

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.

Air Force JAG says commanders may invoke God at change of command ceremonies, sparking protest [Kent Miller, *Air Force Times*, 27 March 2019]

- A little publicized [legal opinion](#) that addresses commanders' rights to [mention God](#) at change of command and promotion ceremonies, issued by the Air Force judge advocate general in December, is now drawing [protests](#) and [praise](#).
- The opinion, dated Dec. 19, addresses whether commanders who [invoke a deity](#) at their official change of command ceremony, and also at the promotion ceremony that often follows a change of command, violate the 1st Amendment's Establishment Clause and Air Force Instruction 1-1.
- "We conclude a commander may: briefly thank a Supreme Being (either generally, such as Providence, that Almighty Being, our Lord, or the Supreme Author of All Good; or specifically, such as Allah, Brahman, Christ, Ganesh, God, Yahweh, or even Beelzebub); have an invocation, and choose whomever he or she would like to provide the invocation," the opinion states.

[Air Force JAG says commanders may invoke God at change of command ceremonies, sparking protest](#)

Pentagon to move forward on limits for transgender troops as final legal hurdle falls [Tara Copp, *Military Times*, 27 March 2019]

- The Pentagon's new [transgender policy](#) cleared a final legal hurdle Tuesday, meaning new limits on whether troops who identify as other than their biological sex may serve may be implemented within weeks.
- On Tuesday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit removed the last of four court injunctions lower federal courts had issued on the [new policy](#), which had until today kept the Defense Department from prohibiting forces from serving who experience gender dysphoria, which is a discomfort with one's biological sex. Transgender personnel who are willing to serve according to their biological sex, or who have already completed their transition to their preferred sex and are stable would be allowed to remain in the military.
- With Tuesday's decision and removal of that last injunction, "at the moment, there is no [legal barrier](#) to the [government's intended plan](#) to start enforcing the ban on April 12," said Perry Sacks, a spokesman for the various attorneys representing transgender clients.

[Pentagon to move forward on limits for transgender troops as final legal hurdle falls](#)

Marine Commandant Personally Invites MARSOC Trailblazer to Become an Officer [Gina Harkins, *Military.com*, 22 March 2019]

- The commandant of the Marine Corps personally challenged a sergeant who made history last year when she reached a major training milestone to rethink leaving the service and instead consider a career as an officer, *Military.com* has learned.
- Gen. Robert Neller called Sgt. Bailey Weis, the first female Marine to complete second phase of the intense selection process for special operators, to encourage her to attend Officer Candidates School. The call followed [Military.com's story about Weis](#) after she completed the physically demanding Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command training, which no woman had passed before.
- Neller has called on Marine leaders to help the service [retain](#) its top talent throughout his time as commandant. In a Marine Corps-wide message, Neller said the service must attract, develop, promote and retain the "best talent the nation has to offer in order to more effectively operate across the range of military operations."

[Marine Commandant Personally Invites MARSOC Trailblazer to Become an Officer](#)

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Culture

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[‘A very deep kind of patriotism’: Memorial to honor Native American veterans is coming to the Mall](#)

Discrimination

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[Justices Display Divisions in New Cases on Voting Maps Warped by Politics](#)
[Public universities focus their recruitment on wealthy and White students, a study finds](#)

Diversity

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[For the first time, a state’s National Guard command staff is made up of all women](#)
[GI Jane Was a Fairy Tale: Fighting for Respect in the Marine Corps \[OPINION\]](#)
[House votes to condemn Trump ban on transgender military service](#)
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[More Military Children Seeking Transgender Medical Care, Report Finds](#)
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[What the US Army can learn from the Brits’ ‘snowflake’ recruiting campaign](#)
[Why NASA’s historic all-female spacewalk isn’t happening](#)

Miscellaneous

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[Coast Guard Eyes Changes to Physical Standards, Tattoo Policy to Retain Troops](#)
[Controversial Military Malpractice Policy May Be Closer to Overturn Than Ever](#)
[Here are a few lessons for military recruiters straining to make mission from a civilian sales expert](#)
[If your military housing is contaminated, who pays your mold-related expenses?](#)
[Navy OKs New Slacks, Skirts, Shoes and Other Uniform Items for Female Sailors](#)
[Top Sustainment Official: Housing Privatization ‘Right Thing to Do’](#)
[The U.S. Military Is Creating the Future of Employee Monitoring](#)
[Vets Are Out-Representing Non-Vets in STEM Jobs: Report](#)

Misconduct

[Coast Guard Officer’s Alleged Terror Plot Highlights Need for Intrusive Leaders: Schultz](#)
[Lawmakers want Navy SEAL released from the brig ahead of war crimes trial](#)
[Troxell is back: The military’s top enlisted adviser is reinstated to duty after investigation](#)

Racism

[Guilty plea to hate crimes in deadly car attack at rally](#)
[Military Investigating After Report Links Troops to White Nationalist Group](#)
[Smollett saga shook public trust, heightened racial tensions](#)

Religion

[Air Force JAG says commanders may invoke God at change of command ceremonies, sparking protest](#)
[First Air Force JAG officer to wear hijab featured in short NBC documentary](#)
[This Muslim Fort Carson soldier is still getting questions about her hijab](#)

Sexual Assault/Harassment

[A campaign against sexual harassment in the entertainment industry — 100 years before #TimesUp](#)
[Here’s what happened to the officer who tried to arrange sex with a deaf child](#)
[‘I, Too, Was a Survivor’: Senator McSally Ends Years of Silence](#)
[Midshipman faces sexual assault, obstruction of justice charges in court-martial](#)
[Sailor charged with trading explicit images with 13-year-old girl](#)