



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



September 20, 2011

Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repealed

"I have been impressed with our training, detailed preparation, demonstrated professionalism, and decency of the force as we prepared for repeal. You have supported the process admirably and treated all your shipmates with dignity and respect. Thank you for how you have conducted this transition. I know your superb professionalism will continue in the post repeal environment as our Navy continues to be a positive, inclusive environment for all."

– Admiral Gary Roughead, chief of naval operations

In December 2010, President Barack Obama signed legislation setting the conditions for repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." In July, the president, secretary of defense and chairman of the joint chiefs of staff certified to Congress that the military branches had trained the majority of their forces and were ready for today's repeal.

What Has Changed?

- In accordance with NAVADMIN 271/11 repeal is now complete; statements about sexual orientation or lawful acts of homosexual conduct will not be considered as a bar to service or admission to service academies, ROTC or any other accession program.
- Accordingly, Sailors who were discharged solely under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" may apply to re-enter the Navy and can expect to be evaluated according to the same criteria and service requirements applicable to all prior-service members seeking reentry.

What Will Remain the Same?

- Sexual orientation will continue to be a personal and private matter. Current and future Sailors will neither be asked, nor be required to reveal, their sexual orientation.
- Standards of conduct remain unchanged. Existing Navy standards of conduct will continue to apply to all Sailors regardless of sexual orientation. Enforcement of standards, including those related to public displays of affection, dress and appearance, and fraternization will be sexual orientation neutral. All members are responsible for upholding and maintaining the high standards of the U.S. Navy at all times and in all places.
- The diversity of the force will remain a strength. Navy's success is enabled by the diversity of our Sailors, representing many different racial, religious, ethnic and economic backgrounds, and by the expectation that all Sailors will be treated with dignity and respect.
- There are neither changes to policies regarding Sailors' exercise of religious beliefs, nor are there any changes to policies concerning the chaplain corps and their duty to care for all service members. Sailors will continue to treat each other with dignity and respect.
- All Sailors, regardless of sexual orientation, are entitled to an environment free from personal, social, or institutional barriers that prevent service members from rising to the highest level of responsibility possible.

Key Messages

- 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.
- Sexual orientation will continue to be a personal and private matter. Sailors will neither be asked, nor be required to reveal, their sexual orientation.
- Existing Navy standards of conduct will continue to apply to all Sailors regardless of sexual orientation.
- Sailors will continue to treat one another with dignity and respect in accordance with the Navy's core values.

Facts & Figures

- "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" began on Dec. 21, 1993, following a presidential directive.
- Over four months, Navy provided tiered training to more than 400,000 active, Reserve, and civilian personnel representing 99% of the fleet.
- The president, secretary of defense and chairman of the joint chiefs certified the military was prepared for repeal on July 22, 2011, starting a congressionally mandated 60 day period before final repeal.