

# Equality in Military Service: The “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” Repeal

Chad Cosgrove  
University of Vermont  
PA – 306 Policy Systems, Spring 2014

## **Abstract**

This project resulted from a policy analysis that examined the historical perspective of gays, lesbians and bisexuals serving in the military, and dissects why “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” was enacted in 1993, and finally examines the implications of the policy being repealed in 2011 and what the future looks like for gays, lesbians and bisexuals serving openly in the military. How was it that in a society that was advancing equity on many fronts and a military moving into more progressive standards that a law that discriminated against gays, lesbians and bisexuals openly serving in the military was enacted by the United States government? Why was it that in the two decades that followed while great strides were made in the United States to be more accepting with some states allowing for marriage of same sex couples (or at least equal rights to the heterosexual couples who are married), that the government and military defended an openly discriminatory policy, forcing men and women to serve in silence or be dismissed at great cost to the individuals affected and to the military and government budget?