

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION REPORT**

**FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF  
“DON’T ASK, DON’T TELL”**

**How much does the gay ban cost?**



**FEBRUARY 2006**

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**A University of California  
Blue Ribbon Commission Report**

Embargoed until Tuesday, February 14, 2006 12:00 NOON



**University of California  
Blue Ribbon Commission  
Members**

Professor Frank J. Barrett  
*Naval Postgraduate School*

Professor Coit D. Blacker  
*Director, Freeman Spogli Institute for  
International Studies, Stanford University*

Professor Donald Campbell  
*U.S. Military Academy at West Point*

Professor Kathleen Campbell  
*U.S. Military Academy at West Point*

Dr. Ralph M. Carney  
*Defense Personnel Security Research Center*

Professor Mark J. Eitelberg  
*Naval Postgraduate School*

Admiral John D. Hutson (Ret.)  
*Former JAG, U.S. Navy, 1997-2000*

Dr. Lawrence J. Korb  
*Former Assistant Secretary of Defense,  
1981-1985*

Honorable William J. Perry  
*Former Secretary of Defense, 1994-1997*

Col. Timothy Ringgold  
*U.S. Army (Ret.)*

Glenn T. Ware, Esq.  
*Military law expert*

Professor Aaron Belkin  
*University of California, Santa Barbara (Chair)*

*\*Col. Ringgold is CEO of Defense Solutions, a consulting  
firm whose clients include University of California.*

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## Executive Summary

In February 2005, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report titled, "Financial Costs And Loss Of Critical Skills Due to DOD's Homosexual Conduct Policy Cannot Be Completely Estimated." GAO found that the costs of discharging and replacing service members fired for homosexuality during the policy's first ten years, from fiscal year 1994 through fiscal year 2003, totaled at least \$190.5 million.

However, oversights in GAO's methodology led to both under- and overestimations of the financial cost of implementing "don't ask, don't tell." By correcting these oversights, and after careful analysis of available data, this Commission finds that the total cost of implementing "don't ask, don't tell" between fiscal year 1994 and fiscal year 2003 was at least \$363.8 million, which is \$173.3 million, or 91 percent, more than originally reported by GAO. Given that we were not able to include several cost categories in our estimate and that we used conservative assumptions to guide our research, our estimate of the cost of implementing "don't ask, don't tell" should be seen as a lower bound estimate.