresser. And by the time I did separate on July Fourth 1995, it is truly my independence day. I had realized I was transsexual and was going to have to transition. But during that last year, year and a half that I was in the Air Force. I was cross dressing pretty much every weekend. I was a member of the local gay and lesbian community center and a board member of that center while you

S

Sarah DePalma 14:51

still no theories.

U

14:55

And basically, you know, my life was pretty much set at that point. Like, there were people in the office that had problems with my eyebrows. They had problems with me shaving my arms. They, if they'd ever seen my shaved legs, they probably would have had more problems.

S

Sarah DePalma 15:14

Yeah, what's been fun is the shower is yeah

mean, what's been run in the shower is yeah,



15:16

it was interesting playing volleyball for the beach volleyball team, because I always had to wear long pants. Okay, so it was very interesting going to see the doctor for my ankle problems with shaved legs, comfortable military doctrine, military doctors, the older military doctors didn't even give it a second thought. I went to one young military doctor and he was really confused.



Jimmy Carper 15:44

What did you tell him?



15:45

I didn't say a word. It was just the look on his face was priceless. But he didn't turn you in. He didn't do anything. I had one female II five in the office that did attempt to turn me in. And she tried her new and it was she tried. She tried to turn me in as being gay as being gay. Yes.



Jimmy Carper 16:07

Well, to them, it's



16:08

all the same. Right? And Right, exactly. And the lieutenant said, Not possible. This person has been married for 12 years, they can possibly be gay. The Perfect



Sarah DePalma 16:19

Cover. He's marry can't be gay. Like we don't know any married gay people do we?



16:26

It didn't occur to him that I could be a transsexual and a lesbian.



Sarah DePalma 16:32

Where, you know, until Kate Bornstein came along, there were probably a lot of people who didn't believe.



16:38

But as I said, I did manage to get out without any major scrapes. And because of their own ignorance, right, basically, yeah, they they couldn't think outside the box. Basically,



Sarah DePalma 16:48

no way. We had sissy Connolly on his show. And you know, sissy Conley was a civilian. Yes. worked very well. Again, she worked in a military base. And for the audience who may not remember, sis, he was a crossdresser. And she got caught. He didn't really get caught. What happened was she got into an elevator with a co worker who recognized her oops, so the co worker turning sissy in and next thing she knew the military's dragging her in, and they want to kick her out. And as I recall, she was pretty close to retirement. And since he said, No, you're not, I'll fight you on this. They said, Oh, no, no, no, you're a pervert. And, and we have we have we have documents to prove it. And since he said, Well, I see your butt in court. And then she called Phyllis, Brian said, Help. What do I do? And fill us in? Well, I don't know much about military law. But I do know crossdressing and put her in touch with another attorneys ever call and make the long story short, she sued the military in one. But she was able to do that because she was a civilian. Yeah. So he had been in the military, he would have no shot,



17:48

right? The rules for civilian are totally different. What they were trying to do was remove her security clearance, right, which would have invalidated her for the job. She was in anywhere in the US government and she actually would lost her retirement. That was your big concern, right? She would have lost her retirement and then fired because she couldn't hold a security clearance because she was a black male risk. That's why they were pulling a security clearance. So her response was to send out about 700 letters to every person she'd ever met saying, Hi, I'm a crossdresser. No more blackmail. Whoa.



Sarah DePalma 18:21

Well, that's one way to do it. One way to do and



18:24

that one or case the airforce had to back off.





Sarah DePalma 18:28


I want to I want to talk a little bit about about being female in the military for a minute. I've never once considered the military. I'm Unitarian.





limmy Carner 18:38

 Jimmy Carper 18:30
I'm clear. Well.


 Sarah DePalma 18:41
But I mean, I was a conscientious objector from the point of view from I never considered being in the military. And did you really?


 Jimmy Carper 18:48
Yeah. At the time, I had a lover who said, If you don't sign the box, I'm going to tell them.


 Sarah DePalma 18:55
Me meaning of you know, joining the military


 Jimmy Carper 18:57
now if you'd outside the box saying, you know, being a homosexual.


 Sarah DePalma 19:04
Okay, see, I didn't know you know what you were talking?


 Jimmy Carper 19:06
Yeah. That's what they called it


 Sarah DePalma 19:08
that that box the box. Okay. So I'm reading stay together long after. Based on what I'm hearing about the military. It strikes me that women in the military or damage no matter what they do, maybe I'm misunderstanding this, but it'd be tough on women. I would think you'd be scared to read our report, anything that happens to you? Well,

 19:31
I mean, starting with boot camp, you know, they have this rule where your hair can't touch your collar, okay, you have options. You can put your hair up if it's long or you can cut it. So it's short enough, it doesn't touch your collar. Okay, if you cut it, well then you really look like a lesbian and those uniforms. If you put it up, it falls down and you know, then they give you


 Sarah DePalma 19:53
what's good and yeah, what is giggling.


 20:01
They do inspections in bootcamp daily, often several times a day. And, you know, you have to have everything squared away. Anything that's not right, I mean, they give you which is looking in the mirror. Yeah, a demerit, which is grounds for punishment. Usually, it's what they call PT. Physical is

 Jimmy Carper 20:27
dropped down and give me 20 thing. Yeah, that type of thing. Okay. I think we can Yeah, with me. So,


 20:32
I mean, being a female, you know, you can't go through training and still look pretty and feminine. You know, no matter, no matter how heterosexual you are. They don't allow you to wear makeup, not in boot and basic. So you know, that doesn't help you look feminine. So everybody looks like a lesbian? Yeah, yeah, very much. So then they just start. They watch you. You know, I mean, mannerisms, what you talk about your mail? Who do you get mail? From? Who do you send mail to? Who comes to visit me? They


 Sarah DePalma 21:09
watch your mail to find out who you're corresponding with?


 Jimmy Carper 21:12
Yes, ma'am. No surprise there?


 21:14
No, not at all. When I was in basic guy, I got letters from more than one female. Well, and my mom and them, you know, but they don't know who's who. They can open your mail. Yes, they can. They can open your mail. incoming and outgoing. Is


 Jimmy Carper 21:33
the difference between being in the military and being in prison?


 Sarah DePalma 21:39
All at the same time? Yeah.


 21:40
What a lot of people don't realize either is that even us civilians. When you go into military installation, you're subject to certain we're subject to search and seizure of anything that you have on your person.


 21:55
Or in your vehicle, or any vehicle. Wow. And


 21:58
it's the same way with military personnel. Except for with military personnel, it extends to any point in your life,

 Sarah DePalma 22:06
so you're not having the advocate mail to your box.

 22:12
I knew guys that would go out and get post office boxes in town that that if they were gonna get that kind of mail. That's where it went. Yeah. And most military, what would they do with it, though? You you lived off base?

 Jimmy Carper 22:24
Couldn't they come in search report? Yeah, they were

 22:27
less they were less likely to.

 22:31
I always lived on base. I don't

I always lived on base. I don't



22:32

I don't know what the women did. But I know that most of the guys too would not date. Anybody who was not in the military. It was it was too dangerous. Because you'd have a fight with with someone who dated and they could turn you into the military as a retaliation in your careers over. Oh, so most most of the guys did not date outside the military.



Sarah DePalma 22:57

That's one of the things I found in this research is that innuendo is everything is bad as an actual accusation. Yeah.



Jimmy Carper 23:03

But then you run the risk, and you run the risk of if you're well known among gay people in the military, and somebody gets hauled down, they're going to get your name. It actually doesn't



23:18

happen that way. The guy that named me named three people. I didn't name anybody. It was a rarity that somebody who was going down in an investigation pulled everybody else with them. Your your everybody realizes what kind of a nightmare it is. And most people will will go down themselves before they'll drag someone else into that nightmare with him



Jimmy Carper 23:45

or her. We kind of got sidetracked from the female. Well,



23:49

what happened with me, one of my girlfriend's mother's found out that her daughter and I were seeing each other. She got very angry, to say the least. And she wrote the Coast Guard. She wrote the district commander. She wrote my direct commander. She was writing letters to everybody.



Jimmy Carper 24:06

Oh, sir. You dated someone outside of the military? Well, I also



24:09

11 24:09

dated several military throughout my military career, but this particular incident incidents it was a civilian that obviously and I was I was only 19.

S Sarah DePalma 24:21

You were 19 years old. She reports you to the Coast Guard as a lesbian. Yeah. Okay, so not and so then where did what happened from there? Your career short?

24:30

No, actually, I stayed in for another five years. No, yeah. But I was fortunate though, because, like Tom was saying, I mean, I was a four Oh, sailor. I had perfect scores on everything. All my evaluations were excellent. My commanding officer, all my fellow officers liked me. I mean, I did my job and I did it well. And I was, I was a good sailor, wasn't

J Jimmy Carper 24:54

it kind of if it wasn't kind of uncomfortable for that five years. This cloud over you Red sort of. Yeah,

25:00

yeah, you're always kind of looking over your shoulder, wondering, you know? Have I made somebody mad? You know, are they going to turn me in? Will somebody accidentally find out when you slip up and say something that's gonna give it all away? You live a lie.

J Jimmy Carper 25:15

Here this is from more that's like a double closet, isn't

S Sarah DePalma 25:18

it? This is from the research that I that I turned up here. Violations of don't harass also include lesbian baiting a form of sexual harassment. Women straight and gay, are accused as lesbians when they rebuffed advances by men who report sexual abuse. Women who are top performers in non traditional fields also face perpetual speculation and rumors that they are lesbians. Too often commander's, don't respond by investigating the women under the guise of enforcing Don't Ask, Don't Tell don't pursue rather than disciplining men when sexual harassment or assault have fear that they will be accused as lesbian investigating this charge. So there Don't Ask Don't Tell gets turned on its head. Well, we didn't investigate the assault against her because we didn't want her get in trouble under don't ask don't tell me this bizarre. Other women report that they given the sexual demands specifically to avoid being rumored to be a lesbian.



26:20

And I've known a woman who did the the total lesbian



Sarah DePalma 26:22

baiting takes on women is evident in the Department of Defense own statistics are 1996 though women comprise only 13% of the active duty force, they constitute 29% of those kicked out. Yeah, under don't ask, don't tell. In the army, women comprise three times the women in the army women comprise 41% of those discharged under the gay policy, an astounding figure that is disproportionately nearly three times the women's presence in the army. I mean, so I mean, it just struck me after reading that, that women, if they're afraid to report sexual harassment, because the person who say, Oh, she's just to deem lesbian, it



Jimmy Carper 27:06

sounds impossible to be a woman in the service, whether whether you're gay or straight.



27:13

Yeah, because even if you're a heterosexual woman, I mean, you have a lot of the other guys who resent your presence there. Because they feel like you don't have to meet the same standards that they do. And they just, it's like a boys club, and



Jimmy Carper 27:25

they're hitting on you. And if you say no, then they accuse you of being whether you are or not. Did



27:31

you know many of the women that got into marriages of convenience with porn,



27:36

I only personally knew to



Sarah DePalma 27:38

wait till What's this?



27:42

From the military? Yeah, you will get married, right? It's the perfect cover. If you're married, you can be gay.



Sarah DePalma 27:48

Marrying a gay man. Like Marie, she couldn't possibly have been transsexual because she was married. Ah. And



27:53

that's that's a typical of the military. They can't think outside the box. Right? Well,



27:58

one of the women that I knew she was a lesbian, right, but she married a heterosexual man, an act of desperation as I saw it, simply, I mean, because she had career aspirations for the military. She didn't want to give that up. And so getting married, was her insurance. You can't



28:15

advance very far unless you're married. Yeah.



Jimmy Carper 28:19

Corporate America.



28:23

Yeah, many heterosexual women also get married pretty much out of basic. And they'll go find themselves in officer something as protection.



Jimmy Carper 28:30

So they don't have to spend their life putting out so to speak well,



28:34

and if you do it right, you marry somebody who's in you know, a different branch or they will possibly be stationed somewhere else from where you are, which can happen. The military

doesn't care what your personal life is like, right? They don't care if you're happy.

S

Sarah DePalma 28:49

This is a report I pulled off of the internet as well off of one of the news wires, and this is dated September 11. The Army today released a report of the senior review panel on sexual harassment. The panel had been tasked by Secretary the army to go west to review the Army's policies and procedures to deal with sexual harassment, and the underlying reasons for harassment in light of several high profile cases of harassment and abuse of military women. The report makes some hard hitting observations, including that sexual harassment is widespread in the army, that sexual discrimination is even more prevalent, and that too many leaders have failed to gain the trust of the soldiers. The panel also concluded the army lacks institutional commitment to the Equal Opportunity Program and soldiers distrust the Equal Opportunity complaint system. And I can imagine, you know, and then it goes on says lesbian baiting is a recognized phenomenon used to discourage women from reporting sexual harassment earlier this year, then Undersecretary for defense and personnel and when Doran issued him memorandum acknowledging this problem and concluding that service members should be able to report crimes free from fear of harm reprisal or inappropriate or inadequate government response. And we then went on to admit, this is not currently taking place. Like stating the obvious the right, newflash, yeah, bulletin bulletin, hello. Women are being harassed in the military. And if they report it, they're being called being lesbians filament in. Part is like, clear.

J

Jimmy Carper 30:34

I'm just amazed. Now it boggles my mind with all of this going on. Why would anybody want to serve their country?

⦿

30:40

Well, there's lots of reasons myself. I was just out of high school. I knew I didn't want to go to college. Not right then. And there,

J

Jimmy Carper 30:50

you didn't know. No,

⦿

30:52

I didn't know I've known.

J

Jimmy Carper 30:53

No, I Well, I mean, you didn't know all of the ins and outs of the service. Well,



30:59

I had an idea because my parents knew I was gay. And in fact, I wanted to go in when I was 17, but they wouldn't sign the paper. So I had to wait till I was 18. And for that year, they constantly were feeding me all this information about why it would be a bad thing to do.



Sarah DePalma 31:17

And I didn't listen, okay. It can be a great career. I mean, people who went to the military can have fabulous careers and retire. Okay, fairly wealthy. Tell me



Jimmy Carper 31:25

about the enjoyment that you had being in the military. Well, it's,



31:28

it's a very structured environment. For me, it was good because I needed that discipline at that time in my life. And it allowed me to do something that I was very good at. And had I not had this little problem with being a lesbian. I could have really had a great career because I wanted to go to college and then become an officer. But after my six years was up, I didn't re up because I knew that it would become more and more dangerous for me. Because I wasn't willing to sacrifice my personal life. So you have to make a decision at some point. Dark



Jimmy Carper 32:02

Tom, how about you? What What kind of enjoyment that you get out of the service? I mean, we've heard the bad parts. There must have been some good parts. Yeah, you wouldn't have stayed. Was it the structure? Structure



32:16

was part of it. I got to do a lot of things I wouldn't have done travel.




32:21


Travel was one of the things.





32:24


Yeah, not so much for me. You didn't like travel? I was in submarines. You were aware.


 Sarah DePalma 32:32
You didn't get you got to sit go all over the world. You just didn't get to see any


 Jimmy Carper 32:41
close quarters? Well.

 32:44
I did get to be on a endurance riding team horseback ride for a while. I was on a shooting team for wall rifle shooting that kind of stuff. And it was okay. I got more education out of it than anything. And I'm using it now too. So. Okay.


 Jimmy Carper 33:04
Okay. Were you kind of a kind of rough around the edges before you went in?

 33:14
Tom says I was real naive. But we won't go into the incidence.

 Jimmy Carper 33:20
It's hard for me to imagine you was naive.

 33:24
On the advice of legal counsel.

 33:27
It didn't work that

 Jimmy Carper 33:30
time. What about you?



33:33

It presented? Well, I was I was brought up in a military family. My dad was 3035 years army. And it was basically expected that I would go into a branch and the Coast Guard was the branch that would piss him off the most. So



33:57

don't we all go through that? Yeah, the whole reason. I think the one thing though, that would make me do it all over again, if I had the chance, even with everything that happened was I had a chance to be the person in that helicopter pulling the person out of the water. And I mean, I really got to do the things that you saw on TV that nobody else you know, most people just sit in their living rooms and dream about. And it's I'm sure Whitney experienced the same thing that it was a lot of boredom and tedium that were accepted by periods of pure adrenaline rush. Oh, absolutely. That was the best part. Yeah. And in the service you get you get addicted to this adrenaline high that did you get put on and you keep get kept on



Jimmy Carper 34:45

for like being a fireman. A lot like to KTM or, or a cop or a cop?



34:51

Yeah, it's very much the same thing and you become very addicted to it and you become very accustomed to the lifestyle.



34:57

But it also gives you a chance to do Jumping in this may sound kind of hokey, but you can help other people. Now that doesn't sound gives you the opportunity to help someone else. Feel good about yourself, you know, plus the



35:15

Yeah, I could I could walk when I was on ships the first part of my tour, I could walk into a bar in Alaska. And they would literally would not take my money. Wow. Because you know, all most of them up there are fishermen and at some point they've had the Coast Guard pull them out of the water just before they die. And their whole attitude up there is forget it. We don't want your money. It's no good. Whatever you want. It's yours. Wow,



Jimmy Carper 35:43

that's incorrect. I



Sarah DePalma 35:44

had a friend that was a medivac pilot in Vietnam. And it was the same way. He couldn't spend money in the bar. They take we look at the insignia on it was like that's it anything you want? Yeah.



Jimmy Carper 35:53

That must be an incredible feeling.



35:55

It really it is. And the acknowledgement that you get and everything else is is just



Jimmy Carper 36:03

an ego. Hi, I can understand that. Yes, Marie. Well, we're in the longest, 14



Sarah DePalma 36:10

years, right. 12 and a half, 12 and a half years.



36:14

The Lord the military for me, when I went in was my brother was pushing me to go in, because he said to be great, you know? And I said, well, at least there I'm going to know what I'm supposed to do and how I'm supposed to act.



Sarah DePalma 36:27

It will straight.



36:31

person, I didn't have a clue how to socially interact with other people through and I by the time I was 1819, I was finally learning how to be a guy. It was difficult, but I was intelligent. I had learned what I was supposed to do. But the military was easy. You did what people told you to do. You made sure you uniform was straight, your shoes are shined and you showed up at the time they told you to be their dominance.



Sarah DePalma 36:56



Sarah DePalma 36:56

And submission does. Kinda sounds like Yeah.



37:02

But it was it was it was very easy. And what I really enjoyed about the military was the travel. I was in the Military Airlift command when I first started and basically went everywhere I went to Alaska, I went to Europe. All Out of Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina, which is just as redneck as it sounds, it is a little tiny thing on top of Fort Bragg. So we got to play with the 82nd airborne a lot. And then



Sarah DePalma 37:36

Inquiring minds want to know, there



37:38

we go. And after that, I got to be in charge of a laser damage laboratory. So I get to play with very high powered lasers. Then got to play with computers. And basically the airforce spent many 1000s of dollars to train me to come out and be a civilian and do what I do now. I'm



Sarah DePalma 37:57

just curious about I mean, I don't want to get in trouble here. But there's the middle as the military aware that you have transitioned.



38:04

The Veterans Administration was informed and their response from the clerk verbatim was oh, you're number three today. Whoa, okay.



Sarah DePalma 38:14

Whoa, that wasn't the answer. I expected.



38:17

I have filed a DD Form. I can't remember if it's 240 or 244, for a change of military records. And right now it's on hold until the military figures out how to change them. But it hasn't been refused. They said we just need to figure out what we're supposed to do.



-- --



38:33

They don't know what out yet. Yeah.



Sarah DePalma 38:37

Hello would need a trailer truck a White House.



38:43

As what the reason I got that is my application is number eight in line of the people that have requested a change of military records to modify their name and their gender identification. Now, what's



Sarah DePalma 38:55

the importance of a military record? I mean, as a former as a former human resources person, I know, but the audience may not know understand parallel. Why is why is it important for that?



39:05

Okay, my military record can be because I am honorably discharged. My military record can be called upon by a prospective employer, provided they have the right paperwork. To find out what I did while I was in the military, my military record is a matter of public record for what I was trained in and what I'm trained to do. So



Sarah DePalma 39:28

so it may, it's important for her because she can't go out and apply for a position as is Marie. Yeah. And then you have military records come back as John. Oh, makes it kind of hard to get a job. Well,



39:42

if they go back and check, most employers don't Yeah, most most just run like my employer. Currently, when they get a new person, they run a credit rating. If the credit rating comes back, okay. Then they may call a reference to make sure you do what you're saying that you did on your resume.



Sarah DePalma 39:57

I'm having a problem with my credit record. It's right now is matter of fact, with with the change of name, they just got things completely screwed up. And same thing is like I've tried to get my birth certificate changed. And it turns out in the state of Connecticut, they won't do it,

they'll put an amendment on it, which is all well and good. That doesn't present much of a problem until you decide you need a passport.

 Jimmy Carper 40:19

What's wrong with that? Well, I

 40:20

believe the past part, the Department of what is it? A department carrying covers passports? No. Department of State, is it a problem State Department state will take the amended birth certificate and say, okay, yes, this is female. Once you

 Jimmy Carper 40:35

have a passport that's as good as or better than a birth.

 40:39

It's actually more places.

 Sarah DePalma 40:40

It's interesting, because in Connecticut, they say, well, they won't change the birth certificate, because they say it's it was a fact. My argument is, it wasn't in fact, born. But regardless, they say you were born with a penis, therefore you were you're a guy that's in the discussion. So if you get when you get your birth certificate back, it has two copies in the top copy says amended to amended from

 Jimmy Carper 41:04

then get a passport. Yeah. And

 41:08

you never have to show your birth certificate. You

 Sarah DePalma 41:10

never have to show your certificate again. It's just it's legally it's just very bizarre. Okay, we're here with Andrew. Yeah, we need we need to wrap this up. Because we've got other things do I think this has really been fascinating stuff. Really good. Yeah. This has been Real. I've learned a

ton. Yeah, me too. We'll see what I've learned is I'm glad I was never known.



41:31

It's a great way of strife. But a lot of



Jimmy Carper 41:34

stress there. In the last five or 10 minutes, we've discovered some of the wonderful things that have happened to all of you from being in the service. Laurie's



Sarah DePalma 41:41

sister has been in the military. I don't know how long it's been, I'm guessing 15 or 20 years now. Her last assignment, she was in charge of the nuclear weapons in Germany. Currently, she's stationed I believe in Italy. I could be wrong, but I believe she stationed in Italy. When she retired, she's going to retire as a full colonel in her pension is going to be incredible. Good. I mean, what you know,



42:07

I deserve it.



Sarah DePalma 42:08

I can see how if you went to the military, if you can make a career of it, I can see where it would be a terrific career. She's going to retire in her early or mid 40s. With a 25 year pension. She'll never have to work again. And medical benefits and the medical benefits and all the VA benefits. I can see why you would do it. I really can't. I personally wouldn't do it. But I could see why someone else would. I want to



Jimmy Carper 42:35

thank all our guests. Yes, thank



Sarah DePalma 42:36

you very much. This has been great staff, Marie, Tom, Doug,



Jimmy Carper 42:39

Whitney. This has been Yeah, this is gonna be one of the highlights

Whitney. This has been real, this is gonna be one of the highlights.

S

Sarah DePalma 42:44

This is gonna be another one of those. Let's, let's keep the tape show. Yeah.

J

Jimmy Carper 42:47

I'm building just since you've been on the air and the three years I've my my file of VCR tapes. The original. I don't want to erase that. Well, thank you. Anyway, let's go back to Michael Feinstein. He's going to be here. November 16, which is what is that date? Is That's Sunday, isn't it? Sunday? Yes, it is. Okay,



43:21

next Sunday, Sunday, Sunday, Sunday, November 16. Michael Feinstein will be here at the theater at Bayou place. And we're giving away two sets, two pairs of tickets.

S

Sarah DePalma 43:35

So you and your date or you and your spouse can go to the second

J

Jimmy Carper 43:39

and third caller who calls it 526-573-8526 KPFT. When you hear him saying and that's coming up real quick, real quick. You're listening to KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. This is after hours and when we come back, we're going to have big Roy and Michelle and anybody else we can find. To do some news.