

Post 172066

Pentagon Denies Spy Cameras Used

The Defense Department denied yesterday that it uses cameras to spy on employees in Pentagon rest rooms.

The terse, one-paragraph formal statement apparently contradicts the comment of a high-level official of the Office of Naval Intelligence, who acknowledged last week that his agency uses photographs to investigate homosexual cases.

But, the official said, ONI does not take the photographs. He said he does not know who does.

The issue arose Friday with the handing down of a U.S. Court of Claims decision upholding the claim for back pay of a former Marine Sergeant who received an undesirable discharge in 1958.

The ex-Marine confessed to committing homosexual acts in a Pentagon washroom after two Naval investigators showed him photographs they said were taken by a hidden detective.

The Court of Claims assailed the Navy for using

questionable investigative tactics.

In its statement yesterday, a man said:

"The Department of Defense does not permit, sanction or condone the use the surveil-

lance of individuals in Pentagon rest rooms."

The Court decision struck down the undesirable discharge and allows the ex-Marine, who served for 17 years, to receive retirement benefits.