



Center for Military Readiness



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

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President Trump to Take Official Steps to Deliver on Promises to the Troops

Report: President's Guidance Will Direct Officials to End Obama Transgender Policies

*The [Wall Street Journal](#) and [Reuters](#) have reported that **President Donald Trump** will issue a 2½ page guidance directing the **Department of Defense** to essentially reinstate policies regarding transgenders in the military, which were in effect before **President Barack Obama** changed them at the end of his term in office. White House Press Secretary **Sarah Huckabee Sanders** said that an announcement on the issue would be released soon. The following comments may be attributed to **Elaine Donnelly, President of the Center for Military Readiness**:*

“It is difficult to comment on the reported guidance from **President Donald Trump** without seeing the document in question, and it’s too soon to know how the **Department of Defense** will implement the President’s intent in coming months.

“**With those caveats stated, the Center for Military Readiness applauds President Donald Trump’s reported intent to take official steps to halt a massive social experiment in the armed forces.**

“It appears that Pentagon officials will have six more months to reinstate policies regarding eligibility that were in place before **President Barack Obama** unilaterally imposed his transgender agenda on the armed forces during his closing months in office.

“President Trump’s stated intent supports the troops, and recognizes that [three of four military service chiefs](#) initially asked for a two-year delay before implementing Obama-era mandates. The **Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff** also [expressed doubt](#) about the science of transgender mental health care, including hormone therapy and surgeries for individuals who suffer from **gender dysphoria**.

“We don’t know what the exact wording of the President’s guidance will be, but it could mean that Defense Department officials will reinstate gender dysphoria on the list of non-waivable medical conditions that disqualify individuals for military service. Currently-serving transgender personnel who suffer from gender dysphoria, which involves confusion about gender identity, might be handled like others with physical or psychological conditions that impede their ability to perform requirements of their jobs, including readiness to deploy.

“The President’s guidance reportedly will call for an end to gender dysphoria treatments and surgeries at military medical treatment facilities. The **RAND** Corporation and **LGBT** activist sources that RAND relies on keep claiming that thousands of transgenders currently are serving in the military, but their elastic estimates (**between 1,320 and 6,600**) are not credible. [The Hill](#) has reported that only **250 persons** requested transgender treatments since 2016.

“President Trump’s policy change would inspire a sigh of relief among **military doctors and nurses** who do not want to be forced to participate in or perform procedures that violate medical ethics or sincerely-held personal convictions. **Military women** also will be pleased if they no longer have to attend training sessions on how to accept infringements on their personal privacy, including unclothed biological males in shower facilities and conditions of forced intimacy.

“**Pro-defense taxpayers** and many members of **Congress** object to open-ended expenditures for expensive life-long hormone treatments and irreversible surgeries associated with gender dysphoria, which cost far more than LGBT activist groups claim they will.

“**Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler** has discredited the methodology that RAND corporation used in a 2016 report that is often quoted in unquestioning media reports. Mrs. Hartzler noted major expenditures that RAND minimized or left out, and calculated potential costs at **\$1.3 billion** over ten years:

- [Comparison of Cost Estimates, Transgenders in the Military](#)

“During the next six months, Defense Department officials should reject skewed data from liberal consultants and Obama holdover officials who routinely rely on LGBT activist groups for ridiculously low estimates of transgender costs and consequences.

“Many experts have stated that extraordinary measures to accommodate transgenders in the military would negatively affect personal deployability and mission readiness, without resolving underlying psychological problems, including high risks of suicide.

“Intellectually honest servicemembers reject the notion that gender is “assigned” at birth and can be changed. They also reject the irrational belief that regardless of unchanging human DNA, revisions in bureaucratic “gender markers” really can transform a man into a woman or a woman into a man.

“The armed forces are not just another equal opportunity employer; there is no constitutional right to serve. And the **military health system (MHS)** is designed to be a national security force multiplier. Limited military resources should not be misused to indulge transgender demands and theories that are contradicted by biological realities, science, and common sense.

“Obama-era mandates were not imposed to *strengthen* our military. CMR looks forward to supporting the Trump Administration in restoring sound priorities, in which mission readiness and combat lethality are paramount.”

More information is available in this recent article and documents embedded in it.

- CMR: [Trump’s Pro-Military Transgender Policy Sparks Media Meltdown](#)

The Center for Military Readiness is an independent, non-partisan public policy organization, founded in 1993, which reports on and analyzes military/social issues. To arrange an interview with CMR President Elaine Donnelly, contact elaine@cmrlink.org, or call 734/464-9430.

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