



## 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)". <sup>1</sup>

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

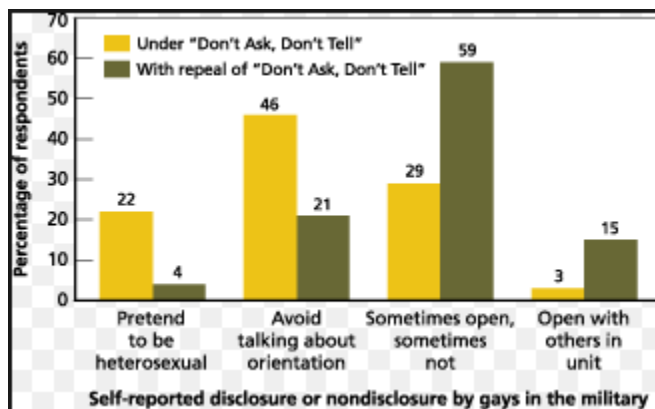
- Prior to the signing of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" by President Clinton in 1993, LGBT individuals were prohibited from serving in the U.S. Military in any capacity. <sup>3</sup>
- The enactment of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, allowed for those to serve in the military, however they could not disclose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

### 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. <sup>2</sup>
- The U.S. Navy has the highest concentration of LGBT service members at **9.1%**. <sup>3</sup>
- During their lifetime, **39.9%** of LGBT service members have experienced unwanted sexual contact, and **21.4%** have experienced physical abuse. <sup>3</sup>
- Among LGBT service members, **13.2%** had symptoms indicative of moderate depression and an additional **13.7%** had symptoms of severe depression. <sup>3</sup>

### 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/](https://sdyouthservices.org/what_we_do/services/mental-health-services/our-safe-place/))
- PFLAG (<https://pflag.org/>)
- Transforming Family (<https://www.transformingfamily.org/>)



Retrieved from RAND.org

<sup>1</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT>

<sup>2</sup> <https://wjla.com/news/nation-world/timeline-a-history-of-lgbtq-hurdles-in-military-service>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RR1695.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1695.html)

