

Don't Ask Don't Tell

>> You're listening to KCOU Columbia 88.1.

>> It's 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, and this is Inside Out with DJ Shane.

>> And DJ Excellence. We are here for real talk on basic topics facing the LGBTQ and allied folks of Mizzou. I would like to welcome our guest today. Do you want to introduce yourself?

>> Absolutely. I'm Commander Mick Bastian. I'm the executive officer of the naval ROTC unit here at the University of Missouri and I'm also the Associate Professor Of Naval Science. I have 22 years of active duty and I was also selected as a master trainer to train the senior leadership of the Navy in the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

>> Very cool. Well, thanks for joining us today. We appreciate it. To do a little business, we have transgender awareness week coming up. It is going to be Tuesday, November 5 through Thursday, November 9. Just some highlights of some things that are happening. Trans101 so it is like our safe space but it is, like, geared towards trans issues Monday, November 5 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Memorial Union S 203. All trainings for awareness week are on our website under events on our calendar. We've got them on our Facebook page. Follow us on Facebook. We'll tweet about them. All kind of good stuff. So, yeah, also some fun things we're going to have an election day party, like a watch party in the MULGBTQ resource center from 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 6 to midnight. That's when the MU student center closes. That will be really fun, something to look forward to. Also, remember to vote. It's your democratic right.

>> Uh-huh.

>> All right. Got housekeeping out of the way. So we're talking about "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" which was a policy in the military that was removed about a year ago.

>> Yes.

>> And, so, I'm going to do, like, a very basic history of DADT. I've got this timeline off the interwebs and this is kind of to give just a real brief outline of when -- like where this came from historically, what it looks like now. I promise I won't bore you too much. I was a history major, though. When I found this timeline I was like sweet.

>> Nice.

>> Okay. So, like, 1950s.

>> Oh, you're going way back.

>> Oh, yeah. Harry S. Truman President in the White House. He signs the uniform code of military justice which sets up discharge rules for homosexual service members. So that's 1950. That's a long time ago, right? 1982 we've got Ronald

Reagan in the White House. He orders a defense directive that states that homosexual at is incompatible with military service and people who engage in homosexual acts or stated that they are only owe sexual are bisexual were discharged, so that was 1982. So there was like a leap of time there, about 32 years -- no, 42 years.

>> 50.

>> None of us are math majors.

>> Math is not our strong point.

>> I studied history.

>> Psychology.

>> Political science.

>> Bill Clinton comes along 1992. He's campaigning and he's, like, I'm going to lift that ban. That doesn't happen. Spoil alert. 1993 there's a compromise for "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Basically he couldn't get it taken out that, like, LGBTQ folks could serve so he's like just don't tell anybody about it. That's his big compromise and that is also what is later repealed. So then in 2003 he calls for it to be repealed, and then, skip ahead here a little bit. Barack Obama comes on the scene. He's campaigning. He's like I'm going to take it away, just like Bill said. So then the Pentagon's like okay, we're going to hold a study --

>> They got serious about it.

>> Yep, they got serious about it and they a whole, like, conduct a study and it reveals that the appeal would affect Armed Forces if it would affect their military readiness and basically they found out like, no, it won't really.

>> Right. Very basic.

>> Very basic, right. And that's why we have Commander Mick Bastian to explain it.

>> He has more info.

>> That was my timeline. I hope that was fun for everyone.

>> Yeah. And actually, I can kind of take it over just kind of the recent -- the last couple of years, and actually for those folks that are interested in it, believe it or not Wikipedia has a lot of detailed information on this. Not going back 50 years but going back about 20 or so, kind of our generation, and it has a lot of great information in there. It goes into a lot of detail about specific cases, talking about public opinion, talking about what some of the -- our senators and Congressmen talked about. For anybody that wants to dive deeper into it, very simple, Wikipedia "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and it is right there. Kind of the last couple years where we come into play now in December of 2010 the bill was actually finally enacted. However, we had to wait until July, 2011 for the President, secretary of defense and joint chiefs of staff to actually certify to Congress that the military was ready for this, and then we had a 60-day waiting period and then it was finally complete in

September of 2011. Kind of where I was involved was that time frame between where the bill was enacted in December, 2010 and when it was certified by the President to Congress in July, 2011. That's where all the training happened, and that's kind of what I did, was being a master trainer, several of us were -- went to Norfolk, Virginia and got some very specific training on it. Then we actually went around the country and trained the Navy leadership on the policies and procedures. And then those leaders went and trained all their commands the ships and squadrons and all that. And thence once we, along with the Army and marine Corps and Air Force told the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that our training was done he told the President and the President certified to Congress and that was it. We were ready to go.

>> Wow. So that was your role was being a master trainer.

>> Yeah. I didn't -- you know, I wasn't involved in all the stuff prior to that that kind of Wikipedia talks about and some of the things you talked about. We were trained on the studies and, you know, the outcome of that and everything. But really we were involved after the bill was enacted. All that work had already been done by the lawmakers and, you know, the people at a much higher pay grade than me and my contemporaries and we took it from there. We got very specialized training, again, by legal folk, by chaplains, by the people that actually were involved in the policy making of it. It was -- I was quite impressed with the level of training that they put into it and gave to us. And then certified us and we went out and continued that on. And then actually the entire Navy as a whole, and actually the Army, Air Force, marine Corp-s same thing 100 percent training across the board before we could certify to the President that we were ready to go.

>> How did you get chosen for that position or did you choose?

>> It was a little bit of both.

>> Okay.

>> The Navy kind of determined -- again, I'm just speaking for the Navy -- determined what positions were required to do this training. We had about 30 people and what we did, we had one commanding officer level person, one executive officer level person which was me and then one command master chief level which is a senior enlisted of a command. We had teams of those three people and we had about ten teams. Roughly about 30 to 35 people. So they established those positions. They firsted ask for volunteers all over, San Diego, Norfolk, all the major naval bases, and then after that they -- some of the positions that weren't filled were kind of delegated to be filled. But, you know, honestly, most people volunteered. I looked at it as a great opportunity to do this training. I mean probably one of the most important policies in my naval career that's, you know, going to be changed was the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." So I kind of saw it -- as well as the other people at the training -- as an opportunity, this is our chance

to be involved in, you know, something during our time in the military.

>> Yeah.

>> Probably the biggest thing I will be involved in was finally seen after 20 years of being in the Navy something I didn't think I would ever see which was the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

>> Right.

>> So most of us felt that way. We were mostly volunteers. Obviously, that made it a little better for the training, because we were all, you know, excited to be there. We weren't volun-told to be there.

>> Right.

>> Which often is the case in certain types of military training and assignments is that you're kind of told as opposed to volunteering. It normally goes better when people are motivated and volunteer for something.

>> Absolutely. Well, cool. I think it's worth noting that the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" does not cover trans people or trans issues in the military.

>> Right.

>> The topic this week is a very specific piece of policy that was repealed and, you know, we -- by no means do we intend this week's Inside Out to cover the entirety and ins and outs of being queer in the military. We just have an hour. We can't do that. It doesn't specifically -- this didn't change anything for people who identify as TRA in. S in the military or would like to anybody the military.

>> No, that is still illegal and not authorized and I don't think that that's something that's going to change any time soon. And that's just a factual statement, not any kind of personal opinion. It is just not something that's being discussed right now.

>> Yeah. We were talking before the show, we were talking about that piece you read in Naval Times. Can you speak to that just a little bit?

>> Sure. There wasn't a lot of detail in it, and, you know, the main reason is that because it is still, you know, a policy that's not authorized, the person that gave the interview did not, you know, give their name.

>> Right.

>> Actually, I'm not even really sure what forces they're in. I know that they're deployed to Afghanistan and it was in Navy Times but there is Army Times, Air Force Times and marine Corps Times. So I kind of have an idea but that's kind of irrelevant what service they're actually in. But a person over in Afghanistan right now who is taking hormone -- it's a female and wants to transition to a male, and they're taking hormone treatment.

>> Replacement therapy.

>> They took it with them. They paid for it themselves and took it over with them and they're taking the injections and they kind of talk that they're getting stronger and getting a little more defined and all that and that they're -- plan to at some point

to go through the surgery. But that person mentioned they are married and has a child and their spouse supports them but that that person also wants to finish their enlistment and knows that if they start to go through the surgery and are found out, that they're absolutely going to be kicked out. So they were just talking about, you know, they'll probably wait. But definitely in their mind they're going to do it.

>> Yeah.

>> So it was just kind of interesting that, you know, although -- just like gays and lesbians in the military, there are transgender people out there that want to do the surgery and all that in the military, it's just not authorized right now. They threw out some numbers, I can't say if they are completely accurate by somewhere along the lines of maybe up to 5,000 people military wide is doing that type of thing.

>> Yeah.

>> And so it is out there, you know. And it is an article that made the Navy Times so it is not like it's not being discussed and known right now.

>> That's very interesting.

>> That's about all the detail in the article.

>> Right. So as far as -- okay. They have "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and then, you know, this directive comes down, like you need to get trained, then you're going to train a bunch of people.

>> Yeah.

>> And so can you just tell me a little bit more about, like, what the trainings actually looked like? How they were received, you know, that kind of thing?

>> Absolutely. So we, you know, again did our training in Norfolk and then we went out and we were given, you know, pieces of the country that we were responsible for, and then we went as the CEO executive officer senior enlisted leader level, we went out and trained the command triads in that command of three, four state area. Normally happened in either a large conference room or movie theater-type setting. It was to the senior leaders, and we went over the training. It was a PowerPoint primarily with an introduction and ending by the chief naval operations and basically covered what changed and what didn't change. And it was a little interesting at times. There were some people who had some tough questions. Not everybody -- you know, it wasn't all straightforward training. Sometimes it got a little heated, but for the most part everybody was very professional and all that and it was some good training, a lot of good questions asked. You know, mostly everybody was just kind of more concerned about how they answered the questions. You know, they weren't concerned about the policy changing. They just wanted to make sure they were clear on how to answer the questions. Because what they had to do the command leaderships had to go back to all their numerous commands, all the ships, all the squadrons, all the submarines out there, and they had to give the training to their folks which then consisted of,

you know, lieutenant -- middle grade officers all the way down to the most junior enlisted 18-year-olds. We just taught them what the policy was and how to answer the questions, went over a lot of vignettes, what if's and how to answer the questions and that was it. And then I as an XO, I went back and gave the training to the command I was at. There was some questions and all that, but what was interesting, you know, there wasn't actually that much that changed, you know, with the repeal. That was kind of what everybody was worried about, just this big major policy change so that that means all this stuff's going to change and our way of life on the ship is going to change. We get kind of nervous when policies change.

>> I can imagine when you have trained for something for so long and then it changes.

>> Absolutely.

>> What was interesting about this was that, you know, I learned at my master training but then we all kind of figured out, there actually wasn't really that much that actually changed. It was a whole lot of what didn't change. So, you know, I can go over that real quick, too. It's kind of interesting what "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal actually did was very, you know -- two things really. There was no discharges based on sexual orientation and then it was not a factor to be used in recruitment or retention. And that was it. That's really the only two things that the policy legally changed is that gay and lesbians in the military weren't going to get kicked out and gay and lesbians who wanted to come in, could come in. That was about it.

>> That's pretty simple.

>> Straightforward.

>> Once we got our hands around that, it was a very simple concept. Now, big policy, and a lot of questions but then once people, you know, kind of understood that, it was pretty straightforward. Most of what the training was on was to confirm what wasn't changing and that was everything else. Berthing is where we live on the ship, our restrooms, our berthing areas, none of that was going to be segregated. That was a question. None of our policies in regards to pay and benefits was changing. Our performance evaluation systems was still going to be based off individual merit and performance. Nothing was going to be based off of sexual orientation and all that. So it was really just a reconfirmation of our policies and that everything was just going to remain the same. And once everybody was good with that, it was like okay, we're good.

>> Yeah.

>> Honestly it was a little anti-climatic to be honest with you. We kind of joked around it was going to be a whole lot -- much to do about nothing. Obviously it wasn't nothing, it was a major policy change but it didn't have the excitement and craziness we all expected. There's nobody running through the streets, no zombie

Apocalypse, it was pretty straightforward. The funny thing is the senior folks -- the people who had been in the military for a while are normally the ones who have the most questions or have the most concerns about it. They were the ones that asked the harder questions, as they should, you know. The ones who have been around for a while are the ones who, you know, have been living a certain way that long and then, you know, there's a change. So, of course, they're going to be a little bit more nervous. We went through that same thing when women first went on ships 20 years ago and we're getting through that now with women getting ready to go on submarines. It's the same thing. What we found though was that the junior people, they were like what's the big deal? Why are we getting trained on it? We're good with it. I don't understand the problem.

>> For of a generational kind of thing.

>> Definitely it was a generational thing. We gave the training and we're, like, who's got any questions. All the junior enlisted folks who had grown up in the '80s and that were like we're good? Why are we still here. Want to go home and liberty. We're like what do you mean you don't have any questions? They're like we're good. There it was, very straightforward.

>> That's very interesting.

>> Yeah.

>> How long did the implementation take overall? Like when they repealed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and Senate signed it and there it is.

>> And that's -- what we found on that, too, I gave those dates there, I just want to make sure I find them again real quick.

>> Yeah.

>> In December, 2010, when the Bill was enacted there was no timeline set at that point. It was whenever, you know, Congress basically said whenever you, Mr. President and Secretary Of Defense and Joint Chiefs of Staff say you're ready it will be repealed. The military as a whole kind of predicted it was going to take over a year. Actually we went back and said it's going to take -- probably next December or January or whatever into 2012 and this is another thing that kind of impressed me and impressed a lot of my, you know, contemporaries in the Navy is how quick we were able to get this done. Actually, we certified it -- the President certified it in July so, essentially, again, aim know the a math major but roughly six to seven months and that was it. So it was quick.

>> That sounds really quick from what I know about military policies, which isn't much, but I mean that just sounds really short.

>> That's exactly correct. Just like in politics and anything else there's a lot of red tape. It takes a lot of time to get things done. But something the military, and not just the Navy but Army, everybody's good at when something needs to get done and the President says we need to get this done, it gets done pretty darn quick.

We did not mess around with this. We got, you know, identified the positions required to do the training, all the CD's got done and we got the schedule made to do all this training, and we got out and did it. The training didn't even start until, like, March. Between March, April, May, June, we were done. So, like, four months. I was gone a lot during that four months.

>> Oh, I'm sure.

>> But we got it done, trained everybody and that was it. So really, you know, about seven months. Now, again, Wikipedia will show that it's been going on for years and years as far as all the discussions and all that.

>> Absolutely.

>> But the time from start-to-finish was about seven months and a 60-day waiting period and we were good to go.

>> Wow.

>> Quite impressive.

>> That's so impressive.

>> Yeah.

>> Totally.

>> I've been doing this for a long time, and there's things that take forever.

>> Yeah.

>> Just like in anything, civilian jobs or whatever. But I've seen some things happen very quickly, and this was something that we just got it done.

>> Yeah, and I mean, like, as an outsider, obviously, to military culture but, like, I'm just kind of surprised that something like especially about like LGBTQ people and issues would just have got -- had been put in such, like, you know, a primary spot and, like, get this done.

>> Such a difference. I never expected that.

>> Like even if they did pass -- I kind of always imagined if and when they did pass the repeal, like, I always thought it would be, like, back burner, you know.

>> Yeah. I completely understand that, too. But it was actually the exact opposite. I mean this was, like, the one -- I'm not going to compare it to, you know, history.

>> Sure.

>> It's hard to say that anything was bigger than anything else.

>> Absolutely.

>> The way we looked at it at the training is that this was like for our generation, you know, this was the equivalent of women's rights.

>> Yeah.

>> Right.

>> That was big. For us this was equivalent of letting women on ships 20 years prior to that. To us we might not have seen anything as important as that before I

get out of the Navy, so we took it very serious. It was definitely not back burner at all.

>> And that makes me feel good. I don't know about you DJ Excellence.

>> Absolutely.

>> Makes me feel important.

>> For six or seven months this is what the whole military was doing. Obviously, we didn't stop anything else.

>> Yeah.

>> The war didn't stop.

>> Right.

>> But we added this on to it. There was training in Iraq and Afghanistan. There was nobody that was exempt from this. That was kind of a major undertaking as well.

>> Yeah. I remember, like, when I was 18 and coming to college, like, I remember that was in -- that would have been 2003 and I remember that my dad -- my dad was in the Army and he was a nurse and then, like, you know got all his schooling paid for and all that stuff.

>> Yeah.

>> He really pushed me towards that, and I was really interested in it except for, like, I was like -- I knew I was gay. I wasn't out to anybody but I was like, I can't do that. They'll kick me out. Then my parents will find out and everybody will find out. So, like, I think -- this is, like, such a huge difference. I know I wasn't the only, you know, gay 18-year-old in 2003 that may or may not have joined the military.

>> Yeah.

>> So, I mean if anything, it's like you said there were already LGBTQ folks in the military serving.

>> Yeah.

>> This adds to numbers and adds to being able to live your life honestly.

>> We discussed this quite a bit with the chaplain corps and all that and what this really did for the gay and lesbian community, and mainly the ones that were serving, is that what this really did was it took away their fear of coming into work every day and being worried that that was going to be the day that somebody saw their e-mail or that was, you know, somebody saw them the previous night out at a restaurant with their boyfriend/girlfriend whatever and then they were going to get in trouble that day. You know, I can't imagine that fear, but I can kind of -- we can all relate to it, how that must have been for gay and lesbian people to come to work every day and be, like, this might be the day that I get found out.

>> Right.

>> So what this has now done is that it has taken away that fear. Now, you know, there honestly hasn't been, you know -- sexual orientation, the Navy and military

considers it a personal and private matter, you know. And I think some people thought that there was going to be this big coming out, and a lot of people did, there's no question. But for the most part a lot of people in the military that are gay have not come out, and that's their choice. But what it did though was that it made them still feel safe to come to work.

>> Yeah.

>> And I think that was huge.

>> Yes.

>> To not be fearful to come to your workplace is big. Now it obviously allowed people who are not in the military to come in and not have to lie about it.

>> Comfortably.

>> Yeah, big deal. Just like in the community, not every person that's gay comes out.

>> Exactly.

>> And that's their choice. In the military it is their choice. We consider it a private matter and we don't ask about it still, but people who do come out, it is perfectly fine as well. Obviously, there were people that came out and it's all good. It has really been not that big of a deal.

>> Yeah.

>> Like I was going to say you were talking about how it is a private matter. I can imagine you're not there -- I mean you're not on a Navy ship imagining -- your sexual orientation is not your first priority while you're there.

>> Right.

>> Or while you're deployed.

>> Exactly. You have other things on your mind to be thinking about.

>> And there's been gays in the military for many years and we've known -- you know, it's not been difficult to determine who was gay and wasn't gay.

>> Absolutely.

>> At times.

>> Sure.

>> And so it's not like this was a new thing where all of a sudden we're like oh, my gosh, there's gay people in the military? What's going on here.

>> Right.

>> We've had people who were, you know, known to be gay and we still worked with them, they worked with us, everybody was fine.

>> Yes.

>> Again, we didn't ask them and they didn't tell us.

>> Yeah.

>> And that was --

>> How it went. We're going to take a quick break here. We'll be back in a

minute. This is Inside Out 88.1.

>> KCOU Columbia, 88.1 FM. Listen to the underground railroad. I'm your host Chris from midnight to 2:00 a.m. Wednesday mornings I'll be breaking your curfew with underground punk, garage from around the world and through the ages. I'll be featuring music you can punch our dad do, a/k/a Mr. Music from the band, Music Retards and more. Tune in to KCOU Columbia or KCOU Columbia online.

>> Imagine me, a dog, moving in with a human. I didn't know how it would work. Turns out my human's pretty entertaining. For instance, ofy time I give my human his ball he throws it as far as he can and I'm like dude, that's your ball. So I go get it but he just throws it again. I got to say though, the more he does it, the funnier it is. I love my human.

>> A person is the best thing to happen to a shelter pet. Be that person. Adopt. Brought to you by the ad council and shelterpetproject.org.

>> It is the bottom of the hour. Here's what's making news in the world of sports. It's around 3:30 at the KCOU sports desk. It is homecoming week for the Mizzou football team. The Tigers play the 1-7 Kentucky Wildcats in this S.E.C. match-up. Both teams are looking for their first victory in the conference. Kentucky gave the number 10 Georgia Bulldogs a run for their money last week but losing a close one 29-24. Mizzou will try to avoid a three-game losing streak against the Wildcats. Quarterback James Franklin for the Tigers is listed as doubtful for this homecoming game. He is likely to miss his second consecutive game. Mizzou is looking to improve their record to 4-4. Catch this S.E.C. battle on ESPN-U at 11:00 a.m. this Saturday. Last night marked game one of the world series. The Detroit Tigers took on the San Francisco Giants at AT&T Park. Barry pitched lights out for the Giants. As for the Tiger starter Verlander he didn't have as good a day Detroit helped for. Pawlo sandovil hit two homers. He joins an elite group of greats including Babe Ruth, Reggie Jackson and Albert Pujols who have hit three home runs in a single world series game. The Giants took game one by a score of 8-2. Check out game two tonight 7:00 p.m. with starting pitching set as Doug Fischer of Tigers versus Madison Bumgardner. The St. Louis Rams tyke on 4-3 New England some call London. The Rams took the early flight out of the United States to adjust to the big time change. Patriot head coach decided to opt out of the early London arrival but says his team will just have to adjust their body clocks for Saturday and Sunday. The Rams are looking to avoid a three-game losing streak this week. The Rams 15th ranked rushing offense lead by running back Steven Jackson looks to take on the eighth ranked New England rushing defense. The St. Louis defense might have their hands full with Tom Brady and the high-powered offense this week. The Rams are looking to get their fourth win of the season. The 1-5 Kansas City Chiefs take on 2-4 Oakland Raiders this week. KC is hoping Charles and third ranked offensive rushing to get it. Last week Oakland gave up 54 total rushes yard against

the Jaguars. This week seems to be an interesting match-up. Watch the Chiefs this Sunday against the Raiders at 3:00 p.m. on CBS. In the NBA, pre-season has started and the Chicago Bulls started out 4-2. They play the 4-2 Indiana Pacers tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. Boozer leads as Derek Rose is recovering from his brutal knee injury. Chicago start out the regular season with the sack raider moan at the Kings on October 31. For all the latest news and sport check out KCOU.FM.

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>> Tougher when you spend two hours together every Saturday.

>> You're telling me if the Broncos can win eight games with Kyle Orton and Tim Tebow they cannot win with Peyton Manning?

>> No.

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>>> well, you just heard our promo so he feel like it is going to be double time when I reintroduce your show. You are listening to Inside Out KCOU Columbia 88.1. This is DJ Excellence and my guest here Commander Mick.

>> For whatever midship man are listening to this that is not my nickname on Monday. It is still Sir.

>> When you say that they have to listen to you.

>> Absolutely. They cannot call me Commander DJ Mick either.

>> They might do it when they're not talking to you, right?

>> They can talk about it in our little -- we call it the ward room which is like their lounge and all that. I'm sure there will be some jokes about my new DJ career.

>> DJ status.

>> Yeah.

>> That's awesome. A little more house. We're going to talk about -- you spoke earlier about tran sgender week coming up. There's a bunch of stuff happening. Like I said, go to our website under events. We've got all the stuff, you know, all the events listed there. Another one I want to talk about is on Wednesday, November 7, there's the Legal Case For Me, Trans people on the law. That's Kyler Brotus the first transgender American person of color to testify before the U. S. Senate and founder of Transpeople of Color Coalition, and he's going to come and talk to us and share with us some of his experiences and expertise surrounding the legal state and affairs of transgender people of all people in America. That's going to be awesome. That's Wednesday, November 7 at 6:00 p.m. at the auditorium. For any of these events go to our website LGBTQ.Missouri.edu. We are also

showing a movie called Trans. That's Thursday, November 8. We are showing that in our lounge in the MULGBTQ. We are having showings all day long. It's not like you have to come at a certain time to get it. You can catch different parts of the movie showing. We're starting at 8:15 showing at 10:00, 11:45, 1:30. You get the point. We are showing it all day long. Feel free to come by, stop by the lounge, hang out, bring your lunch and catch some of the movie. So today we're talking about the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." And so, you know, we have so much we haven't really even covered yet, but I think it's definitely worth talking about. It has been about a year.

>> Yep.

>> So what's it look like a year later?

>> Actually, it doesn't look much different than it looked like a year ago. Kind of interesting. Just to give kind of an example quote of a year later. One of our members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in one of their interviews, they were asked the same thing. Hey, year later -- obviously, a year later there was a lot of media attention and all that.

>> Yes.

>> Like the one-year anniversary, how's it going. The same people that were asked about how the repeal was going and that during the training was asked a year later. Several of our very senior leadership in the military, and one of them basically stated well, a few people's Facebook status changed but that was about it. I read that again in the article from the Navy Times, that's where we get a lot of our good stuff.

>> Yeah.

>> And I read that and I just kind of giggled. That was just perfect, you know. It's like, yeah, a couple people changed their status on Facebook, some people came out, you know. There were some pictures on the internet and that was about it. Obviously, there had to have been some firsts for everything.

>> Sure.

>> So, you know, some of the firsts got some media attention and, you know, the pictures around the internet and all that. So there was, obviously, the first kiss that happened between two -- a lesbian couple. We have a thing where when we pull into port after a deployment during the last couple of weeks on board we have a raffle for the married people to, you know, leave the ship first and do the first kiss with their -- whoever, boyfriend/girlfriend husband/wife. It was only a matter of time before gay or lesbian got the first kiss and, obviously, there's going to be some pictures of it.

>> Right.

>> So that happened and made for some good, you know, pictures on Facebook, but that was about it. It was okay, great. Probably the biggest news story not a year later but was right when it happened. You know, one minute later at 12:01, I

believe it was Eastern Time a picture of a Navy lieutenant that got married, I forget what state, but where it was legal.

>> Yeah.

>> And got married to his long-time boyfriend and he was in his Navy uniform. He was a naval officer and got married. Obviously, they had let the media know so the media was there for that. And then there was that picture on -- that kind of went viral of a marine in his -- coming home from deployment and jumping up on his same-sex boyfriend and giving him a kiss. You know, some people -- it was funny because everybody thought, you know, some hard-core Marines are going to be, like, well, that's horrible or whatever. The main comments were made was that it was that's kind of inappropriate, nobody should be showing public displays of affection on the pier and shouldn't have been jumping on his partner in uniform. We were critiquing it like that person just shouldn't have done that. It nothing to do that they were same sex.

>> Yes.

>> So that's just another example where we're all good with it. Obviously, there are people that aren't good with it, but, you know, we are reflection of society. Just like society, there are people in society that don't like that this happened. There's people who don't like gays and lesbians. There are people in the military who are not happy with this. It's not something we talk anymore or every day. It gets little attention nowadays. Everybody, for the most part -- we never ask anybody to change their personal beliefs. That was a very important thing that was discussed. We didn't ask anybody -- the Navy did not require or ask anybody to change their personal beliefs about anything. We never have. You can -- you know, we're a free country. We fight so that we can believe in what we want.

>> Yeah.

>> We fight so that you all can believe in what you want. And so we -- you can feel however you want to feel about women on ships, women on submarines, Democrats, Republicans, that's your choice and we don't ask about it.

>> Right. When we that come up, that disagreement between people like -- when would it be addressed buy a commanding officer or what not?

>> I wanted to read exactly what the training -- it is kind of important.

>> Yeah.

>> What was specifically written on the slide. The free exercise of religion and moral expression, the Navy is not asking anybody to change their free expression of religion or moral expression within the law and policy remains unchanged. Everyone can maintain their own beliefs. And that's exactly -- I wrote it down because I couldn't really state it any better. It's all about -- for us it is all about dignity and respect and good order and discipline. So the answer to your question how would a commanding officer address it? Well, we would handle it just like we

already and have already continued to handle discipline issues. We've had fights in our berthing for years, you know. A couple arguments here and there. I mean we live in very close living quarters. We are deployed six to nine months away from our families. Sometimes it gets a little tense, you know. And there can be some disagreements or whatever. I mean we get in heated discussions about politics some days. We get into heated discussions about everything.

>> Yeah.

>> And as long as it's done in a very respectful way, then you can have those discussions. Just like the civilians have them -- just like on Mizzou you have them at Speaker's Circle.

>> Uh-huh.

>> As long as it is done in a respectful way though we allow those discussions to happen. We encourage it. However, when it turns to disrespectful, potential pushing, shoving, we handle it the way we handle any time. If anybody gets in a fight down in berthing for disagreement on NFL football, somebody in San Diego somebody is a Chargers fan and somebody is a Raiders fan that's caused heated discussion around the mess decks. It is handled on the military Code Of Justice. If somebody assaults somebody for whatever reason we handle it that way. If somebody gets in a disagreement because they don't agree with their football team we handle it just like we handle something gets in an argument over repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

>> Yeah. I think it is worth noting, too, I don't think that civilians are, you know, I'm speaking very much my own opinion but I don't think people think of the military and think of this really progressive, you know, front of social change kind of -- I don't think that's how people view the military. But, like, on this issue as far as employing people that identify as lesbian, gay and bisexual and not only employing them but also protecting their rights and allowing them to stay employed no matter if they're out or not.

>> Right.

>> So the military in that sense is ahead of the nation.

>> Yeah. And I'm not completely, you know, versed on the policy for gay and lesbian civilian workers in the military but you are correct. We do have -- from my understanding we have more protections, more, you know, stuff in place, grievance procedures and all that for gay and lesbian. Honestly, the reason I don't know a whole lot about it is because it's really not that big of an issue either. We've had gay and lesbian government employees, civilians working in the military for years. That's actually one thing that's just, you know, never really been that big of a deal. But from my understanding as you state there, you know, they've had some protections in place, just like our active duty folks. We're very good at doing things like grievance procedures. If somebody has an issue, we have formal complaint

policies in place and all that, and those have been there for our gay and lesbian civilian employees for years.

>> Yeah. It's very interesting.

>> In that regard I guess we are contemporary.

>> Yeah.

>> You know.

>> Absolutely.

>> We just look at it as it's the right thing to do. It's mutual respect and dignity even for our civilian government employees, you know. We're all one team, one fight. That's the way most of us look at it anyway.

>> Yeah. I have to ask, do you know anyone who was personally affected by this repeal? Any friends, any family?

>> Yeah, actually -- I don't have any direct friends, but I knew of several -- just like the quote said I knew of several people that changed their Facebook status.

>> Yeah.

>> But the funny thing is --

>> So Facebook friends.

>> We already knew at my last command in San Diego, we had a gay sailor who we knew was gay. It wasn't a big question to anybody, and the repeal went through and he started posting pictures of him and his boyfriend and Facebook just like I would post book pictures of me and my wife and kid. And that's about it.

Obviously, I know of people in the military who it affected, but I don't have any direct, you know, friends and family that it affected. But honestly, you know, I'm a member of the military, so really I have all my, you know, brothers and sisters in the military that it affected. It affected every one of us, you know, in a certain way, mainly just because it is a major policy change that we all, you know, saw happen.

>> Yeah, and it happened to you.

>> Yeah. So it really affected all of us. It's just whether it affected us good, bad or indifferent. Honestly, like I kind of mentioned, for the most of us it was indifferent. All right, great, good.

>> Sure.

>> It didn't change when we went to work. Most of us were still more concerned with our pay and getting home to our families.

>> Absolutely.

>> And when are we getting done with work on Friday so we could get home and all that. That's the stuff that really concerned our junior sailors was making sure they had enough money to have gas for their weekend trip and, you know, a little money for going to the movie and all that. That's really what was on the minds of our junior sailors during all of this. Repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" tell us what changed, let's do the training, we're good. Now can I get back to work so I can go home

today.

>> Absolutely. I have a friend who's in the Navy, and they, you know, they identify as a lesbian but they're not out. But, you know, when I talk to her, she was like -- it was like, to her, that wasn't -- she wasn't going to ever come out.

>> Yeah.

>> I can't remember her role. But I know she was a -- I know she was in charge of people.

>> Yeah.

>> And so, you know, and that just wasn't -- she was out to some people, you know.

>> Yeah.

>> And that was just something that was just, people knew, people speculated.

>> Yeah.

>> But it was just the kind of thing she was not going to come out and bring that in.

The cool thing about this repeal is that even though -- it still respects that, too.

She also gets to still just leave that, you know, that's something -- she's her personal person and wants to keep that separate from work.

>> Absolutely.

>> So, you know, it's nice that the repeal didn't have any, like, added stipulation that you, like, have to say it or anything like that.

>> Right. And we were very cognizant of that. It could have had a little bit of a reverse affect on things.

>> Right.

>> Like if you start kind of going from "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" to not only reversing that but then going a little too extreme to the other side.

>> Yeah.

>> That, obviously, could have had some detrimental.

>> Like outing sailors and stuff. That would not have been good.

>> Yeah. I was in San Diego when all this happened, you know. San Diego is kind of a gay-friendly town.

>> Absolutely.

>> So not only is it a, you know, area of large numbers of gay and lesbian people, it is the second biggest Navy base in the world behind Norfolk, Virginia, as far as, you know, eight different -- eight or so different Navy marine Corps bases. So on any given day you walk around town and there's military people all over and gay and lesbian all over and then, you know, everybody.

>> Yeah.

>> So, you know, I saw more ads around in newspapers for, hey, come on down, Hillcrest is the gay area there. The funny thing is, it also happens to be the area in San Diego where most of the nice restaurants are. And so it's not like --

>> Right.

>> We all weren't hanging out there anyway.

>> Right.

>> It was the best food, and it was fun to hang out behind the Gas Lamp district downtown. So it is not like -- San Diego, I don't want to say it was more progressive than anywhere else but we were so used to it anyway. We all lived around gay and lesbian people anyway.

>> Right.

>> And so it was just like, you know, I saw, you know, military people -- it's not too hard to figure us out who's in the military. We have short hair and wear khakis and colored shirts. We're pretty obvious when we walk around.

>> Right.

>> So I just saw more people around that just wasn't -- I guess it just was this feeling of just not -- people not being scared anymore.

>> Yeah.

>> I guess that's how it affected people. It was just kind of done. It's like this thing that we'd all kind of been, you know, concerned with but then not that concerned with finally just kind of went away. And then it was like okay, now we can get back -- let's keep working and get back -- not like we stopped working but let's get past that now and get to work.

>> Yeah.

>> It was the same thing I went through 20 years ago when we put women on war ships. You know, there was much -- a lot of discussion, a lot of worry, a lot of this, a lot of that. And then we bring the women on, we make some modification to berthing so they have their own, you know, bathrooms and showers.

>> Yeah.

>> And then like a year later, it's like okay, it wasn't even an issue before, you know. We were kind of past it. We moved on to the next issue. We've got other stuff we need to worry about than to dwell on stuff.

>> Yeah, absolutely.

>> You know, but I don't know if it was that way at other places. But San Diego, you know, is kind of a special place in regards to, you know, just --

>> Exposure and all that stuff.

>> Yeah. I guess it's kind of like the little San Francisco.

>> Right.

>> So we were just all kind of exposed to it anyway. Kind of like the younger folks who have kind of grown up around this. They're just not that bothered by stuff that even my generation and the generation older than me that kind of, you know, it was a different time back then.

>> Yeah.

>> So women just weren't on ships.

>> Right.

>> And so now it's not like it was never really an issue before.

>> Yeah. That's very interesting. So as far as, like -- so you're in San Diego. You've got a bunch of sailors there, you know, how does it work? Can they march in parades in uniform? The gay pride parade are they out there?

>> That's an interesting question. They did march.

>> Were they in uniform?

>> They were.

>> Wow.

>> Here's the deal with that. That was kind of deemed an one-time thing. It was approved at higher levels. I can't say who approved it but in the military, I can guarantee you probably the President or if not the Vice President it was high up because of the attention it received. You know, we have policies and procedures for marching in parades, being part of, you know, stuff out in town, you know. Boy Scouts of America, Rotary Club, somebody asking us to speak at a political convention, somebody asking us to speak at an awards ceremony for whatever. There are already rules in place for that and they covered it and they didn't change. We can't march in parades of a political affiliation or in parades of a group not endorsed by the military. It was already in place. We can't march in certain parades and gay as lesbian parades in uniform. It had nothing to do because it is a gay and lesbian parade but because it wasn't authorized then way. However, because it was San Diego and the gay pride parade was so big there and because it was where it was the senior leaders and the White House and Joint Chiefs of Staff approved an one-time only military -- people in the military could march in last year's gay pride parade in uniform.

>> That was kind of a symbol to celebrate?

>> It was almost a year later at that point and it was just, you know, some people didn't agree with it in the military. That's a bad move. If you approve it for that, you have to approve it for everybody. Senior leadership is like no, we're going to approve it for the one-time thing and we're not going to approve it later on. Now they mate. They reserve the right to approve whatever they want and we might see it again in the future. Some people didn't agree with it, some of us thought it was just fine. Whether you're Navy or not, from a public relations standpoint I thought it was a pretty brilliant move, you know, because -- San Diego community, honestly, you know, kind of appreciated it. They kind of -- it was like hey, all right, Navy, we're good.

>> Yeah.

>> There's gay and lesbian marching in uniform at the parade and the civilians loved it.

>> I bet they went crazy.

>> It was awesome. Now it could have gone the other way though, you know. It could have worked to our disadvantage, but it actually didn't. And, you know, whether I agree or disagree or anybody agrees or disagrees with the President's decision to allow that from a public relations standpoint it was brilliant. It brought the San Diego community, the gays and lesbian, the community a little bit closer together than we already were. It was deemed as a show of good faith, one-time show of good faith to the San Diego community that the military acknowledges that there are gays and lesbian in San Diego, it is a huge, you know, Navy base and it's a huge, you know, community of gay and lesbian community there. So let's just do a parade together and there it was and it worked out great.

>> Okay. With that being said, can people not in uniform march?

>> Absolutely. Just like we can march in any parade we want as long as we are not in uniform and not showing our affiliation with the military. You know, the thing is people in the military have already marched in the gay and lesbian parade in San Diego. They had to hold a sign saying I support gays and lesbian. They couldn't say U. S. Navy supports gays and lesbian.

>> Right.

>> Anybody can march in any parade as a civilian as long as they are not showing affiliation or bringing discreditation on the United States military or whatever and we have policies in place to request to be in parades or speak, for example, for this I got my commanding officers permission to come here and speak today. Just because that's what we do.

>> Yeah.

>> And so, yeah.

>> Well, that's very cool. And I'm very glad you came today.

>> Thank you very much. I see we are almost out of time.

>> That's how it happens.

>> We knew it was going to go quick and sure enough it did. I've got about five more great questions to talk about but maybe we'll save that for round two next semester if it works out that way.

>> Yes. Well, Dj Commander Mick, can I call you that?

>> Sure. Are you a civilian. You can call me what you want, to my midshipmen you cannot call me that.

>> I hope you heard that midshipmen. Again, thank you so much for coming on and thank you, everybody for listening. Join us next week 3:00 p.m., same time for Inside Out. All right, great. Thanks.