For Immediate Release

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DoD Inspector General Exposes Improper Activities to Repeal Law re Gays in the Military (Don't Ask, Don't Tell)

With White House "Spin" the Fix Was In — at Expense of the Troops

The following comments may be attributed to **Elaine Donnelly**, President of the **Center for Military Readiness**, an independent public policy organization that specializes in military/social issues:

"A previously-undisclosed investigation conducted by the **Department of Defense Inspector General (DoD IG)** strongly suggests that the so-called Pentagon 'study' of gays in the military in 2010 was a publicly-funded, pre-scripted production put on just for show. The administration misused military personnel, resources, and facilities to help President Obama deliver on political promises to gay activists at the expense of unknowing troops who became props in the pro-repeal campaign.

"The 30-page **DoD IG Report**, ordered by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, was due in December 2010 but not completed until April 8, 2011. The 'For Official Use Only' document provides detailed information on high-level activities that effectively skewed perceptions of military opinions even before the official DoD survey of 400,000 troops began." The Center for Military Readiness has reviewed the DoD IG Report in a new **CMR Policy Analysis**:

<u>DoD Inspector General Exposes Improper Activities to Repeal</u>
<u>Gays in the Military Law ("Don't Ask, Don't Tell."</u>

Donnelly quoted the DoD IG Report in noting, "The purpose of the Pentagon Working Group process was not to 'study' the issue, but 'to gain momentum in support of a legislative change during the 'lame duck' session of Congress following the November 2, 2010, elections." (p. 20). The DoD IG Report is posted here:

<u>Investigation of Improper Disclosure of For Official Use Only Information from the</u>

<u>Comprehensive Review Working Group Draft Report</u>

A two-page summary of the CMR Policy Analysis, including excerpts from the DoD Inspector General Report, is <u>available here</u>.

Donnelly added, "The purpose of the contrived CRWG process was to neutralize military opposition to repeal of the law by manufacturing an *illusion* of support. The DoD Inspector General has explained in detail how the claim that '70%' of military people were unconcerned about repeal of the law was deliberately crafted and leaked to the *Washington Post* shortly after a White House strategy session with five officials who were named but not questioned by investigators.

"One of these was **James Messina**, the administration's former "liaison" to **LGBT** (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) groups, who is currently running the president's Chicago-based re-election campaign.

"The *Post* received and published a contrived story that substantially misrepresented the profound concerns of combat troops and Marines. Had survey results been presented accurately, the 111th Congress probably would not have rushed to repeal the law during the December lame-duck session.

"The 112th Congress should investigate the actions of all persons responsible for misusing military personnel and resources, and do everything possible to repair the damage done to our military."

To schedule an interview on the DoD Inspector General Report and related subjects, please call **Elaine Donnelly**, 734/464-9430.

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