

WHAT UP WITH DADT?: ADDRESSING CONFUSION FROM INSIDE THE MILITARY

Matthew E. Waranius, LT

Since its inception, Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT) has had an amorphous existence and affect on the military. Originally, DADT was perceived as a saving grace by the heavily ostracized gay servicemember community, or at the very least, a savvy compromise. DADT has been manipulated into a tool for heterosexual and homosexual servicemembers to achieve early, voluntary separation with honorable discharge from the military, but has at the same time, been a looming threat to those who truly did not want to tell. Despite receiving unparalleled media coverage, DADT has left civilians and military personnel confused and in a state of limbo. This paper will 1) give a detailed history of DADT, 2) present an idea of what the military appears to believe the

Waranius

implications will be of the DADT repeal once the dust settles, 3) address the remaining inequalities and the unanswered questions left in the wake of the impending repeal.