



## **FEDERAL GLOBE CONDEMNS GENERAL PACE'S POLICY STANCE AND CALLS UPON CONGRESS TO CHANGE THE WASTEFUL AND DISHONORABLE GAY BAN POLICY**

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*WASHINGTON, DC*, March 15, 2007— General Pace reminds us how much work still needs to be done to bring the vision of America—equality for all—to all of America. With all due respect to his personal beliefs, they should not be the base of public policy.

It is time to allow lesbian and gay military personnel to openly and morally serve our country. The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" policy and the underlying provisions in the Military Uniform Code of Justice need to be eliminated.

Federal GLOBE (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Employees of the Federal Government) believes everyone employed by the US government should be treated equally, and free from harassment and discrimination. Legally, most are, except our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered employees. They, especially in the military, can be, and are, discriminated against.

As General Pace points out—by law.

Law should not encourage people to lie and deceive. That is immoral. But is what the current military policy does.

Forty years ago, gays and lesbians were thrown out of the civilian government service, sometimes in public and nasty witch-hunts such as those engineered by Senator McCarthy. Those policies were eliminated as the government realized they were discriminatory and based on incorrect assumptions and unwarranted fears. General Pace's beliefs are based on the same set of assumptions and fears. All research and experience has shown the policy is wrong and unnecessary. Other countries, our allies in war and in peace, allow their service members to be out without reducing unit cohesion.

The separation of thousands of military personnel under the current policies creates greater problems with moral and unit cohesion than having these brave people serve. But their separations are "gifts" that keep giving. The dismissal may also adversely affect their opportunities for civilian employment, security clearances, and housing since even their "honorable" discharge may be supplemented by their permanent designation as registered sex offenders. This result of the current rules and regulations need immediate change.

What we need is strong leadership for change and zero-tolerance for double standards, harassment and discrimination.

Good effective leadership which General Pace shows he is loath to do. We call upon General Pace to apologize to the many lesbian and gay service members and learn the facts and circumstances that should be the basis for public policy. He needs to demonstrate that he is a leader who understands the real issues and actively works to overturn this policy.

And Congress must do the same. The American experiment in democracy has shown that when we have courage and overcome our fears and include more people and groups in equality and freedom, we grow in strength and stature. It is time to allow and encourage the full and open participation of lesbian and gay service members in the military with the dignity and respect they deserve.

It is time to move into the 21st century and abandon the outmoded and disproven policies damaging our security and reputation, depriving our military and civilian services of people whose skills are needed. For the military, it means removing this policy and allowing lesbian and gay service members to openly serve. For the civilian workforce it means reiterating non-discrimination policies and providing equal benefits for our families as most major corporations in our country already do.