

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.

The military leads all other professions in the number of days spent drinking per year, study claims [J.D. Simkins, *Military Times*, 5 April 2019]

- It should come as no surprise, then, that data pulled from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and analyzed by the [Delphi Behavioral Health Group](#) revealed that service members consume alcohol on more days of the year than any other profession.
- Close to 27,000 people across 25 different industries responded to surveys on alcohol consumption during the period of 2013 and 2017, with the average person reportedly consuming at least one drink 91 days per year.
- Service members, meanwhile, led all other professions, with an average of 130 days of drinking—or, over one-third of the calendar year.

[The military leads all other professions in the number of days spent drinking per year, study claims](#)

Pentagon's transgender policy for military service to take effect, nearly two years after Trump tweeted about the ban [Elizabeth McLaughlin, *ABC News*, 12 April 2019]

- The Pentagon's new policy that [places limits on the military service](#) of transgender individuals goes into effect on Friday, nearly two years after President Donald Trump [tweeted](#) that he wanted to ban transgender individuals from serving in the U.S. military.
- Service members diagnosed with gender dysphoria, defined as “a marked incongruence between one's experienced/expressed gender and assigned gender ... associated with clinically significant distress and impairment of functioning,” will no longer be allowed medical surgeries for [gender transition](#) unless they are currently in the process of receiving medical treatment. And transgender individuals who have received hormones or medical surgery related to their transition are now barred from joining the military, even if they can prove stability in their [preferred gender](#).
- A federal judge lifted the final injunction of the ban last month, allowing the Pentagon to proceed with its implementation of the [new policy](#). In the meantime, four outstanding lawsuits will proceed in courts across the country with the plaintiffs [arguing](#) the ban is unconstitutional.

[Pentagon's transgender policy for military service to take effect, nearly two years after Trump tweeted about the ban](#)

U.S. attorney general orders probe into mistreatment of gay employees [Sarah N. Lynch, *Reuters*, 5 April 2019]

- U.S. Attorney General William Barr said he was ordering certain Justice Department offices to investigate possible discrimination targeting gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender employees after an internal gay affinity group complained of low morale.
- In an [April 4 letter](#) to DOJ Pride released on Friday, Barr said he was “troubled” by the group's concerns, and was directing the FBI and the Bureau of Prisons to “investigate and address allegations of discrimination.”
- Based on an October 2018 survey, the group found, gay, lesbian, and transgender employees felt the workplace environment was “no longer the welcoming, inclusive environment” it used to be.

[U.S. attorney general orders probe into mistreatment of gay employees](#)

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Culture

[Mississippi's flag: Young people don't want to live here, GOP candidate says, so change it](#)

Discrimination

[U.S. attorney general orders probe into mistreatment of gay employees](#)

Diversity

[The new push for getting more women to sign up for VA benefits](#)

[Pentagon's transgender policy for military service to take effect, nearly two years after Trump tweeted about the ban](#)

[Sailors May Dress According to Preferred Gender While Off Duty, Navy Rules](#)

[Texas Tech Medical School, Under Pressure From Education Dept., Will Stop Using Race in Admissions](#)

Miscellaneous

[Families of fallen Guard, reservists push for expanded scholarship benefits](#)

[Immigrants who have served in the U.S. military are being deported after facing legal troubles](#)

[Kansas National Guard captain submits resignation in wake of suicides](#)

[The military leads all other professions in the number of days spent drinking per year, study claims](#)

[The Navy's new way to train students starts today](#)

[Republicans want census data on citizenship for redistricting](#)

[Soldiers can now get counseling for a drinking problem and stay deployable](#)

[Umbrellas, silver earrings and new ponytail options — the Corps is pondering these uniform changes](#)

[U.S. military advances sprawling mission to quell housing-safety scandal](#)

Misconduct

[Army strips star from Robbie Asher, ex-general of Oklahoma National Guard, over relationship](#)

[Ex-Navy official Jill Loftus billed taxpayers for Hawaii vacations, belittled staff, IG report says](#)

[Head of California Air National Guard removed amid allegations of cover-up and retaliation](#)

[More legal bombshells explode in war crimes case](#)

[Navy drops all criminal charges against commander, junior officer in Fitzgerald collision cases](#)

[New SOCOM Chief Pledges to Crack Down on Operator Misconduct](#)

[Probe: MCPON Giordano 'failed to exhibit exemplary conduct'](#)

[SEAL skipper defends restrictions on special warfare chief freed by Trump](#)

Racism

[Authorities say deputy's son behind fires at Black churches](#)

[Facebook, Google face House hearing on White nationalism](#)

[What does 'White fragility' mean? Facebook discussions about race add new words to dictionaries](#)

Sexual Assault/Harassment

[Fort Bragg created a sexual assault 'escape room,' but it's not what it sounds like](#)

[US jury finds ex-priest guilty of sex abuse in New Mexico](#)