Extent

205 folders, approximately 4,933 pages

Summary

This collection consists of material related to gays in the military from January 20, 1993 through July 31, 1993. The records include correspondence, reports, memoranda, and email, and deal with the development of the policy that became known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell". These records include documents describing the policy proposals made by Senator Sam Nunn and Representative Barney Frank, and the various legal cases of military personnel being discharged for admitting their homosexuality. Also included are letters from the public and from members of Congress expressing their views on the issue.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2006-0227-F are a selective, not necessarily all inclusive, body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related materials. FOIA request 2006-0227-F contains records from several agencies and individuals, including the Counsel’s Office and the National Security Council. During his 1992 Presidential campaign, Bill Clinton promised that, if he were elected, he would repeal the ban on homosexuals serving in the military. Once in office, however, Clinton faced stiff opposition from many, including the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell, and the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sam Nunn. On July 19, 1993, Clinton announced the compromise that became known as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”. The policy ordered the military to stop asking recruits about their sexual orientation, but allowed for a military discharge if a member of the armed forces states that he or she is homosexual. While Clinton acknowledged in his announcement of the new policy that this was not “a perfect solution”, he did consider it “a major step forward”. Documents were considered responsive to this FOIA if they were dated from the

beginning of the Administration to the end of July 1993, when the new policy was announced. The WHORM Subject Files – General includes correspondence from the public and members of Congress voicing their opinions on allowing homosexuals to serve in the military. The WHORM Subject File – CF consists of one folder of correspondence from Deputy Staff Secretary R. Paul Richard to the President expressing his support following the announcement of the new policy. The White House Staff and Office Files contain correspondence, reports, memoranda, and press from various offices, including the Counsel's Office and the National Security Council. The records include the July 1, 1993 Summary Report of the Military Working Group and the July 19, 1993 memo from Secretary of Defense Les Aspin announcing the new policy. Also included are legal briefs on relevant military cases and records dealing with the policy proposals of Senator Sam Nunn and Representative Barney Frank. The Automated Records Management System (Email) consists of talking points regarding Senator Nunn's hearings on homosexuals serving in the military and the July 19, 1993 policy announcement. The NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management Systems contain additional information on the question of whether homosexuals should be allowed to serve in the Armed Forces. The NSC Cable System consists of one folder, which includes a cable from the American Consul in Rio de Janeiro to the Secretary of State documenting a pro-U.S. demonstration in that country. The NSC Email System consists mainly of "Q & A's" for a Presidential press conference. The NSC Records Management System includes a January 27, 1993 statement from Senator Sam Nunn regarding the ban on homosexuals in the military. Also included, are letters from Congress and members of the Armed Forces on the subject of gays in the military, and an outline of a meeting between President Clinton and Les Aspin on a variety of military issues.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that were responsive to this FOIA request were found in five collection areas—Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM Subject Files-General, Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM Subject Files-CF, Clinton Presidential Records: White

House Staff and Office Files, Clinton Presidential Records: ARMS Emails, and Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management Systems. As policy, Staff and Office Files are processed at the folder level, that is, individual documents are not selected and removed from a folder for processing. While this method maintains folder integrity, it frequently results in the incidental processing of documents that are not wholly responsive to the subject area. WHORM Subject and WHORM Alpha files are processed at the document level.

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Clinton Presidential Records is governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 USC 2201) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 USC 552, as amended) and therefore records may be restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal exemptions

Copyright

Documents in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult the copyright law of the United States (17 USC, 101), which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Provenance

Official records of William Jefferson Clinton’s presidency are housed at the Clinton Presidential Library and administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2009. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2010-08-19

Container List

View all digitized files in the National Archives Catalog (NAC)

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2006-0227-F:
Box 1
Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM Subject Files-General
Category Case Number
BE006 Scanned: Case Number 003292
FG006-06 Scanned: Case Number 006588
FG031-01 Scanned: Case Number 002368
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 000103
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 000104
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 000450
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 000679
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 000736
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 000810
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 000828
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 001042
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 001072
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 001154
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 001189
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 001297
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 001425
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 001427
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 001427SS
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 001537
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 001561SS
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 001695
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 001720

HU010 Scanned: Case Number 001891
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 001894
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 001919
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 001920
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 001937
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 001945
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 001945SS
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 002046
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 002089
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 002232
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 002243
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 002400
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 002421
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 002543
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 003035SS
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 003244
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 003360
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 005001
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 005802
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 005810
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 006208
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 006370
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 006376
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 006627
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 008015SS
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HU010 Scanned: Case Number 016099
Box 2
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HU010 Scanned: Case Number 017115
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 017512
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HU010 Scanned: Case Number 029265
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 029349
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 029371
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 029505
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 029529CU
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 029740SS
Box 3
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 029952SS
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 030045
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 030492
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 030495SS
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 030509
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 030514
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 030568
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 030883SS

HU010 Scanned: Case Number 031053
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 031214
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 031272
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 031402
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 031493
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 031560
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 032450
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 032451
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 034481
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 038792
SP568 Scanned: Case Number 029408SS
Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM Subject Files-CF
Category Case Number
HU010 Scanned: Case Number 028568SS
Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files
Chief of Staff
Bill Burton
Gays in the Military [1] [OA/ID 2779]
Gays in the Military [2] [OA/ID 2779]
Roy Neel
Gays in the Military [OA/ID CF 27]
Counsel’s Office
Bruce Lindsey
Gays in the Military [1] [OA/ID 24795]
Gays in the Military [2] [OA/ID 24795]
Box 4
Cheryl Mills
Background – Gays in the Military [OA/ID 20287]
Executive Orders – Gays in the Military [OA/ID 20289]
Stephen Neuwirth
Gays in Military [OA/ID CF 384]
Gays in the Military [OA/ID CF 370]
Cliff Sloan
[Binder – Gays in the Military] [Folder 1] [OA/ID 4660]
[Binder – Gays in the Military] [Folder 2] [OA/ID 4660]
Gays in the Military [1] [OA/ID 4658]

Gays in the Military [2] [OA/ID 4658]
Gays in the Military [3] [OA/ID 4658]
Box 5
Gays in the Military: Ben-Shalom (CA 7 1989) [Empty] [OA/ID 4658]
Gays in the Military – General [1] [OA/ID 4658]
Gays in the Military – General [2] [OA/ID 4658]
Gays in the Military – General [3] [OA/ID 4658]
Gays in the Military: High Tech Gays (CA 9 190) [OA/ID 4658]
Gays in the Military – Meinhold #1 [1] [OA/ID 4658]
Gays in the Military – Meinhold #1 [2] [OA/ID 4658]
Gays in the Military – Meinhold #2 [1] [OA/ID 4658]
Box 6
Gays in the Military – Meinhold #2 [2] [OA/ID 4658]
Gays in the Military – Meinhold #2 [3] [OA/ID 4658]
Gays in the Military – Meinhold #2 [4] [OA/ID 4658]
Gays in the Military – Meinhold #2 [5] [OA/ID 4658]
Gays in the Military – Meinhold #2 [6] [OA/ID 4658]
Gays in the Military – Meinhold (Dist. C6) [OA/ID 4658]
Gays in the Military – New Policy [OA/ID 4767]
Gays in the Military – New Policy: Attorney General Memo [OA/ID 4767]
Gays in the Military – New Policy: President’s Announcement [OA/ID 4767]
Gays in the Military – New Policy: Secretary of Defense Announcement [OA/ID 4767]
Gays in the Military: Press Statements [OA/ID 4658]
Gays in the Military: Pruitt (CA 9 1991) [Empty] [OA/ID 4658]
Gays in the Military: Schowengerdt (CA 9 1991) [OA/ID 4658]
Gays in the Military: Watkins (CA 9 1989) [Empty] [OA/ID 4658]
Gays in the Military: Woodward (CA February 1989) [Empty] [OA/ID 4658]
Box 7
First Lady’s Office
Shirley Sagawa
Americorps National Service Files
Gays in the Military [OA/ID 24338]
National Security Council
Defense Policy
Richard Beardsworth
Gays in the Military, 1993-1999 [1] [OA/ID 3154]

Gays in the Military, 1993-1999 [2] [OA/ID 3154]
Gays in the Military, 1993-1999 [3] [OA/ID 3154]
Gays in the Military, 1993-1999 [4] [OA/ID 3154]
Press
Jonathan Spalter
Gay Military [OA/ID 294]
Staff Director
Nancy Soderberg
Gays in the Military, January 1993 [OA/ID 1404]
Public Liaison
Alexis Herman
Gays and Lesbians in Military [1] [OA/ID CF 23]
Gays and Lesbians in Military [2] [OA/ID CF 23]
Box 8
Clinton Presidential Records: Automated Records Management System (Email)
WHO
[Gays in the Military]
[04/01/1993-07/30/1993] [OA/ID 500000]
Default
[Gays in the Military]
[07/19/1993-07/20/1993] [OA/ID 1100000]
Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management Systems (RMS)
NSC Cables
January 1993-December 1994
[Gays and Military]
[02/11/1993-06/15/1993] [OA/ID 505000]
NSC Emails
A1-Record (January 1993-September 1994)
[Don’t Ask]
[05/14/1993-06/16/1993] [OA/ID 570000]
[Gays and Military]
[02/27/1993-04/23/1993] [OA/ID 570000]
[05/05/1993-07/14/1993] [OA/ID 570000]
NSC Records Management System
PRS-Presidential Records

[Gays and Military]
9300101 [OA/ID 2263]
9300106 [OA/ID 2263]
9300113 [OA/ID 139]
9300246 [OA/ID 2263]
9302037 [OA/ID 145]
9302632 [OA/ID 147]
9304738 [OA/ID 2271]
9304745 [OA/ID 152]
9304866 [OA/ID 2272]
9305079 [OA/ID 2272]
9305212 [OA/ID 2272]
9305365 [OA/ID 2272]
9305416 [OA/ID 2273]

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