

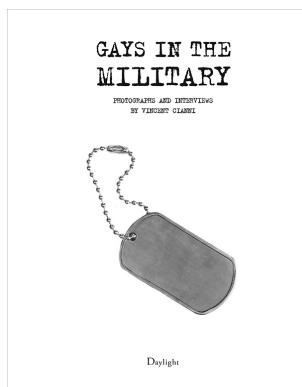
EXHIBITION ANNOUNCEMENT

THE MAY GALLERY AT WEBSTER UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION BASED ON THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED BOOK:

GAYS IN THE MILITARY PHOTOGRAPHS AND INTERVIEWS BY VINCENT CIANNI

EXHIBITION ON VIEW FEBRUARY 27 – MARCH 27, 2015
OPENING RECEPTION AND BOOK SIGNING: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 5-7PM

Now Online! Watch Vincent Cianni's [TEDx Talk](#)



The U.S. military has a long history of human rights abuses against homosexuals resulting in lost careers and shattered lives. From 2009 to 2013, documentary photographer **Vincent Cianni** made a series of road trips across the United States to interview and photograph gay and lesbian U.S. military veterans and active-duty service members, many of whom are highly skilled, well educated, patriotic and productive. His mission was to document how the military's ban on openly gay and lesbian service personnel, which ended just two and a half years ago, impacted their careers in the armed forces and their civilian lives afterwards.

The culmination of Cianni's intense journey is ***Gays in the Military*** (**Daylight Books**) which brings together over fifty portraits and testimonies of individuals and couples who openly share their compelling stories of the harassment, discrimination and indignities they endured. The book includes essays by **Alison Nordström**, **Alan M. Steinman, MD**, and **Lt. Donald R. Bramer** that shed light on the cultural, personal and political consequences of the ban on homosexuality. *Gays in the Military* was published to critical acclaim last summer and the first edition sold out in just weeks after its release. The book is now in its second printing. Following are details on the accompanying exhibition:

WHEN AND WHERE:

Gays in the Military Exhibition
May Gallery at Webster University
Sverdrup Building, 2nd floor, West Wing
8300 Big Bend Boulevard
Webster Groves, MO 63119
Tel: 314-246-7673

Open to the General Public
For more information, go [here](#).

On January 23, 2015, Vincent Cianni participated in a TEDx talk event organized by The University of Nevada, Reno. He spoke about *Gays in the Military* during an afternoon session devoted to LGBT issues and human rights. The overall theme of the TEDx event was the need for all of us to be socially responsible. Each speaker's presentation was a response to the following question: If you had the power to change anything in the world, what would it be? An edited version of Cianni's talk at the event is now available for viewing [here](#).



L-R: **Anthony Loverde**, Little Rock, AR. 2012. Staff Sergeant, U.S. Air Force, 2001-Present. Loadmaster. Active duty, honorable discharge, homosexual conduct; deployed Iraq and Afghanistan 2012 at previous rank; continued career as if uninterrupted. **Debra Fowler**, Lowell, Mass. Specialist, U.S. Army, 1986-88. Korean Linguist. Dishonorable Discharge, fraudulent entry,outed when being investigated for security clearance.

About *Gays in the Military*

The age range of the servicemen and women in *Gays in the Military* spans sixty years. They served in World War II, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, stateside, and in the reserves. Many attained high rank, received numerous medals, and held top-level jobs. The civil rights violations many of them suffered oftentimes prohibited them from receiving the benefits accorded them for serving in the military. The stigma associated with such punishments based on sexual orientation was worse when a man or woman returned to civilian life unable to find a job that matched his or her skills. These gay men and women spent their entire military careers living under the threat of being "outed" and discharged. In order to hide and live a lie, many repressed their emotions and denied themselves basic human intimacies.



L-R: **Paul Goercke**, San Francisco. Messman/Staff Officer, U.S. Merchant Marines, 1944-45. Deployed in Ie Shima Island, Japan; Hawaii and Saipan. **Donald R. Bramer**, Washington, D.C. Lieutenant (O-3), U.S. Navy, 2002-present. Intelligence Officer. Top Secret Security Clearance; multiple deployments to the Middle East; provided anonymous testimony during the hearings to repeal 'Don't ask, don't tell.'

Alison Nordström is Senior Curator of Photographs at George Eastman House. She writes about Cianni's powerful portraits and the role of photography as an "exercise in witnessing and truth telling." She places his work in the tradition of the documentary photography of Lewis Hine and Walker Evans.

Alan M. Steinman, MD was a Rear Admiral, U.S. Public Health Service and U.S. Guard from 1972 to 1997. Retired, he came out publicly in 2003 on the tenth anniversary of 'Don't ask, don't tell' (DADT). He remained "in the closet" the entire time he was in service. He writes about the history of the laws and policies banning gays and lesbians from serving in the military, describing them as "deliberately draconian."

Lt. Donald R. Bramer (see caption above) writes about the challenges of living under the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy, which lasted from 1993 to 2011, while maintaining a relationship with his partner, who was also in the service. With the long separations came the emotional toll of carrying the "burden of silence and invisibility each day that we served. We fought harder and trained harder just to wear the uniform with the same distinction as those around us."



L-R **Victor Fehrenbach**, Boise, Idaho. Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force, 1991-2011. Retired. F-15E Fighter Pilot. Tours of duty in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan; successfully fought his discharge under 'Don't ask, don't tell,' after coming out on television in 2009. **Travis Jackson**, Montgomery, AL, 2011. Sergeant, U.S. Army 2004-2009. Chaplain's Assistant. Deployed to Iraq 2007-2008, general discharge (under honorable conditions); patterns of misconduct.

A digital edition of *Gays in the Military* that includes texts, photographs and audio interviews will be going live in mid-May. Viewers can access the content free on the web or via their iPad and share it with their friends through Facebook, twitter, and tumblr. The digital edition will be available at: www.daylight.co/gaysinthemilitary.

Vincent Cianni holds an MFA in Photography from the SUNY New Paltz and teaches photography at Parsons The New School for Design, and the International Center of Photography. The David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library (Archive of Documentary Arts) at Duke University established a study archive to insure the preservation of all his documentary projects. *We Skate Hardcore*, an eight-year documentary project of inline skaters in Williamsburg, Brooklyn published by NYU Press and the Center for Documentary Studies in 2004, was awarded the American Association of University Press Best Book Design. A major survey of this work was exhibited at the Museum of the City of New York in 2006. His photographs have been exhibited and collected nationally at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the George Eastman House, and The Kinsey Institute for Sexual Research; and internationally in London, France, Brazil and Germany. His work has been published in *The New York Times*, *DoubleTake*, *Aperture*, *The New Yorker*, *Photography as Activism*; *New York 400: A Visual History of America's Greatest City*; and *The Polaroid Book*. To visit the artist's website, go [here](#).

Daylight is a non-profit organization dedicated to publishing art and photography books. By exploring the documentary mode along with the more conceptual concerns of fine art, Daylight's uniquely collectible publications work to revitalize the relationship between art, photography, and the world-at-large. For information, visit www.daylightbooks.org.

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