



Center for Military Readiness



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**Navy Incoherence on Same-Sex Marriage Policy Proves:
Congress Must Intervene to Protect Marriage in the Military**

Retired Army Lt. General: “There are No Regulations to Implement Repeal”

In response to news that the Navy has withdrawn a memo suggesting that it will soon authorize same-sex marriages on military bases, Center for Military Readiness President Elaine Donnelly notes that the reversal announced yesterday is only temporary and unreliable. The following comments may be attributed to Mrs. Donnelly:

“On April 13 the **Navy Chief of Chaplains** announced in [a memo](#) that when repeal of the law regarding homosexuals in the military is fully implemented, chaplains who wish to perform same-sex “marriages” will be allowed to do so on military bases located in states where such unions are legal.

“A second memorandum reported by [the Washington Post](#) purported to reverse this policy, but it does not reverse anything. Navy Chief of Chaplains **Rear Adm. Mark L. Tidd** has merely announced *suspension* of his earlier memo “**pending additional legal and policy review**” and closer coordination with the **Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard**.

“Congress should not be misled by the Navy’s equivocation. This weather-vane policy is likely to change back as soon as all the branches of service get on board and Congress looks the other way. Congress must intervene, since Defense Department lawyers don’t know—or don’t want to tell—what they are doing.

“Given the Pentagon’s confusion, there is no way that the Obama Administration can in good faith ‘certify’ that full implementation of repeal 60 days later would not do serious harm to our military.

“Congress needs to receive and evaluate actual Defense Department directives before ‘certification’ occurs, not afterwards. Platitudes and PowerPoint slides are not regulations.”

In an interview with the *Washington Times* yesterday, [Lt. General Benjamin Mixon](#), who was the Army’s Pacific Commander prior to his retirement on May 1, said there are no

specific regulations in the Defense Department's Tiered Training programs:

- [Retired General Warns of 'Rush' to Repeal DADT'](#)

General Mixon further noted that the military cannot operate on one set of rules in states like Massachusetts and different rules everywhere else. In an email message this morning, General Mixon observed:

“Service in the military is not like a civilian job, so it stands to reason regulations and laws are needed that are different and unique to military service. We have rules governing infidelity, drugs and others that are not found in civil society. **Using the Navy rationale for this misguided marriage policy, we would have to allow marijuana on certain installations or lesser punishments for violations in states that have lax laws.** Our great military service members cannot operate effectively in this type of environment.”

Mrs. Donnelly commended the leadership of **Rep. Todd Akin** and 63 of his colleagues who signed [a letter to the Secretary of the Navy](#) calling on the administration to withdraw the policy. She noted, however, that “Absent specific regulations, the DoD will authorize policies that contradict unofficial assurances given to Congress and the **Defense of Marriage Act** itself. “

To schedule an interview with retired Lt. General Benjamin Mixon, or with CMR President Elaine Donnelly, please call **734/464-9430**.

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