

**Chief of Naval Operations
Adm. Gary Roughead delivers remarks at
House Armed Services Committee Holds Hearing on the Repeal of ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t
Tell’
April 7, 2011**

Chairman McKeon, Representative Smith, and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to address how our Navy is preparing to implement the repeal of 10 U.S. Code 654.

I testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee in December that I supported repeal of 10 U.S. Code 654. The United States Navy can successfully implement a repeal of the law. Combat effectiveness is what we provide the nation and repeal will not change who we are or what we do. Your Navy will continue to be the professional, global, effective, and relevant force for the nation that it has always been.

Although a specific date for repeal has not been set, we have begun the process for a prompt and thoughtful transition. We are preparing the necessary policies and regulations to implement this change in the law, and we are training our Sailors and leaders at all levels. Our training emphasizes the principles of leadership, professionalism, discipline, and respect. We are not conducting sensitivity training. We are focusing on ensuring our Sailors understand what repeal means to them, their families, and the Navy, and that our standards of conduct and behavior will not be compromised.

We’re carrying out our training using a tiered approach to ensure all Sailors receive the appropriate level of training. We have 17 master mobile training teams providing training to command leaders in 17 geographic regions. Once certified by these master trainers, command leaders will then train personnel within their respective commands. Specialized training is also being provided to experts who may deal

more frequently with repeal issues, such as chaplains, judge advocates, personnel support professionals, and recruiters.

I have established 1 July as Navy's goal for completing training, and we are on track to achieve this goal. Feedback from our Sailors indicates the training they are receiving is comprehensive, well-delivered, and effective. Additionally, we have not observed any impacts to readiness, effectiveness, cohesion, recruiting, or retention during this training period. I continue to provide regular updates on our training progress to the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and remain personally engaged with them throughout this process. I am confident my assessment of Navy's readiness for repeal will be carefully considered during the certification process, and I do not believe it is necessary to provide additional or separate input outside of this process.

I have the ultimate confidence that the men and women of the United States Navy, with their character, discipline, and decency, will successfully implement this change in the law. Navy leaders will continue to set a positive tone, create an inclusive and respectful work environment, and enforce our high standards of conduct throughout the Navy as we serve the nation. Our Sailors will continue to live by our core values of honor, courage, and commitment, which endure as the foundation of our Navy.

I thank you and I look forward to your questions.