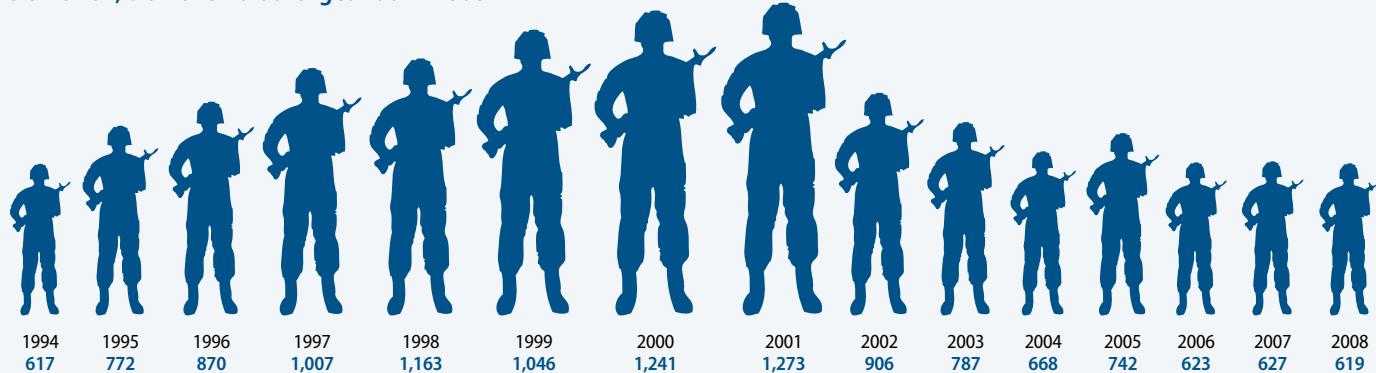


DADT by the numbers

- More than 13,000 gay and lesbian service men and women have been discharged from military service since 1993.
- More than 32,500 gay and lesbian service men and women have been discharged from military service since 1980.
- A recent survey of 545 service members who served in Afghanistan and Iraq found that 73 percent are comfortable in the presence of gay men and lesbians. Of the approximately 20 percent who said that they were uncomfortable, only 5 percent are “very uncomfortable,” while 15 percent are “somewhat uncomfortable.”¹⁹

Don't Ask, Don't Tell discharges 1994–2008¹⁶



- This policy may have cost the U.S. government up to \$1.3 billion since 1980.
- “No reputable or peer-reviewed study has ever shown that allowing service by openly gay personnel will compromise military effectiveness.”¹⁷
- The GAO found in 2005 that discharging and replacing each service member cost the federal government approximately \$10,000.
- Researchers at the University of California, Santa Barbara found that the GAO’s methodology did not include several important factors and that the actual number was closer to \$37,000 per service member.
- Twenty-four countries allow gay men and lesbians to serve openly in the military. None of these have reported “any detriment to cohesion, readiness, recruiting, morale, retention or any other measure of effectiveness or quality,” according to the Palm Center, and “in the more than three decades since an overseas force first allowed gay men and lesbians to serve openly, no study has ever documented any detriment to cohesion, readiness, recruiting, morale, retention or any other measure of effectiveness or quality in foreign armed services.”²⁰
- Even the British, whose military structure and deployment patterns are most similar to ours—and who fiercely resisted allowing gays to serve in the military—were forced to do so by the European Court of Human Rights, and have now seamlessly integrated them.
- During the First Persian Gulf War, enforcement of the ban on gays in the U.S. military was “suspended without problems.” Moreover, “there were no reports of angry departures.”²¹
- The CIA, State Department, FBI, and Secret Service all allow gay men and women to serve openly without any hamper on effectiveness or quality.
- In fact, it was Defense Secretary Robert Gates who, as Director of the CIA, loosened restrictions on the service of gays and lesbians in the spy agency, ending “the practice of asking job applicants in lie-detector tests about their sexual orientation” and halting investigations into employees’ sexuality “as part of the process [of] renewing security clearances.”²²

Percentage of Americans answering that gay people should be allowed to serve in the military¹⁸

