

## Debate over US military transgender policy

29th July, 2017



President Donald Trump's desire to ban transgender people from serving in the USA military has already run into problems. Senior military bosses at the Pentagon have said that there will be "no

modifications" to its policy of allowing transgender people to serve until it receives more formal notification from the White House. Joint Chiefs Chairman Joseph Dunford said in a statement: "In the meantime, we will continue to treat all of our personnel with respect." He added: "There will be no modifications to the current policy until the President's direction has been received by the Secretary of Defense and the secretary has issued implementation guidance."

President Trump made his announcement in a surprise tweet on Wednesday. It said: "The United States Government will not accept or allow transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military. Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail." The decision reversed a policy that was approved by the Defense Department under President Barack Obama. Republican John McCain disagreed with Mr Trump. He said: "Any American who meets current medical and readiness standards should be allowed to continue serving."

Sources: [npr.org](http://npr.org) / [Bloomberg.com](http://Bloomberg.com) / [cnn.com](http://cnn.com)

## Writing

Anyone should be able to be a soldier as long as they are fit and able. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

desire / ban / modifications / policy / transgender / formal / personnel / respect / announcement / accept / decisive / medical costs / disruption / standards / serving

## True / False

- Donald Trump tried to ban transgender people from being in the military. T / F
- The Pentagon said it will modify its policies regarding transgender policy. T / F
- The Pentagon said it received notification from the White House. T / F
- The Secretary of Defense has issued implementation guidance. T / F
- President Trump made his announcement online. T / F
- President Trump said transgender people increase costs to the military. T / F
- Barack Obama reversed the decision about transgender people. T / F
- John McCain did not agree with President Trump. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>desire</b>       | a. permit        |
| 2. <b>servicing</b>    | b. staff         |
| 3. <b>notification</b> | c. weighed down  |
| 4. <b>personnel</b>    | d. communication |
| 5. <b>guidance</b>     | e. present-day   |
| 6. <b>allow</b>        | f. wish          |
| 7. <b>capacity</b>     | g. involve       |
| 8. <b>burdened</b>     | h. advice        |
| 9. <b>entail</b>       | i. working       |
| 10. <b>current</b>     | j. position      |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think what you read?
- What do you think of about President Trump's tweets?
- Why would transgender people affect the military's medical costs?
- What "disruption" would transgender people create in the military?
- How much do you agree with John McCain's words?
- What advice do you have for transgender soldiers?
- Would you be a good soldier?
- What questions would you like to ask Donald Trump?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. transgender people from serving         | a. was approved        |
| 2. Senior military                         | b. guidance            |
| 3. treat all of our personnel              | c. victory             |
| 4. the current                             | d. bosses              |
| 5. the secretary has issued implementation | e. in the USA military |
| 6. individuals to serve in any             | f. standards           |
| 7. overwhelming                            | g. policy              |
| 8. burdened with the tremendous medical    | h. capacity            |
| 9. reversed a policy that                  | i. with respect        |
| 10. medical and readiness                  | j. costs               |

## Discussion – Student B

- Why does Donald Trump want to stop transgender soldiers?
- What do you think of the US military?
- Why has President Trump's plan run into problems?
- What do you think of Donald Trump as president?
- How good is the military in your country?
- Why wouldn't transgender people be anything but great soldiers?
- How do you think Mr Trump feels about his plan not being implemented?
- What advice do you have for Donald Trump?

## Spelling

- ivnergs in the USA military
- formal catntiioniof
- treat all of our nronepsel with respect
- There will be no aiiioomntfcds
- the current lcpoiy
- implementation andegcui
- Trump made his nanemtcenoun
- transgender lnidsuiidva
- serve in any iyppacta
- imlhneorevvg victory
- medical costs and itspoirund
- tnsasrdda should be allowed

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. d	4. b	5. h
6. a	7. j	8. c	9. g	10. e

## Role Play

### Role A – General

You think a general is the best military job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a tank driver, a fighter pilot or a spy.

### Role B – Tank Driver

You think a tank driver is the best military job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a general, a fighter pilot or a spy.

### Role C – Fighter Pilot

You think a fighter pilot is the best military job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a tank driver, a general or a spy.

### Role D – Spy

You think a spy is the best military job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a tank driver, a fighter pilot or a general.

## Speaking – Military staff

Rank these with your partner. Put the best military positions at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| • general     | • helicopter pilot |
| • tank driver | • fighter pilot    |
| • marine      | • sailor           |
| • soldier     | • spy              |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.