

PALM CENTER

BLUEPRINTS FOR SOUND PUBLIC POLICY

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Chiefs Seek to Block Fully Fit Transgender Applicants from Serving as Army Spends \$300 Million to Recruit 6,000 Soldiers

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — In response to today's announcement that Service Chiefs are requesting a 6-month delay in the repeal of the Pentagon's ban on enlistment by transgender applicants seeking to join the military, [Palm Center](#) Director Aaron Belkin released the following statement:

“Transgender troops have been serving openly and effectively for a year, as predicted by all of the research showing that inclusive policy for LGBT troops promotes readiness.

“A six-month delay of the last piece of inclusive policy, the repeal of the enlistment ban, will only produce redundant evidence about the contributions of transgender service members. Indeed, the Chiefs who are demanding ongoing delay are not bringing any new arguments or new data to the table, but are recycling long-discredited concerns whose only basis is emotion and politics, not data. It is particularly remarkable, as the Army [spends](#) an additional \$300 million to recruit 6,000 Soldiers this year, that it would seek to turn away Americans who are fit and eager to serve.

“Eighteen foreign militaries including Israel, Britain, Australia and Canada allow transgender personnel to serve, and none have reported any detriment to readiness. Forcing transgender applicants to lie to get into the military is ‘don't ask, don't tell’ all over again. General Neller, General Milley and the Pentagon's civilian leadership have a responsibility to their troops not to lead us back to that sad era.”

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About the Palm Center: *The Palm Center is an independent research institute committed to sponsoring state-of-the-art scholarship to enhance the quality of public dialogue about critical and controversial issues of the day. Our research has been published in leading social scientific journals and extensively consulted and cited by the US military and other government entities. The Palm Center seeks to be a resource for scholars, policymakers, journalists, opinion leaders, students and the public at large. For more information, visit us at www.palmcenter.org.*