



THE MICHAEL D. PALM CENTER

BLUEPRINTS FOR SOUND PUBLIC POLICY

About The Center

The Palm Center uses rigorous social science to inform public discussions of controversial social issues, enabling policy outcomes to be informed more by evidence than by emotion. Our data-driven approach is premised on the notion that the public makes wise choices on social issues when high quality information is available.

The Center promotes the interdisciplinary analysis of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and other marginalized sexual identities in the armed forces by forging a community of scholars, creating a forum for information exchange and debate, offering itself as a launching point for researchers who need access to data and scholarly networks, and supporting graduate student training.

The Center's 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell Project' will continue to be its first priority under its new name – The Michael D. Palm Center. The goal of the DADT Project is to improve the quality of information available to public deliberations about the military policy.

Founding of The Michael D. Palm Center

The Palm Center was established in 2006 as an official research unit of the University of California, Santa Barbara. The Center will continue to build on the work of its predecessor, the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military (CSSMM), in providing the public with an interdisciplinary analysis of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and other marginalized sexual identities in the armed forces (the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell Project').

The Palm Center will be governed by a distinguished board of directors including Steven Gluckstern, Melvin Oliver, and Bruce Presley.

Research: Discoveries/ Advances

The Palm Center uses evidence-driven research to bring about public policy advances. Recent reports and research discoveries include:

- Correspondence fostered by the Palm Center to the Department of Defense from nine Members of Congress and the American Psychological Association and American Psychiatric Association (which, combined, have 190,000 members) evidence a lack of support for the current don't ask, don't tell policy employed by the U.S. Military.
- The Palm Center discovered an Army regulation which instructs military commanders to retain gays and lesbians during wartime. The Pentagon has denied that it violates the gay ban and forces gays and lesbians to serve during wars, but the discovery of the regulation called these claims into question, and a spokesperson acknowledged to the media that the discovery and our claims about gays being forced to serve during wartime were accurate.
- The Palm Center found documentation that 244 doctors, nurses and medical specialists were fired for being gay under DADT despite a serious shortage of military medical personnel during the current Middle East conflict. The Center reported the financial cost of firing gays and lesbians from the military, based on our Blue Ribbon Commission report, which was co-signed by former Secretary of Defense William J. Perry.