

The "Don't Ask Don't Tell Policy Does Not Fit In America's Army.

Ethics

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The “Don’t ask Don’t tell” policy does not fit in America’s Army.

This paper will serve as proof of this by first highlighting the positives as the opposing view first and then the supporting negative view afterwards. To ensure a clear understanding of all the facts, examples will often be used to better illustrate the point to be made. The first positive is the policy has been in affect for more than a decade and seems to be working in creating a harmonious end to what was a very volatile problem.

The reason that the Don’t ask Don’t tell policy was implemented was an attempt to increase the pool of recruit-able civilians from the outside and to allow the homosexual Soldiers already in the Army to stay in. The policy does meet these objectives given some very strict guidelines are maintained by everyone in the Army . No doubt about it, this is a positive and probably is the number one and most important goal achieved by the policy.

The second positive that this policy created for the Army is it supports the liberal view of gay rights that seemed to have swept the Nation. Gay, seems to be the in thing to be in 21st century America. As a matter of fact, in the past two Presidential Election, the issue of gay rights was one of the top items that the candidates used to attract favor and support from the American public. So, this is an issue that the American public deems important, then so must America’s Army. The upper echelon of the Army was forced to make a decision and they did. The decision that they made was in line with what is going on in society outside the Army which made it more popular and easier for everyone to except. Also if in the civilian sector you told a person that he or she would be discriminated against for a available job or position due to their sexual orientation, then it is very likely that you would have to defend this decision in court.

Now-a-days our society will not accept the strict rule and regulations that existed in years past. In today's society, people apply the common sense test and if whatever it is doesn't pass, then they don't except it. Why would a person's sexual orientation ever be something that an employer would care about? That is the question that must be asked, followed closely by "Why".

The next point that needs to be made and is a definite positive with the "Don't ask Don't tell" is simply, the Army is taking the lead. The problems that is face with having gays in the Army are the same problems that are going to be faced in large civilian corporations. The lessons that we learn and the answers that we come up with will be passed along and will strengthen our overall society. The United States as a whole will gain from the experience of the Army as it has done so many times before.

The next point to be made will have both a positive and a negative on the same topic. "Don't ask Don't tell" supports the freedom that this great Nation stand for. Remember that our Constitutions promotes and protects the rights of all men of the United States and sexual orientation is a right, though it is not directly address. The Army is here to support and defend those freedoms and rights, not to take them away. So the "Don't ask Don't tell" policy sends a positive message to the American public that those freedoms will not parish, especially not at the hand of America's Army.

Now, the negatives that come from having this policy in the Army. It is also a right that we all have, to work in an environment free of hostilities. If you are a Christian (and a good number of our Soldiers are) who believe and follows the teaching of the Holy Bible, you will have conflict with the gay life style. This policy would conflict with you core values and can never be truly excepted. The person that you work

with daily and may have to depend on to save your life is someone that you have a moral indifference. This weakens the very important bond of the unit and subsequently the Army. Along with that fact, the gay person must hide the fact that they are gay which makes seem that they are doing something wrong. A Stronger stand needs to be made to negate this and more detail will be provided to support this fact momentarily.

Another very strong negative that comes from the “Don’t ask Don’t tell” policy is that it contradicts with the teaching of the Army Values. The Army Values are taught to every Soldier when they enter basic training and are reinforced throughout a Soldiers career. These values are suppose to become the core of our morals. In excepting these values as our own we must believe that they support what is right. If that is the case then where exactly does hiding something that you are not suppose to do fit in? Is doing wrong, only wrong if you are caught or if there is a negative consequence because of it? If that is not the case then the Army needs to think about changing the policy or change the Army Values. The Army Values are easy to except for most Soldiers because they support doing the right thing all the time no matter what. That in itself sends a positive message about our Army.

The last negative to be highlighted about this policy is, in the past there have been numerous documented cases and accounts of other policies and regulation violations that could not be reported by Soldiers because of the attempt to maintain the secrecy of sexual orientation. That means that our Soldiers are forced to endure all type of unwelcome and unlawful humiliations and even criminal acts to maintain their duty status. We owe the person that is willing to put his life on the line for his country more than that, no matter what there sexual orientation may be.

The Army needs to make a hard decision to do either one of two things. Either make the sexual orientation a non-issue or go back to where we were before and totally band gays from the Army. America is ready to except gays as a normal part of our society and the Army just needs to make the first move in that direction. But, getting away from this policy that conflicts with our Army Values is a must. As it stands right now, the “ Don’t ask Don’t tell” policy is not acceptable. Making the sexual orientation a Soldier a non-issue will send a positive message and will absolve the need for this ridicules and lacking policy.