

CULTURAL
AWARENESS

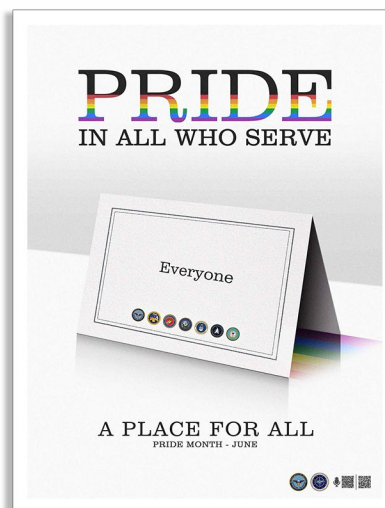


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PRIDE MONTH
JUNE



A PLACE FOR ALL



The Department of Defense (DoD) recognizes June as Pride Month, celebrating LGBTQI+ Service members who have courageously served and sacrificed in the U.S. military. The DoD is dedicated to establishing an environment that optimizes individual talents, boosts morale, and improves military effectiveness.

Throughout American history, LGBTQI+ Service members have played a vital role in defending our rights and freedoms. From the founding of our Nation to the Civil War, through two World Wars, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and more recently in Afghanistan and Iraq, their dedication and sacrifice have been instrumental in shaping our country.

The Stonewall Riots began on June 28, 1969, when police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay club located in Greenwich Village in New York City.

The Stonewall Riots served as a catalyst for the gay rights movement in the United States and around the world. This activism has led to expanded rights for all in the U.S. Military.

Chief Master Sgt. Jeremiah Grisham and Lieutenant General Leah H. Lauderback dedication and service have undoubtedly made a significant impact on the Armed Forces.

Chief Master Sgt. Jeremiah Grisham, to his knowledge, is the only openly gay command chief in the U.S. Air Force. He advocates for the LGBTQI+ community, emphasizing that change has occurred during his time in the military and progress can continue.

Lieutenant General Leah Lauderback is the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance and Cyber Effects Operations for the U.S. Air Force, advising critical policy and intelligence efforts since August 2022.

After the repeal of DADT in 2011, Lauderback embraced who she was in and out of uniform, excelling in her career as a result.

After coming out in 2013, she discussed her personal life with general and commanding officers. Despite her uncertainty, they always supported her.

"My experience coming out after DADT repeal was so positive that I was uncertain if anyone was having a negative experience."

Diversity encompasses more than just race, gender, and ethnicity; it also includes a variety of thoughts, abilities, backgrounds, languages, cultures, and skill.

Chief Master Sgt. Jeremiah Grisham and Lieutenant General Leah H. Lauderback are just two of our many Service members who exemplify that the military is a place where all are welcome and can have an impact.

During Pride Month, the DoD celebrates the equality and rights of LGBTQI+ individuals, commits to diversity and inclusion across the Armed Forces, and takes pride in its Service members.

