

Obama Ends 'Don't Ask Don't Tell'

Gay military ban will be lifted

(AP) — President Barack Obama on Friday formally signed off on ending the ban on gays serving openly in the military, doing away with a policy that's been controversial from the day it was enacted and making good on his 2008 campaign promise to the gay community.

The president joined Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Adm. Mike Mullen, the joint chiefs of staff chairman, in signing a notice and sending it to Congress certifying that military readiness would not be hurt by repealing the 17-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

That means that 60 days from now the ban will be lifted.

"As commander in chief, I have always been confident that our dedicated men and women in uniform would transition to a new policy in an orderly manner that preserves unit cohesion, recruitment, retention and military effectiveness," Obama said. "As of September 20th, service members will no longer be forced to hide who they are in order to serve our country."

Before "don't ask, don't tell," the military did not allow gays to serve. But in 1993 President Bill Clinton said gays would be discharged only if their sexual orientation became known.

"The president's certification of repeal is a monumental step, not just for those forced to lie in order to serve, but for all Americans who believe in fairness and equality," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese.

Elaine Donnelly, who heads the Center for Military Readiness, which has lobbied against repeal, said it will "undermine morale and readiness in the all-volunteer force."

The Pentagon is expected to spend the next 60 days preparing the troops for the change, and ironing out legal and technical details, including how it will affect housing, military transfers and other health and social benefits.

In most cases, the guidelines require that gays and lesbians be treated like any other member of the military. There will be differences, however. Same sex partners will not get the same housing and other benefits as married couples. Instead, they are more likely to be treated like unmarried couples.

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Pay range \$13.00-15.00 per hour dependant upon experience. Start date August 1, 2011.

Interested persons please e-mail resume to tarana@civilrightspdx.com.

No calls please.

United Way of the Columbia-Willamette seeks **Administrative Assistant** to perform a wide range of duties in support of the Resource Development Team. Three years of relevant experience required. Info: www.unitedway-pdx.org. Cover letter and resume to employment@unitedway-pdx.org. Job #700. Closes 8/7/11. Equal Opportunity Employer.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Oregon State Board of Higher Education/OUS is seeking qualified construction management firms interested in providing Construction Management/General Contractor (CMGC) services in connection with the Straub Hall Renovation project on the University of Oregon campus.

The successful CM/GC will be working closely with a design firm and the University on scheduling, budget and constructability issues through the Construction Document phase of design. The scope of work includes the renovation of Historic Straub Hall. The renovation will contain at a minimum, a structural upgrade, replacement of all utility systems and upgrades to the building envelope. Additional work may include spatial reconfigurations and the replacement of finishes.

Written proposals completed in accordance with the RFP must be received by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education at the University of Oregon Facilities Services Department, Capital Construction, by 4:00pm on **August 11, 2011**.

If submitted by **mail**, send to:
Department of Facilities Services
Capital Construction
1276 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1276

If delivered by **messenger** or other delivery service:
Department of Facilities Services
Capital Construction
1295 Franklin Boulevard
Eugene, OR 97403

There is a pre-proposal conference scheduled for August 2, 2011 at 11:00am. The conference will start in the Capital Construction Conference Room (upstairs in the big silver warehouse) 1295 Franklin Boulevard (North of Franklin on Onyx Street) - Site tour of Straub Hall to follow. 1451 Onyx Street (Just North of 15th Ave between Agate Street and University Street)

All proposers must comply with requirements of the prevailing wage law in ORS 279C.800 through ORS 279C.870. All proposers must be registered with the Construction Contractor's Board at the time of proposal submission.

Documents will be electronically distributed upon your contacting the University of Oregon at the below stated contact.

Firms interested in obtaining the Request for Proposals (RFP), which describes the application and selection process, should phone, write or E-mail to:

University of Oregon
Facilities Services
Attn: Melanie Jackson
1276 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1276

Phone: 541-346-2560
Fax: 541-346-6927
e-mail: melaniej@uoregon.edu

OREGON STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
By: Frances Dyke, Vice-President for
Finance and Administration, Eugene, Oregon

Food Stamp Fraud

The Portland Police Bureau arrested four individuals last week in connection with a food stamp fraud investigation.

Everett Hall, 42, Ronda Bunker, 50, Penny Louise Arnett, 47, and Gregory Scott Alton, 49, were all booked into the Multnomah County Jail after being charged with food stamp fraud, which is a felony in Oregon.

The investigation began in 2010 after allegations were made to police that Oregon Trail Card recipients were taking their cards to the Oriental Market, 8947 N. Lombard

St., and selling the benefits for 50 percent of the benefits value.

The store operator Bounthan Somsanouk, 54, was charged with food stamp fraud in connection with the case last year.

Overall, 26 persons have been charged in Multnomah County Circuit Court for Unlawfully Using a Food Stamp Benefit or Food Commodity," said Special Agent-in-Charge Lori Chan for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Portland Police Bureau anticipates more arrests as the investigation continues.

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