

# Duty, Honor, Pride:

## Military Experiences of LGBTQ+ Servicemembers

<b>GRADES: 9-12</b>	<b>TIME: 70-85 Minutes</b>
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**Purpose:** This lesson is adapted to follow the exhibit “Duty, Honor, Pride: Military Experiences of LGBTQ+ Servicemembers” by the LGBT Center of Central PA, the link can be found [here](#).

**Central Questions:** How did a person's sexuality affect their employment in the military? How was queer peoples experience in the military different than their peers? How did “Don’t ask, Don’t tell” policy affect the lives of queer servicemembers?

Common Core Standards	
8.2.U.A.	Evaluate the role groups and individuals from Pennsylvania played in the social, political, cultural, and economic development of the U.S.
8.3.C.D.	Analyze the role political symbols play in civil disobedience and patriotic activities.
8.1.9.A	Compare patterns of continuity and change over time, applying context of events.

**Knowledge:**

Background information: Students should have a general understanding of the LGBTQ+ community.

**Goals:**

Students will be able to describe discrimination faced by LGBTQ+ Servicemembers during and before “Don't ask, Don't tell” policy.

Students will be able to understand the risk that queer servicemembers faced.

Students will be able to use both textual and oral history as evidence for arguments.

**Teacher Pre-work**

- Teacher will print/distribute handout to students
- Teacher will make available the news article titled [“Rejecting ‘Don't ask, Don't Tell’”](#)
- Teacher will make available oral history interviews featuring [Mary Merriman](#), [Jerre Frieberg](#), [Julie Lobur](#), and [Lindsay Snowden](#).
- Teacher will be able to present/provide images for “Do Now” activity: [LGBT-034: “Leave Our Privates Alone” Button](#) and [LGBT-039: “Don’t Ask ‘Cause I’ll Tell” Button](#)

### **Lesson:**

- Lesson will begin with a “Do Now” activity [5-10 Minutes]
  - Present students with both images of buttons (LGBT-034 and LGBT-039)
  - Ask students to share what they believe these buttons to be, when they think they were made, and how they think they were used.
- Begin learning about the Vietnam experience [5-10 Minutes]
  - Ensure students know what Vietnam war was, when it was, and general themes
- Break students into two groups and have them begin to fill out worksheet [17-20 Minutes]
  - One group watches Mary Merriman's interview while the other watches Jerre Frieberg interviews. Have students have switch interviews once they have their answers done, that way each group can see both.
- Bring students back as a group and discuss answers to the worksheet. Have the students compare the two. [5 Minutes]
- As a group watch Julie Lobur Interview [5-10 minutes]
  - Have students complete worksheet questions and share them as a group.
- Have students read the newspaper article [5-10 minutes]
- Discuss how students feel about the article [5 Minutes]
  - What was the consensus of “Don't Ask, Don't Tell”
  - How does this article show the experience of queer servicemembers?
- Have students watch Lindsay Snowden interview and complete worksheet and have students discuss. [5 Minutes]
- Wrap up Activity [5 Minutes]
  - Ask students how policies for LGBTQ+ Servicemembers have changed in recent years. Particularly about the full acceptance after the repeal of Don’t Ask Don’t Tell in 2010 under the Obama administration, and more recently on restrictions for transgender servicemembers under the second term of the Trump administration. Let students discuss with the class.