

## DEOMI News Highlights

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DEOMI News Highlights is a weekly compilation of published items and commentary with a focus on equal opportunity, equal employment opportunity, diversity, culture, and human relations issues. DEOMI News Highlights is also a management tool intended to serve the informational needs of equity professionals and senior DOD officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs, and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions.

### **Air Force Deploy-or-Out Rules Start Now: Here's How the Policy Works [Oriana Pawlyk, *Military.com*, 20 February 2019]**

- It's up to each airman to make sure he or she is fit for duty and able to deploy at a moment's notice. But commanders will keep tabs on whether an airman has been identified as non-deployable and should be recommended for retirement or administrative separation, according to the Air Force's [new guidance](#).
- The service issued guidelines Tuesday for active-duty, reserve, and National Guard members who are considered non-deployable. According to the memorandum, officials will immediately begin flagging those who have been unable to deploy for 12 consecutive months for possible separation.
- Active-duty and reserve enlisted and officers with between 16 and 20 years of service—or airmen who may be eligible for lengthy service consideration—will be evaluated by their chain of command. Lengthy service consideration is noted as service creditable toward retirement at the time discharge action starts, according to Air Force Guidance Memorandum [AFI 36-3208](#), “Administrative Separation of Airmen.” These airmen, nearing retirement eligibility, are entitled to special consideration for probation upon their request.

[Air Force Deploy-or-Out Rules Start Now: Here's How the Policy Works](#)

### **Federal judge temporarily blocks military from forcing out HIV-positive airmen [Rachel Weiner, *The Washington Post*, 15 February 2019]**

- A federal judge on Friday blocked the military from forcing out a pair of HIV-positive airmen, saying she had seen no evidence that the disease should prevent them from serving.
- Her ruling allows [the two airmen who sued](#) to remain in their posts pending trial. Both would otherwise have been terminated in the next few weeks.
- Both active-duty airmen began antiretroviral treatment after testing HIV positive in 2017, and doctors deemed them asymptomatic and physically fit to deploy. Their commanders agreed. But in November, they were told they would be discharged because personnel with HIV are barred from deploying to the Middle East.

[Federal judge temporarily blocks military from forcing out HIV-positive airmen](#)

### **VA Approves Fewer Male Veterans' Claims for PTSD Related to Sexual Trauma [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 21 February 2019]**

- The Department of Veterans Affairs approves claims for post-traumatic stress disorder related to military sexual assault at significantly lower rates for men than women—a gap the former director of the VA's Center for Women Veterans says shows “systematic discrimination” against men in an era of #MeToo.
- [In an editorial published Feb. 11 by The Hill](#), Kayla Williams, a senior fellow and director of the Military, Veterans, and Society Program at the Center for a New American Security, said the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) has closed a gap that once existed between approval rates for combat-related PTSD and claims for military sexual trauma (MST), but a disparity still exists between the genders for MST-related claims.
- The grant rate in 2018 for sexual-trauma PTSD claims was 57.7 percent for women and 44.7 percent for men. While those rates represent a large increase from the respective 41 percent and 26.9 percent approval rates in 2011, they show a continued lack of understanding within the VBA of the scope of the problem among men, Williams said in an interview Feb. 14.

[VA Approves Fewer Male Veterans' Claims for PTSD Related to Sexual Trauma](#)

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## **Culture**

[Welcome to \(possibly\) the only town in America that wants a new Civil War memorial](#)

## **Discrimination**

[Federal judge temporarily blocks military from forcing out HIV-positive airmen](#)

[Kansas lawmakers sponsor bill calling same-sex marriages 'parody'](#)

[New York City to Ban Discrimination Based on Hair](#)

## **Diversity**

[Among 1-percent earners, where are all the women?](#)

[For a Black Mathematician, What It's Like to Be the 'Only One'](#)

[In Palm Springs, the nation's first all-LGBTQ city council tests the modern meaning of diversity](#)

[Male, female or X? Air passengers to get more gender options from airlines](#)

[The Secret History of Women in Coding](#)

[Trump administration launches global effort to end criminalization of homosexuality](#)

[Too Few Women Leading Justice Department Litigation, Employees Say](#)

[Why the military should consider a waiver for high-functioning autism \[OPINION\]](#)

## **Miscellaneous**

[Air Force Deploy-or-Out Rules Start Now: Here's How the Policy Works](#)

[Air Force Secretary Proposes Tenant Bill of Rights for Military Families](#)

[Army landlords agree to expand tenant rights, curb fees in latest reform after Reuters reports](#)

[CNO defends hiding scathing internal report on Fitzgerald collision from public](#)

[Supreme Court takes up Trump administration's plan to ask about citizenship in census](#)

[US Marine Corps develops mobile data capture tool to modernize recruitment](#)

## **Misconduct**

[11 years in jail for ex-Veterans Affairs official in disabled vet fraud scheme](#)

[Air Guardsman arrested after reportedly posing as CIA agent to impress woman at church](#)

[Fourth USS Ronald Reagan sailor pleads guilty in drug operation](#)

[Navy officer guilty of manslaughter in bridge plunge deaths](#)

[Prosecutors: Coast Guard officer plotted to 'murder innocent civilians'](#)

[Report: US Marshals failed to punish serious employee misconduct](#)

[Senate backs bill to make lynching a federal hate crime as 2020 rivals Harris, Booker join forces](#)

[This is how two Fort Stewart soldiers plotted the murder of a third, police say](#)

## **Racism**

[Jussie Smollett hate attack claim: 'Bogus police reports cause real harm,' police say](#)

['Time for the Ku Klux Klan to night ride again': An Alabama newspaper editor wants to bring back lynching](#)

## **Religion**

[Anti-Semitic Attacks Fuel Continuing Rise in Hate Crimes in New York](#)

[War memorial or religious symbol? Cross fight reaches U.S. high court](#)

## **Sexual Assault/Harassment**

[NATO troops got catfished & honeypotted on social media, revealing serious vulnerabilities](#)

[Seeking To Bounce Back From Nassar Fallout, USA Gymnastics Names New President](#)

[VA Approves Fewer Male Veterans' Claims for PTSD Related to Sexual Trauma](#)