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Yes: Gays Should Be Permitted to Serve Openly in the US Military
Gays in the Military Should Not Have to Live in Fear
Michelle Benecke
Under current military policy, gay military members live in fear of being found out and kicked out of the military. Allowing gays to serve openly would allow service members to serve with integrity, defend themselves from harassment, and enjoy close relationships with family and friends.

The Ban on Gays Serving Openly in the Military Is Costly for Taxpayers
United Press International
A study found that there are approximately sixty-six thousand gay men and lesbians in the US military and that the “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy has cost taxpayers between about $290 million and $500 million since it was introduced in 1994. Ending this policy would attract nearly fifty thousand new service members and save taxpayers millions.

Sexual Orientation Is Irrelevant to Job Effectiveness
American Psychoanalytic Association
Empirical evidence as well as experiences of foreign militaries shows no disruption of effectiveness when gays and bisexuals are allowed to serve openly. The US military is capable of integrating openly gay soldiers into its ranks.
“Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” Does Not Work
Roger McShane
Supporters of the “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy, such as commentator William Kristol, present no evidence that allowing gays to serve openly will harm military morale; instead, they rest their arguments on the fact that some soldiers are homophobic. The current policy works well only for heterosexuals, not for gays.

No: Gays Should Not Be Permitted to
Serve Openly in the US Military
Gay Rights Should Not Take Precedence
over Service Members’ Privacy
Paul Benedict
Gay rights should not be more important than protecting the privacy of service members and should not be injected into the military. Gays should not become a protected class in the military.

Open Service for Gays Promotes
Gay Rights, Not Military Strength
Bill Murchison
The whole idea of allowing gays to serve openly in the military is not about improving the military but instead about fulfilling political promises made to the gay rights movement. It could lead to disruption in the ranks or even to some service members quitting the military.

Repealing “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”
Will Disregard Some Military Members’
Religious Beliefs
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission
Conservative leaders hope that President Barack Obama will not repeal “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell.” Repeal will marginalize religious beliefs of military personnel and create a conflict for military chaplains, because some religious teachings hold that homosexual behavior is immoral.

Now Is Not the Time to End
“Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”
William Kristol
While in the middle of two wars, President Barack Obama wants to require the military to carry out gay rights—a major sociological change that is contrary to the preferences of many military members. Now is not the time to abandon the “Don't Ask Don’t Tell” policy.

Chapter 2: Will Repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” Harm the US Military?

Chapter Preface

Yes: Repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” Will Harm the US Military

The Presence of Openly Gay Men in the Military Will Disrupt Unit Cohesion and Morale

Brian Jones

Unlike civilian workers, soldiers in the military share close, intimate living conditions, where any attraction to teammates would be known and would disrupt unit cohesion and morale. US soldiers are already over-tasked, and a minority—gay service members—should not be demanding priority for their concerns.

Combat Troops Will Be Weakened by the Repeal of “Don't Ask Don't Tell”

Elaine Donnelly

Congress's repeal of the “Don't Ask Don’t Tell” policy will weaken the military, especially combat troops, many of whom said in a survey that they would leave the military earlier than planned if the policy was repealed. These losses could break the all-volunteer force.

A Gay Agenda for the US Military Does Not Advance the Armed Forces’ Mission

Tony Perkins

Allowing gays to serve openly in the military advances the gay agenda and will harm military recruiting, readiness, and retention. Homosexuality is not compatible with the mission of the US military, which is to defend and protect the nation as a whole.
No: Repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” Will Not Harm the US Military

Research Shows That Openly Gay Service Does Not Reduce Military Cohesion 71

*Nathaniel Frank*

Over a half century of research and evidence on openly gay military service—including studies by the US military, independent research, and experiences of foreign militaries—has consistently concluded that gays serving openly does not impair military cohesion and effectiveness.

The Pentagon Concludes That 80
Repealing DADT Poses a Low Risk to Military Effectiveness

*Carter F. Ham and Jeh Charles Johnson*

A nine-month study of the effects of a repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” on military effectiveness concludes that while there may be a limited amount of short-term disruption to unit cohesion and retention of service members, the overall risk to military effectiveness is low.

Foreign Militaries Report No Harm to Unit Cohesion or Morale When Gays Serve Openly 91

*Steve Chapman*

Supporters of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” claim repeal of the policy will wreak havoc on unit morale and cohesion; however, the experience of a dozen foreign countries, and the US experience during the Persian Gulf War, indicate that the military will easily adapt to accepting gays.

Gays Are Already Serving Honorably in the US Military Without Causing Harm 94

*Alan M. Steinman*

Gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals are already serving honorably and without problems in the US military. At a time when the military is struggling to find capable soldiers, it should not continue the “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy.
Chapter 3: Do Members of the Military Support Ending “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”?

Overview: What Service Members Think

About Ending “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”

The Week

A Pentagon report on “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” found that seven out of ten service members think lifting the ban on gays would be positive or have mixed or no consequences; however, the Marines and heads of the armed forces are against it.

Yes: Members of the Military Support Ending “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”

Most Troops Are Amenable to Repealing “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”

Michael Sheridan and Richard Sisk

Defense secretary Robert Gates and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mike Mullen urged Congress to repeal “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” on the basis of a favorable Pentagon study that surveyed active-duty troops.

The Defense Secretary and Joint Chiefs Chairman Support Repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”

Kerry Eleveld

Secretary of defense Robert Gates, chairman of the Joint Chiefs Admiral Mike Mullen, and the cochairs of the Pentagon’s working group study of the effects of repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” testified before a Senate committee that the policy should be repealed.

Veterans and Military Families Support Ending “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”

Todd Stenhouse

Repeal of the “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy is broadly supported both inside and outside the military. More than ten thousand veterans and military families signed a petition urging Congress to repeal the policy.
No: Members of the Military Do Not Support Ending “Don't Ask Don't Tell”

A Majority of Service Members Are Against a Gay Agenda in the Military

Elaine Donnelly

A 2008 poll by the Military Times of active-duty subscribers found that 58 percent oppose repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell.” If this poll reflects the number who would leave the military if the policy is repealed, the losses in active-duty forces could be enormous.

US Marines Overwhelmingly Oppose the Repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”

Mark Walker

According to a poll conducted by the Pentagon, 67 percent of US Marines in combat positions think repeal of “Don't Ask Don’t Tell” would harm military effectiveness—more than any other branch of the armed forces.

The Chiefs of the Armed Forces Oppose Repealing “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”

John McCormack

The heads of the US Army, Marines, Air Force, and Navy oppose repeal of “Don't Ask Don’t Tell” and emphasize the need to carefully study possible impacts on military readiness and cohesion before proceeding.

Chapter 4: What Will Be the Impact of Gays Serving Openly in the US Military?

Chapter Preface

Gays in the Military Must Remain Closeted Until Repeal Takes Effect

David Wood

Even though the “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy has been repealed by Congress, the policy remains in effect for a temporary period until a methodical plan to implement the change is rolled out.

The Logistics of Integrating Openly Gay Service Members Will Not Be Easy

Rod Powers
Homosexuals have long served in the military covertly, but repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” could cause major problems if openly gay service members are housed in barracks with heterosexuals.

**Gay Military Members Would Still Be Dismissed for Sexual Misconduct**

*Bill Keith*

The military emphasizes conformity in order to accomplish its mission, with repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell,” new conduct policies will need to redefine sexual misconduct to account for openly gay service members.

**Gay Service Members’ Rights Are Not Yet Equal**

*Ed O’Keefe*

“Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” has been repealed, but gay rights advocates say more must be done to give gay troops the same rights and protections as straight troops, such as extending housing and health care benefits to their partners.

**Partners of Gay Service Members Will Not Receive Spouse Benefits**

*Bryant Jordan*

Even after repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” is implemented, the Federal Defense of Marriage Act, a law defining marriage as a heterosexual union, would prevent the US military from extending spousal benefits to partners of gay service members.

**The Repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” May Aid Other Gay Rights Efforts**

*Ben Adler*

The repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” helped to expand gay rights, but many other barriers remain for gays in America. Advocates hope the repeal will help to push debates on other issues, such as marriage and employment discrimination, in the right direction.

**Organizations to Contact**

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