

## **Nontheist Military Member Organization Denounces Sectarian Delay of DADT Repeal**

The repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT) suffered another blow on Tuesday due to partisanship and sectarian politics. The majority of the public favors a repeal of DADT. In May, the Senate Armed Services Committee and the House of Representatives voted to repeal DADT. Admiral Mullen, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and Defense Secretary Gates, two of the President's top military advisors, have been consistent in supporting a repeal of DADT. The DADT Repeal went forward as part of the Defense Authorization Bill which also included an immigration provision (DREAM Act). Even several of the Senators who voted against the bill support a repeal of DADT. Despite overwhelming popular, military and governmental support, 42 (without Reid) of our leaders in the Senate hid in opposition behind administrative excuses and political policies.

This is a setback for America and America's military. Once again, political bureaucracy and a minority of theocratic interest groups thwarted the will of our military and Congressional leaders, and the will of the majority of the American people. MAAF sends out its support and heartfelt thanks to those GLBT military members continuing to serve under the discriminatory DADT policy. MAAF encourages leaders to repeal DADT to ensure military readiness will not be further hurt by restriction or ejection of GLBT soldiers, sailors, airmen, or marines. Working with its nontheist, secular, and interfaith allies, MAAF will continue to advocate for repeal. MAAF reiterates its hope that by next Memorial Day, we find a military moving forward into a stronger, larger, more cohesive, and healthier fighting force.

The Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers (MAAF) an independent 501(c)3 project of Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs. MAAF is a community support network that connects military members from around the world with each other and with local organizations. Where necessary, MAAF identifies, examines, and responds to insensitive practices that illegally promote religion within the military. MAAF supports Constitutional State-Church Separation and 1st Amendment rights for all service members.

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For more information about this topic, contact Jason Torpy, 614-329-1776,  
president@maaf.info, <http://www.maafe.info>; or view online at  
<http://www.maafe.info/policy.html>