

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Special Emphasis Program (LGBTEP) Caribbean Area – Quarter #2 - February, 2011



What is the **DADT** Policy?★★

Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) is the terms commonly used for the policy restricting the US Military from effort to discover or reveal the sexuality of *closeted homosexuals* or *bisexual* service members or applicants, while barring those who are openly gay, lesbian or bisexual from military service. It is a 17 years old law.

The restrictions are mandated by federal law - Public Law 103-160 (10 U.S.C § 654). The policy prohibits people "who demonstrate a propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts" from serving in the armed forces of the United States, because their presence "would create an unacceptable risk to the high standards of morale, good order and discipline, and unit cohesion that are the essence of military capability".

★★ Information obtained from Wikipedia

Definitions (Obtained from Urban Dictionary):

Closeted Homosexuals-A repressed **homosexual** or bisexual who may or may not 'come out of the closet' and disclose their sexuality.

Bisexuals - Someone who is sexually attracted to males

President Obama **Repeal the DADT** Policy★★★

On December 22, 2010, President Barack Obama brought the long political struggle over the military's controversial "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Policy, signing the legislation that will bring an end of the band on openly gay men and women serving in the armed forces.

The repeal "will strengthen our national security and uphold (America's) ideals", Obama said. "No longer will tens of thousands of Americans in uniform be asked to live a lie."

"I believe this is the right thing to do for our military," he added. "It's the right thing to do, period. This is the moment, more than two centuries in the making," the President said. "Over the course of US history, gay Americans fought just as hard (and) gave just as much to protect the country as anyone else. We are a Nation that believes all men and women are created equal."

The change won't be immediate, however. The White House has noted that the repeal may take several months to implement.

★★★ Information obtained from **CNN**

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Special Emphasis Program (LGBTEP) Caribbean Area – Quarter #1 - December, 2010

Do you know ...

Some Definition of Terms ...

Gender - Traditionally defined as a person's biological sex: traditionally male, female and intersexed. Gender is more appropriately viewed as a social construct in relation to Gender Identity. A person may self identify as purely male, purely female, or as possessing characteristics of both.

Gender Identity - How an individual view himself or herself in terms of characteristics traditionally identified in this culture as male or female. Its refers to a person's actual or perceived sex, and includes a person's identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's sex at birth.

Gay - A common and acceptable word for male homosexuals, but used for both genders.

Homosexual - A person who feels physically and emotionally attracted to people of the same gender.

Bisexuals - Someone who is sexually attracted to males and females.

Lesbian - A common and acceptable word for female homosexuals only.

Transsexuals - A person whose gender identity is opposite their assigned sex. Transsexuals may live as "the opposite" sex, undergo hormone therapy, and/or have sex reassignment surgery to match their bodies with their gender identity.

Transgender - An umbrella term for people who transgress society's view of gender as necessarily fixed, unmoving, and following from one's biological sex. The sexual orientation of transgender persons varies just as it varies among the remainder of the human population.

Do You Know the Meaning of the ... Rainbow Flag



The Rainbow freedoms flag was designed in 1978 by Gilbert Baker to designate the great diversity of the LGBT communities. It has been recognized by the International Flag Makers Association as the official Flag for the LGBT Civil Right Movement.

Pink Triangle



Symbol used to identify gay men in the Nazi's concentration camps. They were force to wear the pink triangle as a designation of being homosexual. Women who did not conform to social roles, often believed to be lesbians, had to wear black triangle.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Emphasis Program in NRCS

The LGBT Program Manager is responsible for providing awareness and education to NRCS employees and partners while focusing on such issues as employment, retention, promotion, training, career development and advancement opportunities affecting LGBT applicants and employees at NRCS.

The LGBTEP is an integral part of the overall equal opportunity program (EEO) and is designed to:

- Ensure that lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people receive equal treatment in all aspects of employment;
- Increase the number of LGBT people employed in all professional, administrative, technical, and other categories, series and grade levels within NRCS;
- Provide opportunities to participate in trainings, career development and leadership programs;
- Encourage the participation of LGBT populations in all NRCS- sponsored programs and activities;
- Provide mentoring support to LGBT in the workforce;
- Educate all NRCS employees by raising the level of awareness of LGBT workplace issues and concerns.

