

**Excerpts of Written Responses to SASC Inquiries – Anthony Kurta, nominated to be Principle Deputy, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel Readiness**

**Pages 20-21, November 14, 2017**

**Service of Transgender Individuals**

**If confirmed, what would be your role in the implementation of the Administration's policy on the service of transgender individuals in the armed forces?**

If confirmed, I would support the USD(P&R) in his/her role as the Chair of the Transgender Panel of Experts.

**In your view, what would be the impact on military readiness of continued service by transgender service members who receive hormone therapy?**

I agree with Senator McCain's statement in July that no policy decisions are appropriate until the review ordered by the Secretary is complete and reviewed by him, the military leadership and the Congress.

**Do you believe that the Department of Defense should develop an in-house capability for transgender medical treatment and surgery?**

The Department is committed to provide the medically necessary care for all military members and our healthcare beneficiaries subject to applicable laws, regulations, and Departmental policies. Discussions about in-house capability for transgender medical treatment and surgery cannot be made until after the review ordered by the Secretary is complete.

**Do you believe the Department of Defense should pay private medical providers or institutions for care for transgender individuals?**

The Department is committed to provide the medically necessary care for all military members and our healthcare beneficiaries subject to applicable laws, regulations, and Departmental policies. Any necessary treatment that is not available in our military treatment facilities may require treatment from private medical providers or institutions. However, under current statutes, sex reassignment surgery could only be provided to Active duty Service members, and that would require a waiver to medical policy on a case-by-case basis.

**Do you believe that dependents of service members should qualify for and receive transgender treatment under the military health system?**

The dependents of military members are already qualified for non-surgical treatment of transgender medical care, specifically gender dysphoria, under TRICARE policy.

**In your view, what would be the impact on military readiness of requiring the separation of all transgender service members currently serving in our armed forces?**

The guiding principles for this and any other personnel decision should be military readiness and lethality, to include the member's physical and mental fitness for duty, and worldwide deployability.

**What has been your role as acting USD(P&R) and formerly as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for military personnel policy in formulating policy pertaining to transgender individuals?**

My role in Performing the Duties of the USD(P&R) has been to chair the Transgender Panel of Experts and provide status updates to the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and Deputy Secretary of Defense on a periodic basis. In my former role as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy, I supported the efforts of the USD(P&R) to review, develop, and implement military personnel policies.