



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

SEP 20 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

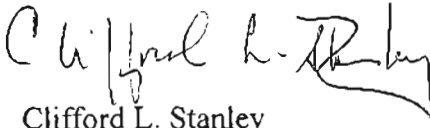
The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that the law commonly known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT), 10 U.S.C. Sec 654, is repealed and no longer in effect in the Department of Defense.

This repeal today follows the certification to Congress by the President, Secretary of Defense, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on July 22, 2011 that the Armed Forces were prepared to implement repeal in a manner consistent with the standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruiting and retention.

Effective today, statements about sexual orientation or lawful acts of homosexual conduct will not be considered as a bar to military service or admission to Service academies, ROTC or any other accession program. It remains the policy of the Department of Defense that sexual orientation is a personal and private matter. Applicants for enlistment or appointment may not be asked, or required to reveal, their sexual orientation. Sexual orientation may not be a factor in accession, promotion, separation, or other personnel decision-making.

All Service members are to treat one another with dignity and respect regardless of sexual orientation. Harassment or abuse based on sexual orientation is unacceptable and will be dealt with through command or inspector general channels. The Department of Defense is committed to promoting an environment free from personal, social, or institutional barriers that prevent Service members from rising to the highest level of responsibility possible regardless of sexual orientation. Gay and lesbian Service members, like all Service members, shall be evaluated only on individual merit, fitness, and capability.

Effective today, the Department of Defense and Services will implement their respective pre-approved policy and regulatory revisions effected by repeal. Additional policy guidance can be found in the attached memorandum dated January 28, 2011, "Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell and Future Impact on Policy," and the September 20, 2011, "Repeal Implementation Quick Reference Guide."

  
Clifford L. Stanley

Attachments:  
As stated

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