Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Repeal Act: 2010

Background

2000-2008: By the late 2000s, momentum built for repeal:

- Public opinion shifted dramatically in favor of allowing open service
- Courts began ruling the policy unconstitutional
- Foreign allies (including Britain, Canada, and Israel) had successfully integrated openly gay service members without negative effects
- Barack Obama campaigned on repealing DADT in 2008

2008: Barack Obama campaigned on repealing DADT

2010: Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Joint Chiefs Chairman Admiral Mike Mullen testified before Congress in support of repealing the law. Gates established the **Comprehensive Review Working Group (CRWG)**, which conducted one of the most extensive personnel studies in military history:

- Surveyed 115,000 active-duty and reserve service members
- Held town halls and focus groups
- Found that **69% of surveyed personnel had already served with someone they believed to be gay**, and 92% of those reported the unit's ability to work together was good or neutral
- Concluded repeal posed "low risk" to military readiness

Congress passed the standalone Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act in December 2010. The Senate voted 65-31, with eight Republicans crossing party lines. President Obama signed it on December 22, 2010.

2011: The required certification from the President, Secretary of Defense, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs that the military was ready. That certification came on July 22, 2011, and after a mandatory 60-day waiting period, **DADT officially ended on September 20, 2011**.

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