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## **Rare Source of Attack on ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’**

By ELISABETH BUMILLER

WASHINGTON — In an unusual show of support for allowing gay men and lesbians to serve openly in the armed forces, an article in an official military journal argues forcefully for repealing the “don’t ask, don’t tell” law, which requires homosexuals in the services to keep their sexual orientation secret.

The article, which appears in Joint Force Quarterly and was reviewed before publication by the office of Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says that “after a careful examination, there is no scientific evidence to support the claim that unit cohesion will be negatively affected if homosexuals serve openly.”

Although the article, by an Air Force colonel, Om Prakash, carries no weight as a matter of policy, it may well signal a shift in the official winds. It won the 2009 Secretary of Defense National Security Essay competition.

Colonel Prakash, who researched the issue while a student at the National Defense University, in Washington, and who now works in the Pentagon, concludes that “it is not time for the administration to re-examine the issue.” Instead, he writes, “it is time for the administration to examine how to implement the repeal of the ban.”

The article, which was first reported Wednesday by The Boston Globe, also says the law has been costly — about 12,500 gay men and lesbians have been discharged from the service as a result of “don’t ask, don’t tell” since it took effect in 1993 — and argues that it undermines the unit cohesion it has sought to protect.

“In an attempt to allow homosexual service members to serve quietly, a law was created that forces a compromise in integrity, conflicts with the American creed of ‘equality for all,’ places commanders in difficult moral dilemmas and is ultimately more damaging to the unit cohesion its stated purpose is to preserve,” Colonel Prakash writes.

The article says that in countries where bans on homosexuals’ serving openly in the military were lifted, including Australia, Canada and Britain, there was no “mass exodus”

of heterosexual service members and no impact on military performance.

The article does not necessarily reflect the views of Admiral Mullen or Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, who have publicly said only that they are assessing the issue and that any change in the law is up to Congress. Geoff Morrell, the Pentagon press secretary, said Colonel Prakash worked in the Office of Acquisition, Technology and Logistics and was “an individual writing in a personal capacity for an academic journal.”

Still, the article may put more political pressure on President Obama, who promised during the 2008 campaign to overturn the ban but has so far moved slowly, much to the dismay of gay rights groups.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, which represents some of those discharged from the military because of the ban, hailed the article as a “breakthrough development.” In a statement, the group said it was time “to move out on the specifics of when and how to implement a new policy of nondiscrimination.”

But an opponent of changing the law condemned the article. Elaine Donnelly, president of the conservative Center for Military Readiness, called the essay “one-sided” and said allowing homosexuals to serve openly would be similar to having women in the service cohabit with men.

“We don’t have policies that require women in the military to live in close quarters with men, for good reason,” said Ms. Donnelly, who was an organizer behind a letter, sent by more than 1,000 retired officers to Mr. Obama this year, saying they were “greatly concerned” about the effect that changing the law would have on recruitment, morale and unit cohesion.

Joint Force Quarterly is the official publication of Admiral Mullen and carries a column by him in each issue, but he had no comment on the article. “We did not encourage or discourage this story in any way,” said his spokesman, Capt. John Kirby. “The chairman wants this magazine to be a place where officers of all ranks and services can discuss the key issues of the day.”

It quickly becomes clear to us that urban gays assumed a general consensus to the effect that everyone has the right to behave just as he pleases. **Everyone has to decide what was “right for him”**—in effect, to make up the rules as he went along. In fact, they boiled down to a single axiom: I can do whatever I want, and you can go to perdition.

*Kirk & Masden: After the Ball: How America Will Conquer  
Its Fear and Hatred of Homosexuals in the 90's (1989)*

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## HIV infections soar among gays

By Joyce Howard Price  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

New cases of HIV, which causes AIDS, jumped sharply among homosexual men in the United States from 1999 to 2002, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported yesterday.

### Study finds 'safe sex' methods scorned

The number of new infections climbed 17 percent for homosexual men in this period, compared with 7.3 percent for all men, the study revealed. It was published in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Re-

port.

"Reports of syphilis outbreaks and increased unprotected sex raise concerns regarding increases in HIV transmission among men who have sex with men," the authors

of the report said. HIV is the acronym for human immunodeficiency virus.

In a telephone interview yesterday, Dr. Rob Janssen, director of the CDC's AIDS division, said black men continue to ac-

count for more than half (55 percent) of new HIV diagnoses in the country, making them the hardest-hit population.

HIV cases increased 26 percent and 8 percent, respectively, among Hispanic men and non-Hispanic white men during the

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## HIV

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survey period.

In all racial categories, the greatest number of men being diagnosed with HIV were homosexual or bisexual, Dr. Janssen said. Researchers say their data were based on 62,590 new HIV diagnoses in 19 states in the survey period. Of those, 43,144 were among homosexual and bisexual men. He other infections, including heterosexual men, were mostly transmitted through intra-

venous drug use. The rates of infection for both the groups remained steady during the period.

Growing numbers of homosexual men appear to be ignoring "safe sex" warnings and putting themselves at risk for HIV and sexually transmitted diseases. One reason, Dr. Janssen said, is the erroneous belief that AIDS is "curable." The other is that HIV/AIDS is viewed as a chronic, not terminal, disorder, which can be managed with a variety of drug cocktails.

However, he said, not everyone will respond to HIV/AIDS

treatments, and prevention is the best course. Exacerbating the problem, he said, is the failure of many people to know their HIV status. "We estimate that some 250,000 of the 900,000 Americans believed to be positive for HIV do not know they are infected."

CDC researchers say their analysis did not include some states having the highest prevalence of exposure to HIV or infection with other sexually transmitted diseases through homosexual or bisexual contact. Such jurisdictions include New York, California, Illinois and the District. The omissions

— owing to the recent switch from counting only full-blown AIDS cases to including HIV cases — make the findings even more worrisome, investigators say.

The HIV findings follow the release of other data in recent days from the CDC and the National Center for Health Statistics, which showed that the rate of primary and secondary syphilis increased 9.1 percent last year.

The rise in syphilis cases last year is the second consecutive annual increase. The CDC attributed the rise to more syphilis cases among men, es-

pecially homosexual and bisexual men.

The HIV surveillance data from the 29 states support 25-state results released in July at the National HIV/STD Conference in Atlanta.

In July, the CDC reported that AIDS-related deaths fell 5.9 percent last year, but overall AIDS diagnoses rose 2.2 percent. The earlier results showed that HIV cases among men having sexual relations with men rose 7.1 percent from 2001 to 2002.

"These findings add to the growing concern that we are facing a potential resurgence of

HIV among gay and bisexual men," Dr. Harold Jaffe, director of the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention, said at the conference in Atlanta.

Dr. Janssen said the study "reinforces the concerns" raised by Dr. Jaffe, who has researched AIDS at the CDC since the center began tracking the disease.

Initially, AIDS primarily was a disease affecting homosexual men. Their share of the epidemic began to wane by the early to mid-1990s, as many homosexual men turned away from unsafe sexual practices.