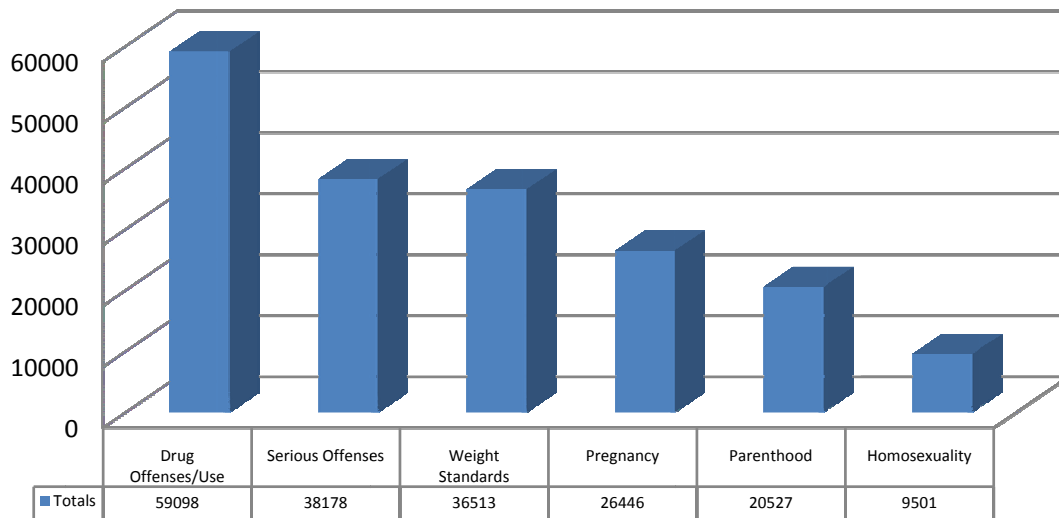


Invalid National Security Arguments for Homosexuals in the Military

Discharges Due to Homosexual Conduct

Advocates of homosexuals in the military frequently contend that the discharges of approximately 10,000 homosexuals since 1994 have done grievous harm to military readiness. The truth is that annual numbers of discharges due to homosexuality, compared to discharges for other reasons, actually are quite small. According to figures provided to the General Accountability Office (GAO) by the Department of Defense, discharges due to homosexuality amounted to only 0.37% of discharges for all reasons (about 5% of unplanned separations) between the years 1994 and 2003. During that ten year period there were 59,098 discharges for “drug offenses/use; 38,178 for “serious offenses; 36,513 for violations of weight standards; 26,446 for pregnancy, 20,527 for parenthood, and 9,501 for homosexuality.



Comparative Numbers of Military Discharges, 1994-2003

Source: Letter from Dr. David Chu, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel & Readiness, February 7, 2005. Published in the GAO Report *Military Personnel Financial Costs and Loss of Critical Skills Due to DoD's Homosexual Conduct Policy Cannot be Completely Estimated*, GAO-05-299, February 2005, pp. 42-43.

The numbers of discharges for homosexuality could be reduced to near zero if the 1993 law were enforced as Congress intended, with full and accurate information on the meaning of the law. That statute, which codified the Defense Department's pre-Clinton policy of excluding homosexuals from the military, passed with bipartisan veto proof majorities in both houses of Congress. “Title 10, Section 654,” which should have been called the “Military Personnel Eligibility Act of 1993,” is very different from “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” a set of inconsistent enforcement regulations that then-President Bill Clinton imposed on the military. (Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has admitted that her husband intended “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” to be a “transitional” policy toward full acceptance of gays in the military.)

The only compromise in the 1993 law involved elimination of “the question” regarding homosexuality, which used to appear on induction forms. That inquiry can and should be reinstated at any time—no new legislation required. Administratively dropping “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” and reinstating “the question” about homosexuality would help to end widespread confusion. Homosexuals can serve our country in many ways, but they are not eligible to serve in the military.