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Level 6

Debate over US military transgender policy

29th July, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170729-transgender.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170729-transgender.html>

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: <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/07/27/539760575/joint-chiefs-chairman-says-transgender-policy-wont-change-yet>
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-07-27/pentagon-pushes-back-on-trump-bid-to-change-transgender-policy>
<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/07/26/politics/trump-military-transgender/index.html>

WARM-UPS

1. TRANSGENDER SOLDIERS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about transgender soldiers. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

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

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. MILITARY: Students A **strongly** believe everyone should serve in the military; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. SERVING: What are the best branches of the military to serve in? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

| | Good Points | Bad Points |
|--------------|-------------|------------|
| Army | | |
| Navy | | |
| Air Force | | |
| Special Ops | | |
| Intelligence | | |
| Coast guard | | |

5. PENTAGON: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "Pentagon". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

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

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

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170729-transgender.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

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

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

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

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 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 |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170729-transgender.html>

President Donald Trump's (1) _____ to ban transgender people from serving in the USA military has already (2) _____ into problems. Senior military (3) _____ at the Pentagon have said that there will be "no modifications" to its (4) _____ of allowing transgender people to serve until it receives more formal (5) _____ from the White House. Joint Chiefs Chairman Joseph Dunford said in a statement: "In the (6) _____, we will continue to treat all of our personnel with respect." He added: "There will be no modifications to the current (7) _____ until the President's Direction has been received by the Secretary of Defense and the secretary has issued implementation (8) _____."

notification
bosses
guidance
desire
run
policy
policy
meantime

President Trump made his announcement in a (9) _____ tweet on Wednesday. It said: "The United States Government will not accept or allow transgender individuals to (10) _____ in any capacity in the U.S. Military. Our military must be focused on (11) _____ and overwhelming (12) _____ and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would (13) _____." The decision reversed a policy that was (14) _____ by the Defense Department under President Barack Obama. Republican John McCain (15) _____ with Mr Trump. He said: "Any American who (16) _____ current medical and readiness standards should be allowed to continue serving."

serve
approved
victory
meets
surprise
disagreed
decisive
entail

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170729-transgender.html>

- 1) Donald Trump's desire to ban transgender people from serving in _____
 - a. the USA militaries
 - b. the USA militarize
 - c. the USA military
 - d. the USA militia
- 2) allowing transgender people to serve until it receives more _____
 - a. formally notification
 - b. formally notify caption
 - c. formal not if it's location
 - d. formal notification
- 3) In the meantime, we will continue to treat all of our personnel _____
 - a. within respect
 - b. with respect
 - c. without respect
 - d. wither respect
- 4) There will be no modifications to _____
 - a. the currant policy
 - b. the current policy
 - c. the currants policy
 - d. the currency policy
- 5) the Secretary of Defense and the secretary has issued _____
 - a. implementation guidance
 - b. implementation guide ants
 - c. implement nation guidance
 - d. implement ration guide ants
- 6) President Trump made his announcement in a _____ Wednesday
 - a. surprise tweet on
 - b. surprised tweet on
 - c. surprise tweeting on
 - d. surprises tweet on
- 7) not accept or allow transgender individuals to serve _____
 - a. in many capacity
 - b. in any cap a city
 - c. in any cap acidity
 - d. in any capacity
- 8) Our military must be focused on decisive and _____
 - a. overwhelming victorious
 - b. overwhelming victories
 - c. overwhelming victory
 - d. overwhelmingly victory
- 9) be burdened with the tremendous medical costs _____
 - a. and disrupted
 - b. end disruption
 - c. and disruption
 - d. end disrupted
- 10) Any American who meets current medical and _____
 - a. ready ness standard
 - b. read in ness standards
 - c. readiness standard
 - d. readiness standards

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170729-transgender.html>

President Donald Trump's (1) _____ transgender people from (2) _____ USA military has already run into problems. Senior military bosses at the Pentagon have said that there will be "no modifications" (3) _____ 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 (4) _____ our personnel with respect." He added: "There will be no modifications to the current (5) _____ President's Direction has been received by the Secretary of Defense and the secretary (6) _____ implementation guidance."

President Trump made his announcement (7) _____ tweet on Wednesday. It said: "The United States Government will not accept or allow transgender individuals (8) _____ capacity in the U.S. Military. Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming victory and cannot (9) _____ the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail." The decision (10) _____ that was approved by the Defense Department under President Barack Obama. Republican John McCain disagreed with Mr Trump. He said: "Any American (11) _____ medical and readiness standards should (12) _____ continue serving."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170729-transgender.html>

1. What did one of Donald Trump's plans run into?
2. What organization said there would be no modifications?
3. What is the job of Joseph Dunston?
4. How will the Pentagon treat all of its personnel?
5. Which secretary has to inform the Pentagon of modifications?
6. How did Donald Trump make his announcement?
7. What did President Trump say the military must be focused on?
8. What kind of costs did President Trump talk about?
9. Who initially approved transgender people serving in the military?
10. Who disagreed with President Trump?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170729-transgender.html>

- 1) What did one of Donald Trump's plans run into?
 - a) resistance
 - b) ideas
 - c) problems
 - d) danger
- 2) What organization said there would be no modifications?
 - a) the Pentagon
 - b) the CIA
 - c) the FBI
 - d) the White House
- 3) What is the job of Joseph Dunston?
 - a) Joint Chiefs Chairman
 - b) Chief of Staff
 - c) general
 - d) head of the FBI
- 4) How will the Pentagon treat all of its personnel?
 - a) later
 - b) with respect
 - c) to dinner
 - d) normally
- 5) Which secretary has to inform the Pentagon of modifications?
 - a) the Secretary of Military
 - b) the White House secretary
 - c) the President's secretary
 - d) the Secretary of Defense
- 6) How did Donald Trump make his announcement?
 - a) on TV
 - b) via Twitter
 - c) over the radio
 - d) in the newspaper
- 7) What did President Trump say the military must be focused on?
 - a) victory
 - b) the military
 - c) soldiers
 - d) sailors
- 8) What kind of costs did President Trump talk about?
 - a) policy costs
 - b) spiralling costs
 - c) medical costs
 - d) standard costs
- 9) Who initially approved transgender people serving in the military?
 - a) George W. Bush
 - b) a soldier
 - c) a 5-star general
 - d) Barack Obama
- 10) Who disagreed with President Trump?
 - a) John McCain
 - b) Barack Obama
 - c) Melania Trump
 - d) a 5-star general

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170729-transgender.html>

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.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170729-transgender.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'transgender' and 'military'.

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| transgender | military |
|--------------------|-----------------|

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• desire• bosses• more• treat• current• issued | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• surprise• accept• focused• costs• under• current |
|---|---|

TRANSGENDER SOLDIERS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170729-transgender.html>

Write five GOOD questions about transgender soldiers in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

| | STUDENT 1 _____ | STUDENT 2 _____ | STUDENT 3 _____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. | | | |
| Q.2. | | | |
| Q.3. | | | |
| Q.4. | | | |
| Q.5. | | | |

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

TRANSGENDER SOLDIERS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'transgender'?
3. Why does Donald Trump want to stop transgender soldiers?
4. What do you think of the US military?
5. Why has President Trump's plan run into problems?
6. What do you think of Donald Trump as president?
7. How good is the military in your country?
8. Why wouldn't transgender people be anything but great soldiers?
9. How do you think Mr Trump feels about his plan not being implemented?
10. What advice do you have for Donald Trump?

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TRANSGENDER SOLDIERS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'military'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of President Trump's tweets?
15. Why would transgender people affect the military's medical costs?
16. What "disruption" would transgender people create in the military?
17. How much do you agree with John McCain's words?
18. What advice do you have for transgender soldiers?
19. Would you be a good soldier?
20. What questions would you like to ask Donald Trump?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170729-transgender.html>

President Donald Trump's (1) _____ to ban transgender people from serving in the USA military has already (2) _____ into problems. Senior military bosses at the Pentagon have said that there will be "no modifications" (3) _____ 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 (4) _____, we will continue to (5) _____ 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 (6) _____."

President Trump made his announcement in a (7) _____ tweet on Wednesday. It said: "The United States Government will not accept or allow transgender individuals to (8) _____ in any capacity in the U.S. Military. Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming victory and cannot (9) _____ burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail." The decision (10) _____ a policy that was approved by the Defense Department under President Barack Obama. Republican John McCain disagreed (11) _____ Mr Trump. He said: "Any American who (12) _____ current medical and readiness standards should be allowed to continue serving."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) desist | (b) desire | (c) derisory | (d) destined |
| 2. | (a) jogged | (b) run | (c) sprinted | (d) paced |
| 3. | (a) on | (b) by | (c) of | (d) to |
| 4. | (a) much time | (b) meantime | (c) main time | (d) mealtime |
| 5. | (a) treaties | (b) treatise | (c) treaty | (d) treat |
| 6. | (a) guide | (b) guiding | (c) guidance | (d) guided |
| 7. | (a) surprise | (b) surprised | (c) surprises | (d) surprisedly |
| 8. | (a) service | (b) servile | (c) serve | (d) servant |
| 9. | (a) take | (b) do | (c) have | (d) be |
| 10. | (a) reversed | (b) reversal | (c) reserved | (d) reservoir |
| 11. | (a) with | (b) at | (c) of | (d) by |
| 12. | (a) meets | (b) greets | (c) assembles | (d) gathers |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170729-transgender.html>

Paragraph 1

1. ivnergs in the USA military
2. formal catntiioniof
3. treat all of our nronepsel with respect
4. There will be no aiiioomntfcds
5. the current lcpoi
6. implementation andegcui

Paragraph 2

7. Trump made his nanemtceoun
8. transgender lnidsuiidva
9. serve in any iyccacta
10. imlhneorev victory
11. medical costs and itspoirund
12. tnsardda should be allowed

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170729-transgender.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail."
The decision reversed a
- () 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
- () policy that was approved by the Defense Department under
President Barack Obama. Republican
- () medical and readiness standards should be allowed to continue
serving."
- () of Defense and the secretary has issued implementation guidance."
- () policy of allowing transgender people to serve until it receives more
formal notification
- (**1**) President Donald Trump's desire to ban transgender people from
serving in the USA military has already run
- () 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
- () President Trump made his announcement in a surprise tweet on
Wednesday. It said: "The United States Government
- () John McCain disagreed with Mr Trump. He said: "Any American who
meets current
- () into problems. Senior military bosses at the Pentagon have said
that there will be "no modifications" to its
- () the current policy until the President's direction has been received
by the Secretary

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170729-transgender.html>

1. transgender the people USA from military serving Ban in .
2. of policy Its people serve transgender to allowing .
3. continue to treat all of our personnel with respect We will .
4. There to will the be current no policy modifications .
5. The guidance implementation issued has secretary .
6. announcement his made Trump tweet surprise a in .
7. accept serve Not individuals allow to transgender or .
8. focused decisive overwhelming Be on and victory .
9. entail would military the in transgender that Disruption .
10. that policy a reversed decision The approved was .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170729-transgender.html>

President Donald Trump's *desire / derisory* to ban transgender people from serving in the USA military has already run *onto / into* problems. Senior military bosses *at / on* the Pentagon have said that there will be "no modifications" to its policy of *allow in / allowing* transgender people to serve until it receives more *formal / formally* notification from the White House. Joint Chiefs Chairman Joseph Dunford said in a *stated / statement*: "In the meantime, we will continue *to / for* treat all of our personnel with respect." He added: "There will *being / be* no modifications to the *current / currant* policy until the President's Direction has been received by the Secretary of Defense and the secretary has *issued / issuing* implementation guidance."

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

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170729-transgender.html>

Pr_s_d_nt D_n_ld Tr_m_p's d_s_r_t b_n tr_nsg_nd_r
p__pl_ fr_m s_rv_ng _n th_ _S_ m_l_t_ry h_s _lr__dy
r_n _nt_ pr_bl_ms. S_n__r m_l_t_ry b_ss_s _t th_
P_nt_g_n h_v_ s__d th_t th_r_ w_ll b_ "n_
m_d_f_c_t__ns" t_ _ts p_l_cy _f_ll_w_ng tr_nsg_nd_r
p__pl_ t_ s_rv_ _nt_l _t r_c__v_s m_r_ fr_m_l
n_t_f_c_t__n fr_m th_ Wh_t_ H__s_. J__nt Ch__fs
Ch__rm_n J_s_ph D_nf_r_d s__d _n _st_t_m_nt: "_n
th_ m__nt_m_, w_ w_ll c__nt_n__ t_ tr__t__ll _f__r
p_rs_nn_l w_th r_sp_ctH_ _dd_d: "Th_r_ w_ll b_ n_
m_d_f_c_t__ns t_ th_ c_rr_nt p_l_cy _nt_." I th_
Pr_s_d_nt's d_r_ct__n h_s b__n r_c__v_d by th_
S_cr_t_ry _f D_f_ns_ _nd th_ s_cr_t_ry h_s _ss_d
_mpl_m_nt_t__n g__d_nc_."

Pr_s_d_nt Tr_m_p m_d_ h_s _nn__nc_m_nt _n _
s_rpr_s_ tw__t _n W_dn_sd_y. _t s__d: "Th_ _n_t_d
St_t_s G_v_rnm_nt w_ll n_t _cc_pt _r _ll_w
tr_nsg_nd_r _nd_v_d__ls t_ s_rv_ _n _ny c_p_c_ty _n
th_ _S_ M_l_t_ry. __r m_l_t_ry m_st b_ f_c_s_d _n
d_c_s_v_ _nd _v_rwh_lm_ng v_ct_ry _nd c_nn_t b_
b_rdn_d w_th th_ tr_m_nd__s m_d_c_l c_sts _nd
d_sr_pt__n th_t tr_nsg_nd_r _n th_ m_l_t_ry w__ld
_nt__l." Th_ d_c_s__n r_v_rs_d _ p_l_cy th_t w_s
_ppr_v_d by th_ D_f_ns_ D_p_rtm_nt _nd_r Pr_s_d_nt
B_r_ck _b_m_. R_p_bl_c_n J_hn McC__n d_s_gr__d
w_th Mr Tr_m_p. H_ s__d: "_ny _m_r_c_n wh_ m__ts
c_rr_nt m_d_c_l _nd r__d_n_ss st_nd_rds sh__ld b_
_ll_w_d t_ c__nt_n__ s_rv_ng."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170729-transgender.html>

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 us 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"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170729-transgender.html>

President Donald Trump's desire to ban transgender people from serving in the US 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."

FREE WRITING

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Write about **transgender soldiers** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. TRANSGENDER SOLDIERS: Make a poster about transgender soldiers. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. FIT AND ABLE: Write a magazine article about anyone being able to serve as a soldier, as long as they are fit and able. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on transgender soldiers. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T b F c F d F e T f T g F h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Problems
2. The Pentagon
3. Senior military bosses
4. With respect
5. The Secretary of Defense
6. Via Twitter
7. Victory
8. Medical costs
9. Barack Obama
10. John McCain

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. d 6. b 7. a 8. c 9. d 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)