

Australian military hit by film sex scandal

A female Australian army cadet has claimed that she was filmed without her knowledge while having sex with a young army recruit, who broadcast the footage live over the internet to his friends.



Just 15 per cent of women would get themselves into this position after a first date Photo: GETTY IMAGES



By [Bonnie Malkin](#) 12:02PM BST 06 Apr 2011

The 18-year-old woman, identified only by the first name “Kate”, said that the sex was consensual but she was unaware that her partner had set up webcams that allowed six of his friends to watch the feed via Skype from a nearby room.

In what has been described as “the greatest breach of trust” by the defence minister, stills photos were also taken of the video and circulated at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra, the country’s elite college for military recruits.

The scandal is the latest example of serious misconduct to surface in the Australian military recently. Earlier this month, the head of the Navy was forced to threaten the entire service with compulsory breath tests and curfews after a report found that alcohol abuse and a “predatory sexual culture” was rife among mariners.

In recent months, members of the armed forces have also been accused of drug smuggling and racism.

The latest incident came to light when the woman went to the media with her story. “Kate” told the Channel Ten television network that she only became aware of the existence of the video when she was contacted by defence investigators, who were alerted by another cadet.

She said that when she was told that she was filmed having sex it felt like her world had come “crashing down”.

“They had to read the statements that the boys had to make and I actually threw up,” she said.

“I had to be asked to be excused from the interview because it made me physically ill.”

She said that since making the incident public she had been shunned by her fellow cadets and vilified but wanted to continue with her military career.

The Australian Federal Police are investigating the incident and Stephen Smith, the defence minister, has admitted it will affect the reputation of Australia’s Armed Forces. Mr Smith said the men involved in the incident will be sacked from the Academy and the Defence Force if the allegations are proven.

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