



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS
WASHINGTON, DC

8 August 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR ALMAJCOM-FOA-DRU/WING CHAPLAINS

FROM: HQ USAF HC
1380 AF Pentagon, Room 4E260
Washington, DC 20330-1380

SUBJECT: Repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT) Policy

The repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy prohibiting homosexuals from serving openly in the armed services goes into effect 20 September 2011. It is important that each member of the Chaplain Corps review the DADT training. While everyone must follow the law, please remember that no Airman, including Chaplain Corps members, will be required to do or say anything that violates his or her religious beliefs. Every American has a right to the free exercise of religion.

In the context of caring for all Airmen, if you as a chaplain cannot "provide" for the spiritual needs of a homosexual member, please be prepared to "provide for" them by referring them to other counseling resources available on base or in the local community. I encourage you to continue the Chaplain Corps tradition of treating every individual with dignity and respect.

With upmost warmth and appreciation, I'm proud to call you my colleagues in chaplain ministry. May God continue to bless you with every good thing.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cecil R. Richardson".

CECIL R. RICHARDSON
Chaplain, Major General, USAF
Chief of Chaplains