



TODAY IN 1845

Edgar Allan Poe's poem "The Raven" was first published in the New York Evening Mirror.

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Training set for gay ban's end

Military branches to start next month

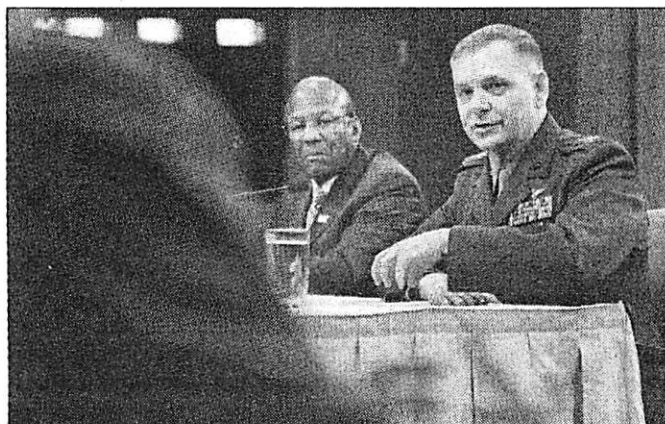
By Lolita C. Baldor
and Pauline Jelinek
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Military training to apply the new law allowing gays to serve openly will begin next month, senior Pentagon leaders said Friday.

They said there is no intent to delay, but they would not guarantee full implementation of the repeal this year.

The hedge on scheduling came despite assertions by President Barack Obama in his State of the Union speech Tuesday that the repeal of the 17-year-old ban will be final this year.

Gen. James Cartwright said he expects the military services to move expeditiously to train the bulk of their units, and that a year



Pablo Martinez Monsivais/Associated Press

for completion is "a good goal."

Still, he added, "there's nothing that tells us that it's not reachable, but we have to allow for the fact that we may discover something between now and then."

Cartwright, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he expects the services will know within the first month of training how well they are doing and how quickly they will be able to pro-

ceed. Cartwright and Clifford Stanley, the defense undersecretary for personnel, said the military services will have a lot of latitude to determine their training process and schedule.

Both men appeared unable to describe what would be unacceptable behavior from service members, such as those who might crack jokes about sexual orienta-

tion.

Instead, they said it will be up to individual unit commanders to make sure their troops are professional and respectful.

Calling this a milestone event for the armed services, Defense Secretary Robert Gates in a memo Friday said a guiding principle is that "all personnel will be treated with respect."

"Harassment or unlawful discrimination of any member of the armed forces for any reason will not be tolerated," he said.

The implementation plan will go to Gates next Friday, and training materials will be delivered to the services at the same time.

Cartwright and Stanley said that until the repeal is final, dismissals under the current ban could continue. They said no one has been approved for discharge for being openly gay since October, when Gates gave authority for signing off on dismissals to three service secretaries.