

1992

October 27, 1992

Petty Officer Allen R. Schindler is brutally murdered in Japan by shipmates in an anti-gay hate crime.

May 29, 1992

Candidate Bill Clinton proposes allowing lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans to serve openly in the military.

1993

March – July 1993

House and Senate Armed Services Committees hold hearings on changing regulations to allow gays to serve in the military. Hearing testimony is heavily weighted towards opponents of gays serving.

July 1993

Rand Corporation issues independent report finding no justification for continuing the ban on military service by lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans. The report is disregarded by military and congressional leaders, and plays little role in Congressional hearings.

November 30, 1993

President Bill Clinton signs new gay ban, “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” into law.

1994

May 17, 1994

Deputy Secretary of Defense John Deutch issues a memorandum limiting recoupment of educational benefits and bonuses from service members discharged for being gay. In 2002, a federal district court severely limits the Deutch memo, in [Hensala v. US Air Force](#), opening gay service members to significant financial liability for revealing their sexual orientation.

June 1994

Navy Manpower Analysis Center issues a memorandum suggesting that public displays of support for gay activities by Navy members may be “inconsistent with good military character” contrary to “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” This memo is issued in response to the discovery that an active duty sailor is a member of a gay choir.

June 1994

Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer wins in federal court and is reinstated to the Washington State National Guard as an openly lesbian officer. In the years following, despite the prohibition of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” many other openly gay military members serve with the complete support of their commands and coworkers.

November 3, 1994

Richard A. Peterson, Deputy Chief, General Law Division, Office of the JAG, USAF, issues a memorandum instructing investigators to question parents, siblings, school counselors, roommates, and close friends of suspected gay service members. The memo also tacitly promotes witch-hunts in that it states commands may take action against service members discovered to be gay during the course of an investigation into another service member.

R I C A L T I M E L I N E O F " D O N ' T A S K , D O

1995

August 1995

In response to Lieutenant Zoe Dunning's successful defense before a discharge board that her statement of sexual orientation did not prove her intent to engage in homosexual conduct, the DoD General Counsel issues a memorandum forbidding discharge boards from considering similar arguments and requiring service members who make statements to prove they do not have the propensity to engage in homosexual acts. Now Commander Dunning, she continues to serve.

August 4, 1995

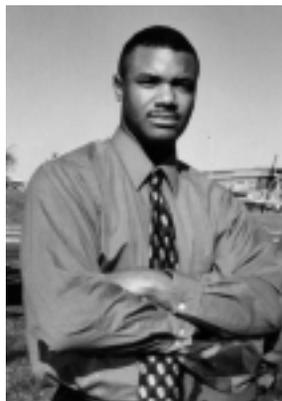
President Clinton issues Executive Order 12968 prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination in issuance of security clearances for both military and civilian personnel.

August 18, 1995

Department of Defense (DoD) General Counsel Judith A. Miller issues a memorandum instructing military officials to question family members of suspected gay service members.

1996

January 25, 1996



Air Force officials at Hickam AFB in Hawaii reduce the sentence of an airman facing rape charges in exchange for his agreement to reveal the names of all military men with whom he had intimate relations. He accuses seventeen service members, including Airman Andre Taylor, in the witch-hunt known as the "Hawaii 17." The following January, the Air Force Inspector General concludes this action did not violate the asking and pursuing prohibitions in "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

July 31, 1996

Congressmen Dornan, Hunter, Chambliss, Stearns, and Crane introduce a bill in Congress seeking to reinstate the pre-"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" DoD regulations allowing the services to ask and pursue suspected gay service members. The bill passes in the house, but fails to win support in the Senate and does not become law.

1997

March 24, 1997



Under Secretary of Defense Edwin Dorn issues first ever guidance on how to respond to complaints of harassment by service members perceived as gay. This guidance importantly clarifies that service members should be able to report such harassment without retaliation or investigation of their sexual orientation.

September 25, 1997



Graffiti aimed at a gay sailor on the *USS Eisenhower*, stating, "You're a dead faggot" remains in magic marker on the sailor's bunk for more than two weeks. Three years later, the *Associated Press* publishes a photograph taken onboard the *USS Eisenhower* during Operation Enduring Freedom of a bomb with "*High Jack This Fags*" painted on the side.

1998

January 26, 1998



US District Court Judge prevents the Navy from discharging Senior Chief Petty Officer Timothy R. McVeigh after the Navy illegally pursued McVeigh's sexual orientation by asking AOL to reveal whether an anonymous online profile containing the word gay was McVeigh's profile.

April 1998

DoD issues its only review of the implementation of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in the services. The report concludes that the law is working well despite increased discharges and reports of harassment. The report recommends that commanders obtain service Secretary approval for substantial investigations, additional guidance be issued to prevent the abuse of pre-trial agreements, and guidelines to protect service members reporting harassment based on their perceived sexual orientation be re-issued.

September 23, 1998

The Second Circuit Court of Appeals upholds the constitutionality of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in *Able v. United States*. This signals the end of multiple challenges to the constitutionality of the law.

1999

January 22, 1999



Acting Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters invites SLDN to Lackland AFB to investigate reasons for soaring gay discharge rates at the base. Discharges fell at Lackland AFB from over 200 before SLDN's visit in FY97 to less than 50 in FY00.

March 1999



Witch-hunt at Defense Language Institute (DLI) results in the discharge of 14 airmen, most of them women. From 2002-2003, DLI discharges 37 linguists, many who spoke Arabic, Farsi, and Korean, for allegedly being gay despite a severe shortage in trained linguists.

July 1999

After complaints by SLDN, the Navy finally removes guidance instructing its health care providers to turn in gays from their online *General Medical Officer Manual*. In 1996, Marine Corporal Kevin Blaesing was discharged after his Naval psychologist turned him in for



merely asking questions about sexual orientation.

July 5, 1999



Soldiers murder Private First Class Barry Winchell of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky in his sleep because they believe he is gay. Following the murder, Fort Campbell's yearly gay discharges rise from 17 to over 200. Reports of harassment in all of the services skyrocket.

August 12, 1999

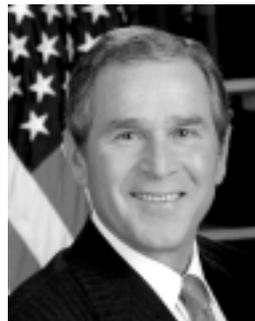
Under Secretary of Defense Rudy de Leon issues memorandum reinforcing the prohibition on anti-gay harassment in the services.

October 6, 1999

President Clinton issues Executive Order 13140 providing sentence enhancement under UCMJ for anti-gay hate crimes, and a limited psychotherapist-patient privilege for gay service members facing criminal charges.

2000

January 2000



Presidential candidate George W. Bush states "I'm a 'don't ask, don't tell' man." In 2000 and in 2004, all Democratic candidates for president support repeal of the military's gay ban.

March 16, 2000

DOD IG Findings



80% have heard derogatory, anti-gay remarks during the past year;
 37% said they witnessed or experienced targeted incidents of anti-gay harassment
 —9% of whom reported anti-gay threats
 —5% of whom reported witnessing or experiencing anti-gay physical assaults.

The majority of respondents reported that leaders took no steps to stop the harassment.

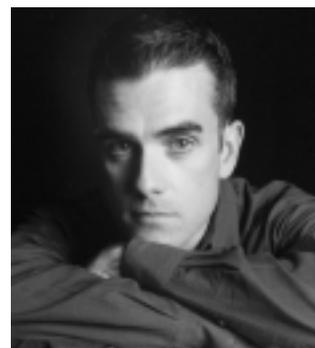
DoD publishes Inspector General report documenting rampant anti-gay harassment throughout the services.

July 21, 2000

DoD Working Group issues 13 point Anti-Harassment Action Plan (AHAP) and instructs services to implement it. Implementation in the services is spotty and DoD leadership refuses SLDN requests to order the services to implement all components of the plan.

2001

January 2001



Army drops discharge proceedings against openly gay, Arizona state legislator and USAR First Lieutenant Steve May. The Army wrongfully initiated discharge proceedings against May in 2000 after learning of remarks he made about his sexual orientation during a debate on domestic partner benefits on the floor of the Arizona state legislature.

October 7, 2001

Operation Enduring Freedom begins. Following the invasion of Afghanistan, gay discharge numbers decrease almost 30%, and the U.S. military fights side by side with coalition forces, including Britain, that allow gay military members to serve openly. On March 20, 2003, Operation Iraqi Freedom begins. Gay discharge numbers decrease almost 40% from the discharge numbers prior to the invasion of Afghanistan. In Iraq, the U.S. military continues to fight side by side with coalition forces that allow gay military members to serve openly.

January 9, 2002

Army JAG School conducts demeaning training on the Army "Homosexual Conduct Policy" for approximately 85 Reserve and National Guard attorneys. The Power Point training uses a clip from the movie "Stripes" referring to gay Americans as "queers," an image of the television "Tele-Tubby" character "Tinky-Winky," and other video clips containing the word "faggot," to make fun of gay service members.

April 4, 2002



Marine Corp memorandum from 29 Palms asserts, "Homosexuals can and do serve Honorably in the Marine Corps. Homosexuals can and do make some of the best Marines."

July 2002

Air Force is discovered using forms that specifically ask recruits, "Are you homosexual or bisexual?" and "Do you intend to engage in homosexual acts?," despite a 1997 order from Secretary of Defense William Cohen to all of the services to update recruiting forms.

June 26, 2003



U.S. Supreme Court issues ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas* that the right to engage in private, adult, consensual sodomy is protected by the U.S. Constitution. SLDN challenges the military's criminal prohibition on consensual sodomy shortly thereafter in several cases.

July 7, 2003



Lieutenant Colonel Steve Loomis, a decorated Vietnam combat veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart, files suit challenging the constitutionality of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the federal sodomy statute post-Lawrence. The Army discharged Loomis for being gay in 1997, 8 days before his 20-year retirement date, following an improper investigation of his sexual orientation.

July 9, 2003

Urban Institute estimates there are 1 million lesbian, gay, or bisexual veterans in the United States in a new report.

October 6, 2003

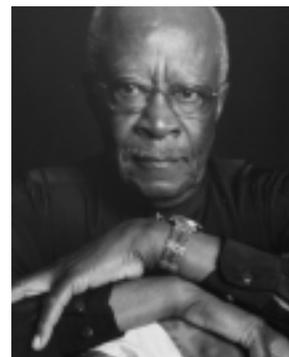
Former President Bill Clinton issues statement calling for an end to the ban for the tenth anniversary of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

December 10, 2003



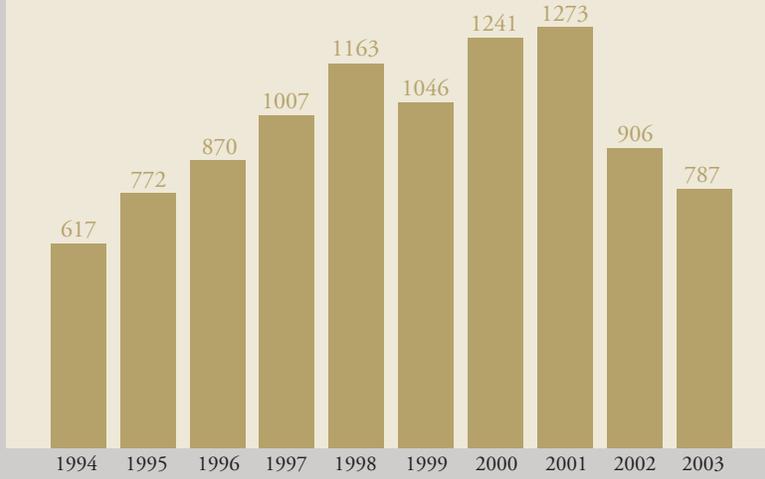
Generals Keith Kerr and Virgil Richard, and Admiral Alan Steinman become first retired flag officers to come out as gay in *New York Times* and condemn "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" as a failed policy.

December 16, 2003

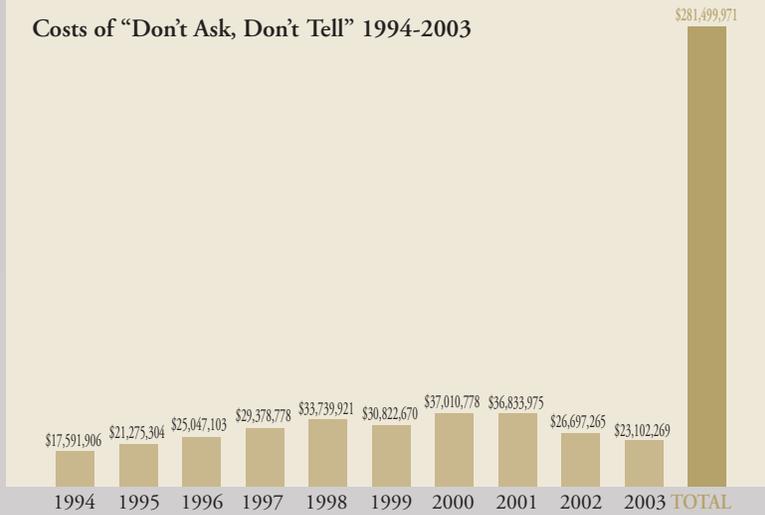


Fifteen senior retired military leaders, including MG Vance Coleman, USA (Ret.), issue a joint statement calling for repeal of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual service members.

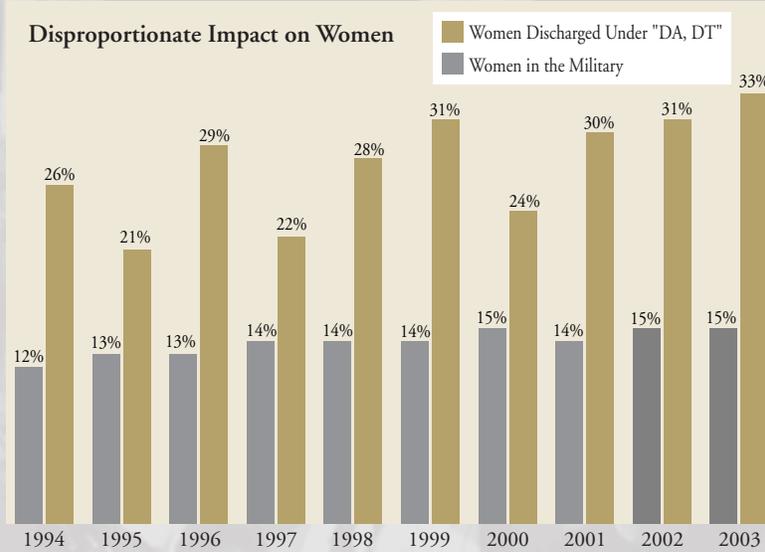
Total "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Discharges 1994-2003



Costs of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" 1994-2003



Disproportionate Impact on Women



Freedom to Serve



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HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF
“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, Don’t Pursue, Don’t Harass”

