

Eliminating DEI at the Pentagon

Administration Actions:

President Trump issued an Executive Order (EO) titled [Restoring America's Fighting Force](#) which requires the Secretary of Defense to abolish every DEI office within the Department of Defense (DoD) and for the Secretary of Homeland Security to eliminate every DEI office within the Coast Guard. This would include any office or initiative which promotes a race- or sex-based preference which “subverts meritocracy, perpetuates unconstitutional discrimination, and promotes divisive concepts or gender ideology.”

The EO would also require the Secretary of Defense to conduct an internal review within 90 days that documents actions taken in pursuit of DEI initiatives, including all instances of race and sex discrimination and activities designed to promote a race- or sex-based preferences system.

In addition, the EO would prohibit the Department of Defense, and the Armed Forces, from allowing any educational institution which they operate, to promote or advance “un-American, divisive, discriminatory, radical, extremist, or irrational theories,” including:

- Divisive concepts, race or sex stereotyping, and race or sex scapegoating, [as defined](#) in EO 13950.
- That America's founding documents are racist or sexist.
- Gender ideology, which this EO clarifies has the meaning given to that term in Section 2(f) of the [Executive Order of January 20, 2025](#), (Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government).

Background:

- The Biden administration pushed DEI at the Department of Defense, promoting radical and divisive ideology rather than a merit-based system which hurt military recruitment and morale.
 - In April 2022, the Department of Defense issued an [Equity Action Plan](#) on promoting DEI throughout the Department, noting the Biden administration's unprecedented efforts in promoting DEI.
 - Biden DEI policies led to the [lowest recruiting efforts](#) for the military since 1940 with a 41,000 troop-shortfall in 2023.