



Center for Military Readiness



Promoting high standards and sound priorities for our military men and women.

For Immediate Release

February 23, 2018

Contact: Elaine Donnelly, CMR President

(734) 464-9430

Mattis Transgender Trial Balloon Won't Fly Defense Department Should Challenge Federal Courts Who Are Running the Military

Military.com has reported: [Mattis Recommends Keeping Transgender Troops in Military](#). In addition, Fox News reported: [Mattis Expected to Back Transgender Troops – If They Can Deploy, Official Says](#). The following comments may be attributed to Elaine Donnelly, President of the Center for Military Readiness:

“The Defense Secretary’s trial balloon, if accurately described, will not fly. Such a plan would be unworkable and unfaithful to orders that **President Donald Trump** has every right to issue. As explained in [this new article](#), such a plan also would be inconsistent with commitments already made during the 2016 election campaign and in the first year of the Administration:

- **CMR: [Conservative Consensus Supports Trump on Transgenders in the Military](#)**

“Speculative news reports suggest that Defense Secretary **James Mattis** is not fully prepared to deliver the objective information and sound recommendations that President Trump requested in his [August 25 Memorandum](#). This may be a consequence of inviting a high-level [Obama holdover](#) to chair the “Panel of Experts” that Secretary Mattis set up to review the transgender issue.

“Instead of capitulating to federal courts without defending presidential prerogatives, Secretary Mattis should call for an immediate petition to the **U.S. Supreme Court**, requesting intervention to stop federal district judges from running our military on the transgender issue or any other matter of national security.

“In the meantime, the DoD also should protect presidential prerogatives by issuing court-ordered contracts to transgender applicants on a conditional basis. It is only fair to inform applicants who suffer from gender dysphoria that if the government prevails in pending litigation, their enlistment or re-enlistment contracts would be void.

“Finally, the Defense Department should put an end to subsidies for transgender surgeries, discontinue Pentagon “**LGBT Pride**” events, and revoke all [Obama-era directives](#) that force military personnel to act upon unscientific theories about gender “transitions” that are biologically impossible.

“The trial balloon plans, if true, would do nothing about privacy violation issues in gender-specific private facilities, ethical conflicts for medical personnel, or deployability problems caused by extended absences for therapies, surgeries, and/or 3 to 12 months for “real life experience” (RLE) living as persons of the opposite sex.

“Nor would the reported recommendations put an end to constant transgender indoctrination training programs, or deter inevitable demands to extend transgender treatments and even surgeries to military dependent children.

“Convoluting policies that do not improve military readiness are not about combat lethality, they are about political correctness, which President Trump promised to eliminate in the military.

Secretary Mattis should remember to ask a simple question: *How would my recommendations improve mission readiness and combat lethality?* No other consideration is more important than that.”

* * * * *

The Center for Military Readiness is an independent public policy organization that reports on and analyzes military/social issues. More information is available on the CMR website, www.cmrlink.org. CMR President Elaine Donnelly can be reached at elaine@cmrlink.org.

Center for Military Readiness | P. O. Box 51600 | Livonia, MI 48151 | 734-464-9430