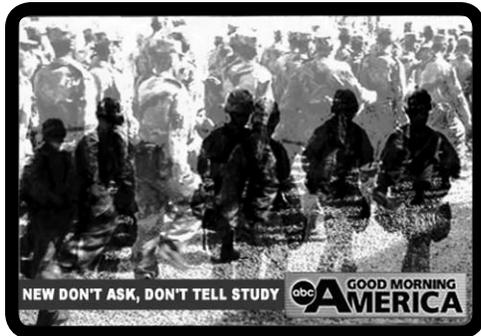


CSSMM CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SEXUAL MINORITIES IN THE MILITARY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

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REPORT ESTIMATES FINANCIAL COST OF "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL"

A Blue Ribbon Commission released a report on February 14 that estimates the financial cost of "don't ask, don't tell" during the first decade of the policy, 1994-2003. According to the Commission, which includes former Secretary of Defense **William J. Perry**, the cost of implementing the policy was \$363.8 million. The Commission also includes two professors at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, two professors at the Naval Postgraduate School, and other distinguished military experts. It is chaired by CSSMM Director Aaron Belkin.

In 2005, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report that found that the cost of discharging and replacing service members fired under "don't ask, don't tell" from 1994 to 2003 totaled \$190.5 million. However, the Blue Ribbon Commission discovered errors in the GAO's methodology and use of data which led to both under- and overestimations of the actual costs. Correcting these errors led the Commission to conclude that the policy cost at least \$363.8 million, or 91 percent more than GAO originally reported.

The report's release attracted widespread media attention including stories in the Washington Post, New York Times, Reuters, United Press International, Associated Press, and local newspapers throughout the United States, and broadcasts on ABC Good Morning America, ABC World News Tonight, National Public Radio, CNN, and twenty eight local ABC, CBS and FOX affiliates throughout the nation.

CSSMM RELEASES DATA ON DISCHARGED MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

According to figures released last month by CSSMM, the Pentagon fired 244 surgeons, nurses, dentists, ophthalmologists and other medical specialists during the first ten years of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. The center provided the data to the Associated Press, which distributed the story nationally to newspapers and television and radio stations throughout the United States.

According to a Senate report issued in 2003 by Senators Christopher Bond and Patrick Leahy, injured Guard and Army Reserve soldiers "have been receiving inadequate medical attention" because of a lack of preparedness

that includes "an insufficient number of medical clinicians and specialists, which has caused excessive delays in the delivery of care."

In recent testimony before Congress, Joseph G. Webb, Jr., the Deputy Surgeon General of the Army, told lawmakers that the Army and the Air Force are straining to recruit enough physicians, nurses, dentists and other medical specialists to treat service members who are wounded in combat and to provide adequate ongoing care when they return home.

NEW MILITARY TEXT INCLUDES CHAPTER ON GAYS

A four-volume series on the cultural and psychological dimensions of American military life includes, for the first time, a chapter on the open service of gay troops. The chapter, "Sexual Orientation and Military Service: Prospects for Organizational and Individual Change in the United States," was written by **Dr. Gregory M. Herek**, a professor of psychology at the University of California, Davis, and CSSMM director Dr. Aaron Belkin.

The chapter appears in *Military Life: The Psychology of Serving in Peace and Combat*, edited by Lt. Col. Carl Castro, Dr. Amy B. Adler of the US Army Medical Research Unit, and Dr. Thomas W. Britt, formerly of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. The new compilation, which was formerly titled Handbook of Military Psychology, published in 1991, addresses the emotional impact of combat, methods of coping with war, the role of spirituality in military life, issues affecting family life, and cultural diversity within the armed forces.

The chapter on gay service examines what steps the military would need to take to smoothly integrate gay and lesbian troops after the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell." This focus is unusual since debate on the topic more commonly centers on whether known gays should be allowed to serve rather than on how to implement a change in policy.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

CSSMM is proud to announce that the following scholars have been awarded fellowships for their work: **Shawn Trivette**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, whose research explores the experiences of gay men serving under "don't ask, don't tell" and their motivation for joining the military; **Jason Gatliff**, Bowling Green State University, who is examining the tensions between "don't ask, don't tell" and the values that the U.S. Army promotes; **Patricia Owens**, University of Oxford, who is researching the diverse practices of attitudes towards gays and lesbians in the War on Terror; **Daniel Conway**, University of the West of England, who is including a unit on issues of sexuality and the military in an undergraduate course on "The Social Construction of Sexuality"; **Melissa St. Pierre**, University of New Brunswick, who conducted research on homosexual identity in the Canadian Forces; and **Anthony C. Infanti**, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, whose research considers the legal background of "don't ask, don't tell".

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

CSSMM is extremely thankful for the generous support that a number of organizations and individuals have provided, including the **R. Gwin Follis Foundation** for its grant of \$40,000; the **Gill Foundation** for its grants of \$34,750, the **H. Van Ameringen Foundation** for its gift of \$15,000; an **anonymous donor** for his gift of \$10,000; the **IanThom Foundation** in memory of **Thomas G. (Major) Martin** for its donation of \$500; **Jeffrey Lewy** for his gift of \$500; and **Zahavah Levine** for her gift of \$500.

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