July Convening Factsheet: LGBTQIA+ Community in the Military

**Definition**

LGBTQIA+ stands for “lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual and many other terms (such as non-binary and pansexual)”. 1

**History of the LGBTQIA+ Community in the U.S. Military**

- Prior to the signing of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” by President Clinton in 1993, LGBT individuals were prohibited from serving in the U.S. Military in any capacity. 3
- The enactment of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, allowed for those to serve in the military, however they could not disclose information regarding their sexual orientation. 3
- In 2011, President Obama signed the repealing of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”, ending the nearly two decade long policy. 3
- In June 2016, the U.S. D.O.D lifted the ban on transgender individuals to serve in the military. 3

**Did You Know?**

- Prior the enactment of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”, the U.S. General Accounting Office reported the banning of gays and lesbians in the military cost the federal government an estimated $27 million annually. 2
- The U.S. Navy has the highest concentration of LGBT service members at 9.1%. 3
- During their lifetime, 39.9% of LGBT service members have experienced unwanted sexual contact, and 21.4% have experienced physical abuse. 3
- Among LGBT service members, 13.2% had symptoms indicative of moderate depression and an additional 13.7% had symptoms of severe depression. 3

**Resources/Services available in San Diego**

- San Diego LGBT Community Center [https://thecentersd.org/]
- Trans Family Support Services [https://www.transfamilysos.org/local-san-diego/]
- Our Safe Place [https://sdyouthservices.org/what_we_do/services/mental-health-services/our-safe-place/]
- PFLAG [https://pflag.org/]
- Transforming Family [https://www.transformingfamily.org/]

![Self-reported disclosure or nondisclosure by gays in the military](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1695.html)