

## **Eliminating Gender Ideology in the Military**

### **Administration Actions:**

President Trump has issued an Executive Order (EO) titled [Prioritizing Military Excellence and Readiness](#) which makes it the policy of the United States “to establish high standards for troop readiness...” which it says is inconsistent with the medical, surgical, and mental health constraints on individuals with gender dysphoria. The EO also finds that shifting pronoun usage, or the use of pronouns that inaccurately reflect an individual’s sex, are inconsistent with the high standards required for service members.

The EO requires medical standards for military service appointment, enlistment, or induction to be updated to reflect this new policy within 60 days. It also requires the Secretary of Defense to promptly issue directives for the Department of Defense (DoD) to end “invented and identification-based pronoun usage.”

In addition, the order would prohibit the Armed Forces from allowing males to use sleeping, changing, or bathing facilities designed for females, and vice-versa. The Secretary of Homeland Security would be required to implement the same policies for the Coast Guard.

The EO would also revoke [EO 14004 of January 25, 2021 \(Enabling All Qualified Americans To Serve Their Country in Uniform\)](#), which allowed transgender individuals to serve in the military.

This EO clarifies that gender ideology 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 first Trump administration issued a [Presidential Memorandum of March 23, 2018 \(Military Service by Transgender Individuals\)](#) which stated “transgender persons with a history or diagnosis of gender dysphoria — individuals who the policies state may require substantial medical treatment, including medications and surgery,” would be disqualified from serving in the military.
  - This was the second memorandum issued by the Trump administration after a 2017 memorandum was [challenged in the courts](#).
  - The Biden administration revoked this memorandum with EO 14004 allowing transgender individuals to serve in the military.
- The National Institute of Health [estimates](#) there are up to 8000 transgender individuals who serve in the military on active duty.