

DEOMI News Highlights

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.

About 21,000 troops booted so far under ‘deploy or get out’ policy [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 14 March 2019]

- About 21,000 nondeployable troops have been forced out of the ranks since the Defense Department’s [“deploy or get out”](#) policy began last summer, Acting Defense Secretary [Patrick Shanahan](#) announced on Thursday.
- Last year, Defense Department officials estimated that about 11 percent of active-duty troops—some 235,000—were rated as nondeployable. Almost half of that number were individuals missing medical exams or paperwork, troops nearing retirement, and women service members who were pregnant.
- But the remaining 126,000 faced a range of short- and long-term injuries, or simply failed to meet military fitness standards. Military officials said those individuals would be given up to 12 months to prove their deployability or be pushed out of the services.

[About 21,000 troops booted so far under ‘deploy or get out’ policy](#)

Military to begin enforcing Trump’s restrictions on transgender troops [Paul Sonne and Ann E. Marimow, *The Washington Post*, 13 March 2019]

- The military will begin [enforcing](#) President Trump’s restrictions on transgender troops on April 12, according to a Pentagon memo, which drew rebukes from Democratic [lawmakers](#) and civil rights advocates who decried the change as bigoted.
- The memo stipulates that a history of gender dysphoria would [disqualify](#) applicants to the military unless they have been stable in their biological sex for 36 months, are willing to abide by the rules for that sex, and have not transitioned and do not need to in the view of medical providers.
- Those who are [already](#) in the military or under contract to join before the start date will fall under the 2016 policy enacted by the Obama administration. That policy allowed people who have transitioned to join the military and gave those already serving an opportunity to transition while in the armed forces.

[Military to begin enforcing Trump’s restrictions on transgender troops](#)

Sexual Assaults Reports Up at Service Academies, But Down Servicewide [David Vergun, *Defense.gov*, 11 March 2019]

- It’s “gravely concerning” that results of [the most recent survey](#) of the military service academies show [another increase](#) in sexual assault reports, the executive director of the Defense Department’s Office of Force Resiliency, told lawmakers March 7 at a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee personnel subcommittee.
- The [service academies](#) to which Elizabeth P. Van Winkle referred are the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York; the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland; and the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. DOD does not oversee the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in Groton, Connecticut or the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York.
- Also concerning is retaliation aimed at “an appreciable portion” of service members and service academy students who report [sexual assault or harassment](#), said Van Winkle, who has a doctorate in applied experimental psychology. “We have a profound sacred obligation to our service members and their safety,” she said, adding she’s “committed and dedicated to making this right.”

[Sexual Assaults Reports Up at Service Academies, But Down Servicewide](#)

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Culture

[The White Southerners who fought US segregation](#)

Discrimination

[Pentagon Watchdogs Allowed Some Improper Access to Whistleblower Files](#)

Diversity

[I helped open all military jobs to women. We can't go backward. \[OPINION\]](#)

[Military to begin enforcing Trump's restrictions on transgender troops](#)

[Navy Carriers Celebrate 25 Years of Gender-Integrated Crews](#)

[Report: Specialized protective equipment, family leave among issues affecting female servicemembers](#)

Miscellaneous

[About 21,000 troops booted so far under 'deploy or get out' policy](#)

[CNN hit with \\$275 million defamation suit by Kentucky student](#)

[Can LSD and magic mushrooms help win wars? This Marine officer says 'yes'](#)

[GOP senators unveil paid parental leave proposal](#)

[Military families urge Warner to act on housing problems, citing mold and mismanagement](#)

[Pentagon faces internal questions about program to screen recruits with foreign ties, emails show Senate, White House Must Resolve Stalemate That Has Disabled Federal Employee Grievance Board](#)

[\[OPINION\]](#)

[Stricter recruiting standards now could save DOD billions in disability payouts later: study](#)

[VA Struggles To Unlock The Reasons Behind High Suicide Rates Among Older Veterans](#)

[What the military can teach us about preventing suicide \[OPINION\]](#)

Misconduct

[Another Norfolk sailor awaits sentencing on gun charge](#)

[Arrests in domestic terror probes outpace those inspired by Islamic extremists](#)

[Board Finds 'No Basis' to Remove Officer Involved in USS Fitzgerald Collision from Navy](#)

[Coast Guard lieutenant pleads not guilty in case tied to alleged domestic terrorist attack](#)

[Father of UC Irvine freshman blames 'fraternity hazing' for son's death](#)

[Fort Bragg soldier accused of murdering Afghan waives evidentiary hearing](#)

[Here's why a Navy cyber chief faces court-martial](#)

[Quantico case raises questions about how Marine Corps handles domestic abuse](#)

[Spec ops in trouble: Mired in scandal and under Pentagon review, what will it take to clean house?](#)

Religion

[49 killed at mosques in 'one of New Zealand's darkest days'](#)

[DeVos allows religious groups to provide taxpayer-funded services in private schools](#)

[A Muslim soldier says her command sergeant major forced her to remove her hijab](#)

[Ruth Bader Ginsburg poster vandalized with anti-Semitic profanity, swastika in Brooklyn](#)

Sexism

[VA Struggles to Curb Harassment of Female Veterans at Medical Centers](#)

Sexual Assault/Harassment

[Air Force colonel at NORAD found not guilty of sexual assault; convicted of assault](#)

[It's not just Sen. Martha McSally. #MeToo and more women in Congress mean more stories like hers](#)

[McSally calls for executive summit on sexual assault in the Air Force](#)

[New York, feds join to get 100K rape kits tested around US](#)

[Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand defends handling of sexual harassment accusations against former aide](#)

[Sexual Assaults Reports Up at Service Academies, But Down Servicewide](#)