

CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY
Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs
Written Statement
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Good morning. My name is Matt Lohmeier and I'm an Air Force Academy graduate, former F-15C fighter pilot, and was a Lieutenant Colonel and commander in the Space Force.

In 2021, I was fired from my command in the Space Force for trying to reverse the trend of the overt politicization of the Uniformed Services. Specifically, I criticized the military's diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) trainings, which, at my own base, were illegally occurring despite an executive order from the commander-in-chief. I watched these trainings divide our troops ideologically and, in some cases, sow the seeds of animosity towards the very country they had sworn an oath to defend.

I submitted a formal written complaint to the Space Force Inspector General (see Exhibit 5) detailing that such violations were occurring, including illegal race-based discrimination, but my complaint was never investigated and was later dismissed by then-Lt Gen Stephen Whiting, whom the Senate just confirmed for his fourth star. After two months, I received a written dismissal of my complaint from General Whiting (see Exhibit 6).

After my complaint was dismissed, I wrote a book explaining that the DEI industry, which is steeped in critical race theory, is rooted in anti-American, Marxist ideology, and demonstrated its divisive impact on our troops. I explained that DEI initiatives and trainings were dividing our armed forces precisely because CRT was created by those who harbored the intention to undermine and destroy the fabric of American society. I warned that our recruitment and retention would plummet if we continued to foist such a divisive ideology on the men and women in uniform.

Personally, I have always advocated for a non-political military work environment.

Today, I'm here to testify about the ongoing Marxist-inspired efforts to subvert and weaken our military and broader American society. We often refer to these efforts as wokeism; it is a culture war. Yet, even in this committee, there are differing views about whether there is such a thing as a "culture war" under way.

Some members of this committee have been outspoken critics of DEI initiatives, CRT, drag shows on military bases, and LGBTQ pride celebrations and woke military recruiting videos—all things that are components of an ongoing culture war.

Ranking member Garcia, on the other hand, asserted as recently as two weeks ago in a tweet that the culture wars are “phony” and are merely a political talking point of Republicans (see tweet from December 31, 2023). But I assure you that Congressman Garcia’s view is NOT the view of many men and women in uniform who labor under the constant burden of race identity politics in the military workplace, and what appears to them to be the destruction of the merit-based system, whether deliberate or incidental.

It’s nothing if not *incredible* for a member of this committee to assert the culture wars are “phony” while another member of this committee is a member of the so-called progressive ‘Squad,’ was herself a Black Lives Matter organizer and activist (an organization whose publicly avowed ideology is Marxist), and whose ambition for a seat in Congress was, in her own words, “to accomplish a mission”—no doubt a social and cultural mission, as she says she “doesn’t need to take off *her activist hat* to legislate in Congress.” She claims her activism has been her “guiding force.”

Servicemembers who wear the uniform of their country do not want to see these things in the military workplace or at their bases. In most cases, this is true regardless of their race or political worldview. Despite that reality, Pentagon officials requested \$140 million to expand woke Diversity initiatives in FY2024, up from \$68 million and \$86.5 million in 2022 and 2023, respectively, and all but three members of this subcommittee voted in favor of it. There are few things taxpayers such as myself feel is less essential to the mission of our military than expanding Diversity mandates and indoctrination.

Such aggressively opposed ideological worldviews competing for institutionalization through policy epitomizes and formalizes what is properly termed a culture war. It is an American-Maoist culture war. The fact that these debates now infect the US military workplace is an offense to people like me who love their country and all people—regardless of race, gender, or background.

I’d like to briefly draw attention to two of a handful of exhibits I have submitted for the committee’s review and for entry into the official record of today’s hearing.

THE FIRST of the exhibits is a 100-page document (see Exhibit 1) which includes real-world *unsolicited* feedback from military servicemembers, veterans, and parents about the consequences of this administration’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives. It is, I imagine, merely a small part of the overall discontent and disappointment experienced by those who presently serve. I submit it for the record because to spend even a few minutes with the document is to get a sense for the ways in which *the innocuously labeled “DEI trainings”* are hurting morale, dividing and distracting troops, disincentivizing Americans from service, and thereby destroying our recruiting and retention efforts. Further, it is destroying the *image* of the United States military, which is a critical component of the proper communication of national strength to both allies and enemies alike. We now *appear* weaker because we *are* weaker (see Exhibit 7).

THE SECOND exhibit I'd like to mention is a letter signed by 185 retired General and Flag Officers (see Exhibit 2) that is dated May 20, 2023, and was previously sent to then-House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, as well as other House leaders. I have confirmed that those to whom the letter was addressed received it. For the same reasons as those I've previously stated, the letter "requested that Congress, pursuant to its Constitutional powers . . . take legislative action to remove all diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs from the Department of Defense (DoD)." It also requested that Congress "ensure that no DEI related policies, programs, and funding are included in the 2024 NDAA." These leaders warned: "As our Nation faces looming threats from 'foreign' adversaries/enemies, our military is under assault from *a culture war* stemming from 'domestic' ideologically inspired political policies and practices. IF NOT STOPPED NOW, they will forever change the military's warrior ethos essential to performing its mission."

Despite their request and warning, and despite some genuine efforts of some members of the House, the Congress ultimately DID NOT use the power of the purse to put an end to DEI policies, programs, and funding in the recently approved NDAA. The men and women who sent that letter raised the warning voice and tried their best to respectfully influence our Nation's lawmakers.

Both of these exhibits I have mentioned are publicly available at the STARRS.US website.

I said in my book that if we did not abandon the diversity and inclusion trainings, then we would see unprecedented "recruitment and retention woes." That has been true and we have seen as a Nation that it is not getting any better.

I also said that unless we abandon our present hate-filled and divisive path, and repent as a nation, we will destroy ourselves. I reaffirm that view here today, and I'm grateful to answer any questions the committee may have for me.

Exhibits

1. "What Military Service Members, Veterans and Parents Are Saying: Evidence that the CRT/DEI/Woke agenda being pushed in the military is harming morale, recruitment and retention" (100 pages)
2. Flag Officers 4 America Letter, dated May 20, 2023
3. Lt Col Lohmeier_Summary of Military Record (ranked #1/753 Space Force officers at time of promotion to Lt Col)
4. Lohmeier_Civilian CV
5. Lt Col Lohmeier_Space Force IG Complaint Citing Marxist Teachings
6. Lt Gen Stephen Whiting's Dismissal of the IG Complaint
7. Heritage Foundation's 2023 Index of US Military Strength Report

What Military Service Members, Veterans and Parents Are Saying

Evidence that the CRT/DEI/Woke agenda being pushed in the military is harming morale, recruitment and retention

Listen to the People.

What Military Service Members, Veterans and Parents Are Saying

While finding articles and content for the STARRS.US website, the webmaster often looks at the comments on articles, YouTube videos, Twitter posts, etc to see what people are thinking and started seeing a definite trend in sentiment.

She began collecting comments that are only from military service members, veterans and parents/family members of military people for insight into what they think and experienced about wokeness in the military, the recruiting crisis, and more.

This document is a collection of over 1000 comments seen on 2023 news articles, videos and social media. It provides overwhelming evidence that the CRT/DEI/Woke agenda being pushed in the Department of Defense DOES harm morale, recruiting and retention.

Listen to the people.

Collected by STARRS.US | UPDATED: 28 NOV 2023



“If we can't get rid of this DEI BS, none of us of color are ever going to know if we really earned the position we are promoted into.”

—Senior US Military Officer

“Currently in the military as O3 and let me tell you, it is an absolute joke. **Integrity and honor are not rewarded but diversity and sexuality is.** The abuse to those who work hard and show up on time is remarkable versus the others who lack motivation and are extremely lazy. How anything gets done now is astonishing. If you’re looking for discipline and character building, go work for an independent business; the military is a far cry from what it used to be.”

“I just retired from the Marine Corps after 20 years last year and it’s getting out of hand. You’ve got leadership that doesn’t care about anything except these woke policies. I know lots of Marines that are getting out because they are tired of it, as well as Marines, who wanted to do more than 20 years but they are tired of the woke culture.”

“I have 3 years until retirement and I can’t wait. The woke mindset and the lack of real standards and discipline make the Army a joke.”

“Is Woke Culture Ruining the Military? As a U.S Air Force Veteran who just got out in March of this year... YES!”

“I’m retiring in July after 22 years 100% because of the new woke BS. We spend a significant amount of time dedicated to woke agenda and I’ve had enough. Gender identification acceptance, pronouns, etc. I honestly DO NOT care what the person is or thinks they are, but at the same time **I don’t want an agenda FORCED down my throat.** I believe what I believe and others are free to believe what they want. Just let me do my job of defending this nation.”

“Same here. I’m almost able to retire from active service and can’t wait.”

“My son, who wanted to be a Marine his entire youth, left after 5 years, disgusted with the new ‘woke’ Marines.”

“Having just retired from the military within the last year, I’m guessing the SecArmy has not had to sit through the “mandatory training” that has begun since Biden took over. If she had, she would have the answer to the question about wokeness.”

“Wormuth is lying through her teeth. I just retired Jan of 2022 and woke policies were being enforced and promotion limiting (reprimand letters) punishments were being handed out to leaders using the wrong pronouns.”

“Every one of my former soldiers who got out did so because of this woke nonsense that harms morale and readiness.”

“As a current Active Duty Service Member, I can tell you that the military has become weak and woke at the leadership level.”

“Woke ideologies, policies, and leadership is the primary reason I decided to retire from the Army after more than 26 years of service.”

“Attended a DEI session for new Colonels. Assignment was to respond to a role-player who argued that military is not systemically racist. Not one respondent offered a counterargument; all inputs were ad hominem attacks. Look me in the eye and tell me our military isn’t woke.”

“Yes, it is super woke now. Gotta deal with it every day.”

“Just retired after 41 yrs in Army Reserve. It’s different now. Now you must bow down to every woke concept they throw at you. This will literally ruin the military in about 5 yrs if left unchecked.”

“This is why I got out 3 years early from my retirement target.”

“I know a model Marine, 6’1, 230lbs of monster muscle did not re-up because of wokeness.”

“I’m on active duty and believe me, I never thought I’d serve in a force that requires its members to, when called upon, stand up and proudly affirm that men can indeed get pregnant. Failure to do so gets you drummed out of the ranks as a bigot. What a world. So brave, so new.”

“My daughter (68B, E-6) is calling it quits after 6 years. ‘The Army’s values no longer align with mine, Dad. I can’t do it anymore.’”

“I’m in the AF but it gets harder and harder to serve with the virtue signaling they try to force upon us. It is a Marxist strategy to diminish then destroy the family unit. Disgusting.”

“Yes, military is woke. They tried to shove a pride run down my throat. I’m a SFC medic active duty. I’m over it. I’m trying to get out.”

“I have 4 years until I retire and I don’t know if I can make it. It’s a torturous level of ridiculous getting worse each and every day.”

“After 20 years of commissioned service, I tell folks all the time--**no matter how woke you think the armed forces are, it is much worse.**”

“My nephew, a Master Sergeant tells me recruits are leaving immediately after enlistments expire. They are sick and tired of all the seminars, reading materials, and strange impromptu “interviews” probing attitudes toward race, gender, and sexual preference. Retention is an even bigger problem than recruitment. The military has turned into a social experiment laboratory.”

“Came back last year from the Marines, and it’s a shit show honestly.”

“I’m retired with 24 years of active duty, and still have friends who are still active. They tell me our military has gone off the deep end. Completely woke, weak, confused, untrained, and a complete embarrassment. A total clown show.”

“A high-ranking friend recently told me the increasing pressure to be politically correct was a burden & distraction he hated.”

“I spoke only last week to an old friend who was a high-ranking officer, and who took early retirement. Why? Because, he said, **the officer corps has become highly politicized, and to the Left.** He said he feels he can no longer be effective as a leader and, he said, the politicization is harming readiness.”

“The majority of military members don’t THINK the Pentagon has become politicized... they KNOW it for a fact. I’ve got a pair of sons in the Army. Some of the stories they tell me about the woke briefings they have to sit through...”

“Yes, it’s a woke military and that’s why I retired. We are screwed due to our weak leadership.”

“I spent the weekend camping out with several ex military and several active duty military. 3 of the active duty soldiers said their getting out this year after 11 yrs of a career decision saying today’s military is a joke and **it’s not worth continuing forward to their 20 yr goal.**”

“I got out recently as a multigenerational family myself and told my nephews and nieces not to join it’s not worth it.”

“I learned last week my brother in law retired partly because of the wokeness. He has been in the Air Force for over 20 years and **he’s sick of it.**”

“I spent 10 years in the Army. I planned on making a career but **it got so hateful and political.** I was passed over several times for promotions just because the Army had to promote minorities and females. I wouldn’t recommend today’s military to anyone. It’s a joke.”

“My dad and father in law both served in the military, and now my son-in-law is in the Army. He says **woke-ness is killing the morale of the enlisted men.**”

“Son started serving under previous administration w every intention on 20+ yr military career. Loves flying but will not reenlist under leadership that is never held accountable for failure & openly unlawful actions against service members. Generations of family service too.”

“Left the Marine Corps because of the woke stuff.”

“My four year enlistment was enough to realize I didn’t want to make the Air Force a career.”

“My Son is in the AF. His six year enlistment is coming to a close (He’s Air Traffic Control) and he has also decided to walk away and go work in the Civilian Sector.”

“I’m glad I retire out of the army in two years. 20 years and **I’ve seen the downfall of the thing I used to love.**”

“My son is due to retire from the Navy after 25 years. He told me that due to these political policies he can’t wait to leave. I’m just glad he is at the end of his career and not the beginning.”

“My friend’s son joined the Army during the covid lockdown hysteria. He was always going to be in some computer related field after basic training (he’s in intelligence now) but he was really looking forward to playing with guns and ammo during basic training, because he knew he wouldn’t have a chance later. Instead, he said they sat “criss-cross applesauce”, and were lectured about diversity, inclusion, white supremacy, pronouns, and other wokeness. This is not how you build a strong military.”

“Well, my son has been in the USAF for 14 years. He just visited us and said the **morale is the worst he has ever seen.** He said they are getting overwhelmed with a focus

via training and propaganda on LGBTQ indoctrination. He is getting out after his next 4 years is up.”

“A friend of mine has a son in the AF that is an officer. He has a masters degree in Aeronautical Engineering. He told his dad he is retiring in a few months and that it can't happen soon enough. He says that the “woke” garbage being shoved down their throats is sickening, and he can't take it anymore. He says there are many officers and enlisted that feel the same way and will be leaving the service. As bad as the Russian military has performed in Ukraine, I doubt if we could even defeat them on a battlefield.”

“Every generation of mine has been in the service from WW1 to a few years ago. 2 years ago my nephew ended resigning up, he said “he didn't sign up for this shit.” He was planning to make a career out of it. Good young man too.”

“My kid came out after six years, finished up his engineering degree, and told anyone who would listen to never enlist.”

“My stepson left the Navy about 3 weeks ago after 13 years. SO happy he left. He said it was an absolute shit show.”

“My son in law is a special forces medic, three tours in the Middle East and now is teaching his people about accepting transgenders in the military. This is a real soldier who says the army will never be a fighting force again. He's one year away from twenty years and said he may not make it to retirement. May God bless our real defenders of freedom.”

“When you're in the military and have to deal with woke, you're dealing with it 24/7, 365 days a year. You're on the clock 24 hrs a day. There is no escape, so yeah, it is a big reason why recruiting is down and retention is suffering also. It also seems by design. It's no coincidence that the politicians who push woke policies also hate the military and everything that it stands for.”

“It's terrible. I retired last year from the military, 27 1/2 years, am very proud of my service. Things changing over time is to be expected, however, the changes in the past several years have been drastic & disappointing. We need to do better & change course. Will stop there.”

“My brother, career military, is trying to hang on until he retires. He doesn't want to blow his pension by leaving early. He's got a few years left. However, he's disgusted by how the military caters to woke these days. He keeps his mouth shut and does his job, but **he's not proud of what the military has become.**

I don't have to prompt him to bring up how disgusted he is. I try to avoid talking about politics and the military, so the fact that he brings it up without me promoting is a clue that something radically different is going on. Leadership matters and we are being presented with crazy and being told it's the rational, adult choice. I'm not going to be encouraging my teen son to join the armed forces. I just can't do it with a straight face. In the past, that wouldn't be an issue. Culture matters and the military has gone nutters.”

“I was the Equal Opportunity Adviser for an Army installation in 2009. We got a new mission statement. It was called “Blueprint for the Nation”. It was sold as “what the military does, the nation will follow”. We removed all references to “unity” and replaced them with “diversity.” We also were forbidden from saying “melting pot” and replaced it with “salad bowl”. Now here we are. A nation divided. No unity. No national identity. This plan for our collapse and civil war has been long in the making. I don't believe there is a path forward for bringing back what our forefathers knew. Very sad.”

“My granddaughter's husband is a West Point graduate who served 8 years in Special Forces. He left the Army last year. Why? “We spent more time in social justice classes than we did on the range”.

“As a current military member, I can attest to this (military going woke). **I have lost commanders and troops who left, citing the federal government's acceptance of unconscious bias/systemic racism doctrines.** As a soldier, you are faced with this paradox: either the accusation is true, and you are a racist, or at least live in a racist country, or, the doctrine is false, and you live in a country of ideologues who are willing to destroy you with their lies. Who wants to die for either of those? This is the result of deconstructionist philosophy. It always corrodes. Anyone interested should read a book written by a military officer who was fired for his words,

“Irresistible Revolution” by Lohmeier. Every example he gives, I have seen myself firsthand.”

“Met a young man a couple weeks ago who was medically discharged from the Army. Gave me an earful about all of the DEI training now. That is not my US military!”

“It’s true. The woke agenda was a leading factor in my decision to retire after 22 years. I was seeing a new generation of Soldiers that I would not want in a foxhole with me.”

“We know 2 brothers who are young, patriotic, dedicated Marines who joined the corps carrying on a family legacy of service. They both fulfilled their first term of enlistment and then got out because of the indoctrination and woke ideology!”

“My best friend’s grandson just recently refused to reenlist in the USN. Reason: too much social pressure from top ranking officers and senior NCOs. Too many Woke programs.”

“Served 27 years in USAF and worked 18 more at a Special Operations Base. WOKE and diversity has been jammed down our throats. I’m finally done with this whole works. Our military used to be strong. Today, if it’s more than a touch of a button, we’re doomed. We’ve become fat, lax, and lazy. Most cannot even do their basic job. Pathetic do see our military go down the drain.”

“My family has a long history of serving that goes back generations, both mother and father are vets. My older brother in the Army hates it. The wokeness is terrible, he’s had to attend a number of CRT sessions – one where **he had to wear an “oppressor” sign around his neck for the day.** He said it’s all very humiliating and has created bad morale. Despite wanting it since I was a kid, I decided I’ll find another way to help my country. **I’m not joining an organization that will treat me with contempt for who I am.** Very saddened by what has happened I’m not sure we win wars.”

“My nephew retired from the 82nd Airborne in the last year. Thank God he’s the last family member to leave the “Joke” Military. He wanted to be a lifer and he served more than 15 years, but said to Hell with it when the Military became a Woke Joke.”

“I just retired. Too much focus on wokeness and social justice, not enough focus on preparing for war. No

longer are the best and brightest promoted but now it’s who meets the diversity and equity block most of which are incompetent. Good luck if you try but I would look at trade schools for a career first.”

“As a retired USAF member, I can unequivocally state that there is far too much emphasis the woke agenda than there is on the mission.”

“I retired with 21 years of service and have worked as a contractor for the military for 20 more years. The military culture has changed dramatically in 40 years... for the worse. Standards seem to be out the window and there’s very little motivation toward achieving goals. Commanders are scared to make decisions without consulting an army of lawyers, and every decision has to be politically correct and “woke”. Those type of decision-making cycles get soldiers killed. It’s no wonder kids no longer want to serve. Military vets are warning their kids and others not to join. Remove the woke and the esprit de corp will return.”

“My father retired from the Air Force with 30 years. I retired from the Army with 21. I still work as a contractor for the military, and I can say with great discomfort that **the military I knew is no more.** Physical requirements have been rolled back, aptitude tests have been dumbed down, and standards in general are waved for many categories. It scares me that soldiers have to serve under a president that doesn’t value their lives nor cares about the military in general.”

“The politicalization of the senior officer ranks where DEI is over indexed to the extreme.”

“You’re right. And there is another aspect that most people don’t realize. Over the last two decades, a number of general and flag officer positions have been filled with members of the Senior Executive Service (SES), and many new positions have been created for them as well. Now we have senior leaders in the military who have never worn the uniform, never been part of the military culture, and who tend to become more politicized. Plus they don’t rotate at the frequency of military officers. If the goal is a less politicized military, these positions need to be rolled back.”

“I am on all branches bases, installations conducting business. Must say, as a veteran of 2 wars-conflicts, 14 years Active Duty, it is VERY discouraging and scary to

see the utter lack of decorum, respect and discipline we were taught makes the greatest fighting military in the world! Is it a coincidence the USA is at its weakest point over these past 3 years? I think NOT!"

"A friend of mine's Grandson just got out of USMC Boot Camp. He went to the rifle range twice, bivouac once. diversity training the rest of the time. Sad to say that the boy feels very disappointed after his Grandfather told him what the Marines USED TO BE before he enlisted! My Buddy, his Grandpa, had no idea it had gotten that bad, me either."

"As a legacy American (settler, not immigrant) my family has served in the US military in every war since the Revolution. Some died, some lived to tell stories. My wife's uncles and mine were on opposite sides in the War between the States. My uncle Cecil died at Normandy. My Dad landed Marines on Iwo Jima. Two dead relatives in Korea. Four in Vietnam. My wife and I served in the 70's. My son did three tours in Afghanistan. All that to show my history and I WOULD NEVER SUGGEST ANYONE JOIN THE CURRENT US MILITARY! It's simply not the same country and I fear it never will be again."

"Retired in 2017. Was already starting to go woke. So glad I'm done."

"Getting out in about month and a half... feels like the day can't come soon enough."

"My nephew was on a nuke submarine for 3 years. When his enlistment was up I thought he was going to reenlist. He's said no f--n way he wanted any part of what the navy is pushing."

"I retired November 2021 from the US Navy after 24 years of service due to the policies being pushed down from the top. I saw just how spineless top officers had become."

"All three of my military sons were very glad to get out of the woke military in the past few years. I believe (I hope, actually) that a very long family military tradition has now ended with them. I do not want any more of my sons or my grandchildren ever serving this corrupt military elite and even more corrupt civilian leaders."

"My sons are the first generation in our entire family line to NOT serve in the military. I retired from active duty a few years back and have repeatedly discouraged

both my boys from serving at all costs strictly BECAUSE of woke leftist ideology that has taken hold. Rare is the real war-fighter found serving in the current uniformed leftist indoctrination regimes. They've been phased out through years of "tolerance" training and soulless 'yes-man' promoting regardless of mission decay. PC culture has massacred any and all military tradition & lethality. Nothing but soft betas now."

"I was active AF for 23 yrs, plus another 1.5 as a G.S. All medical, but I served both enlisted and commissioned. I could see the wokism encroaching even before I retired nearly 10 years ago. I guess I'm just another of the voices saying "thank God I'm not in anymore". Do your best. Stick to standards, and be ultra consistent in how you address deviation from standards...I guess that's the only useful thing I could say. How is diversity and sexuality rewarded? It's rewarded by presenting PowerPoints celebrating both, having meetings reinforcing these core beliefs, getting emails regarding them, pointing out individuals for either their skin color or sexuality and showing favoritism as well."

"My son has been in the Army for 2 1/2 years and he is getting out. He says the Army has gone completely woke and has lost what the military has always stood for. Very sad."

"My son had childhood dreams of joining the Navy and becoming a submariner, but has chosen another path due to the woke agenda."

"I joined the Air Force 2 years ago. Don't join. I should have listened to the people who tried to warn me not to. **How can you form effective teams when some people have preferential treatment based on things like sexual preference and you can't trust that they won't use that advantage to tear you down or end your career?** I don't have a job that is really dangerous or anything but it's the military. You have to expect the possibility of having your life on the line and I can't say I have much confidence in many people's ability to perform in even slightly dangerous situations."

"It's no longer the apolitical military the American people can count on. I'm done when I hit my retirement a year from now."

"As someone that's currently active for 19 years, the route that the military has taken would absolutely make me not want to do it again. I've had so many first term enlisted ask questions and opinions from me. Not because

of going to war but because of politics and policies put in place.”

“I had a long conversation with a young officer recently and asked him the reaction to the ‘woke’ military mandates from above. He said, “None of us believe that stuff. We just laugh it off and ignore what they say.” That sounds like the opposite of respect for the chain of command.”

---“Not entirely true. My son, who is a sergeant, cannot apply the same discipline to certain special groups of people for fear of being disciplined by his superior officers. It’s not the military of yesterday when you have different rules for some, merely because of the color of their skin and/or their sexual preferences. **This process breeds resentment**, which is the last thing you need in that environment.”

“Wokeness is 100% hurting recruitment. I was in the military for 21 years and I’m still in contact with people I served with who are active duty. They tell me all the time that it’s 100% woke now. ...pronouns. ...LGBTQ and trans-gender trainings. What concerns me the most, this administration has severed the bond between the military and “generational families”. Those families where all the men or women served so it’s a tradition for the kids to follow. I see 1990’s / early 2000’s vets telling their kids in 2023 “NO” and “Don’t do it” because of the wokeness, poor VA care post service, and things like the way this administration pulled the plug on Afghanistan or launched the “there’s a white nationalist problem in our military” campaign where instead of just investigating any issues and dealing with it, they preferred to just call every white guy a white nationalist through seminars and trainings. I also believe the left is assassinating national pride in America which is causing more and more young folks to hate their country and not want to serve. It’s a sickening and sad situation. Elections have consequences and we as a nation need to fix this!”

“I am a SFC in the Army with 13 years in, DO NOT JOIN it is an absolute mess right now and we are so weak.”

“Believe me when I say...as a veteran, with three other family members who are/were veterans...this new woke crap means everything. Plus, reservists are retiring early; active duty members are not re-enlisting. The leadership of our country...including the military...is destroying everything good and strong and moral about us with this focus on personal (fictional) identities & climate sh**,”

instead of colorblind combatting of evil. And we cannot help but pay the price in the future. So tragic.”

“I’m an army vet and I’m still in touch with some of my buddies who stayed in and they absolutely have gone Woke. They’ve had to change their language completely to accommodate incoming recruits.”

“Wokeness is absolutely affecting the military. I personally know guys in the Navy who have over 20, but aren’t being allowed to submit their retirement paperwork because recruitment and retention has been negatively impacted by horrible liberal policies. They can lie and obfuscate in front of congress all day long, but the troops know that limp wristed leaders have negatively impacted serving.”

“My grandson wanted to join the Navy since he was 16. He did research and decided that he wanted to be a Gunners Mate. He graduated high school with honors and decided to enlist instead of going to college. Since joining he’s attended multiple schools finishing at the top of his class in all. His first command put him on the fast track program and in less than 5 years he was promoted to E-6 (Gunners Mate Petty Officer First Class (SW)). He’s currently in his second enlistment. After reporting to a new command he said things really changed. It’s become woke and political. He says unless things change for the better he will not be re-enlisting again.”

“I joined in 2005 and some of my best memories is basic training. The drill sergeants I had been to combat, great shape, and knowledgeable. It was exactly what I expected. Fast forward to 2019. I got out of active and doing my last year in the guard. I’m doing mandatory transgender training. I’m being told we have to respect them. I remember one of the female’s asked if a transgender female could use women’s restrooms. The answer was yes and we had to accept it. **I knew then I didn’t want any part of this Army.** I got out several months later...no regrets getting out.”

“I am also a USMC veteran, and my son, despite my best efforts to discourage him from doing so, became a Marine and is about 3 months away from completing his 4 year enlistment. He can’t wait to be out, and they didn’t even offer him any kind of reenlistment incentives at all, even though he is a solid NCO with exemplary service.”

“My wife and brother in law both got out of the AF. The schools on base have gone woke on the children. During lock down, the bases would allow airmen to leave for woke protests otherwise they had to stay. After doing PT,

the first shirts would have some kind of woke agenda they would ask the units to participate in, etc. It's been a hard push in one direction and you become ostracized for not participating."

"I recently talked 2 nephews out of it. I served 10 years with multiple tours to Iraq and was a recruiter. I would highly advise against service with the way things are being run right now."

"24 years in, about to retire. My son wanted to follow in my footsteps and join. I've discouraged him (his choice) from doing so. It's a mess fight now."

"As a veteran for 10 years, it is an absolute joke. Those who work hard vs those who are in for a paycheck and do the bare minimum get rewarded the same and promoted the same. It becomes a game of numbers and officers sanction enlisted for the same exact things the officers do. Leadership is a clown show and work ethic is nonexistent due to lack of accountability. When the military presented this Extremism training which was all about targeting right wing groups after January 6, but did not implement or vilify anything about left wing groups, I knew I had to do something to get me out of there, and I did. That and the Afghanistan withdrawal were the reasons I did what I did."

"Another Marine veteran commenting here - I have friends nearing retirement in multiple branches and **they send me screen shots of "programs" and "initiatives" that are nothing but complete wokeness.** It's an absolutely disgusting place our military is in and we need to clean house. Start with commander in chief and work all the way down through every complacent officer there is. And to be very clear, every single officer is complicit right now. The good ones have all gotten kicked out (mostly for Covid reasons). Our military is weak. It can be fixed. But it's gonna be painful."

"I proudly served 25 years in the Army. Most Soldiers I know today, including two of my sons, are just hanging on until they hit 20, if they're close, or until their current enlistment expires. It will take massive investments of time and money to rebuild our military once this administration ends."

"I have a son in-law in the Navy who planned on retiring from there **he only has a few years to go but he has now decided as soon as his current obligation runs out he is leaving.** Democrats have achieved their dream

destruction of our military. No way I would recommend anyone join."

"I've come from a long line of family members serving this great country. I retired in Feb 2023 after 24 YOS. Couldn't take the forced "It's not OK to be White" training requirement."

"I retired from the military 2 years ago and I don't want my kids joining. It was a pretty good gig for me and I'm happy to have served, but there's no way I would recommend it to anyone. Having to walk on eggshells in order to prevent ruining your career and future definitely isn't worth it now. Wokeness and cancel culture are ruining everything."

"As a Mother of 22 year olds.....it's the wokeness. Many young men I know joined in 2019 and 2020 and will get out ASAP due to the BS they've had to endure."

"My son won't join the Marines anymore because of the weak wokeness. I was a squad leader during Desert Storm with a solid Company of warfighters."

"23 year old Army Vet. I'm glad I ETS'd. Shit is only getting worse and worse. I absolutely will not be rejoining our nation's military for any reason... ever. For this exact reason."

"My son is a Navy Lt flying Seahawks; I'm retired USAF Lt Col/ former pilot of God's gift to man, the UH-1N. I pray for the day he can leave. **I could not recommend anyone join today, our oath was to the Constitution, not to ideology. USAFA '90"**

"When I was in, they allowed transgenders and it didn't make any sense. We got talked to by an admiral and did like 10 meetings on transgender sensitivity training. I am no longer in."

"I retired in 2021 after 21 years. Sorry to say, but it's too late...upper level leadership is completely woke at this point."

"I retired after 25+ years last February. I made this life changing decision after what I deemed was CRT indoctrination. They called it something else. My inner voice became an external tirade of disagreement, and I knew this was a battle I was going to lose. Cowardly, I decided to

exit with my pension intact. The problem with this is so did a great many of my cohort of technical and tactical experts. The "Great Purge" continues."

"I was surprised when my youngest son enlisted in 2012. A Black Hawk Crew Chief he was on his way to flight school when **he attended a leadership class on 'What to do if your male soldier becomes pregnant or has their period.'** He had complained that half their time was spent in HR classes instead of training. Lack of flight hours, field training, competency in individual and collective tasks and skills. And so, much to the disappointment of this old soldier, he made the right decision, giving up his opportunity to become a pilot and got out. Today he has a degree in mathematics and a master's from Embry Riddle in Aerospace Aviation Management and Safety and is employed as the Director of Safety for a cargo airline. He and his family are doing quite well, and he certainly doesn't regret his decision. Regrettably, neither do I as his father. US Army Retired."

"It's because of the wokeness. My hubs retired after 38 years in. A fellow soldier told him he was forced to sign agreements accepting men dressing as women in the Army. The guy told his commander "I'll sign it but I'm telling you I don't agree with this." He still received a negative mark in his record just for an off the record opinion."

"25 years active duty and still work for the army as a civilian. **This army is way more concerned with social issues and equity than warfighting.** Discipline is lax and I sometimes think the commanders from company to brigade are severely concerned about not doing anything to get relieved, much more than training for war. I don't see this ever reversing, one reason I would not recommend service in the Army. Sad to say..."

"My son recently retired from the military. They spent more time in classes that taught political correctness than they did in flight briefs. Within a three month period, his squadron lost almost 60% of their pilots and crews."

"I chose not to reenlist because of this craziness. When The Chairman called my white counterparts terrorists and suggested that all units have extremists in them, and wanted to examine white Soldiers for their beliefs... His statements vs. what was sent out were very different. The

SecDef echoed those views and worse, and I was among MANY service members from my base who refused to reenlist under this administration, some with as many as 15 years of service. When we talk to people, it absolutely plays into why they're not wanting to come in."

"I have a family member who was going to career in the Marines. As soon as his hitch was up he left. Refused to reenlist. Couldn't blame him."

"Yeah, I just retired from the Air Force last May after putting in 35 years; last 5 were the worse; poor leadership, no accountability, people unfit to actually be in uniform (fat/overweight), list goes on and on!"

"My brother in law just retired from 25 years in the Army at Ft. Bragg as special forces. Been all over the world and done it all. Made a very good living. He said Sunday night that **I should never let my 15 year old son join.** It's an embarrassment."

"As for the military, my youngest son thought he wanted to be a lifer. Once he got in and watched the destruction in real time he decided he wanted no part of the destruction of the institution every male in his lineage has served in one way or another."

"I'm so happy I got out in 2017. I'm proud of my service, but I would never let my kids join. Sadly, the Army has changed so much over the last decade. Not sure if we are the good guys anymore."

"I couldn't wait to retire because of the wokeness and climate change agenda that was being pushed & he's right the ads are absolutely ridiculous, and I'm embarrassed at the direction of our once great military."

"I stopped by the Unit I retired from in 2016 later that year. They were getting ready to have the usual classes the Military requires periodically. My Commander wanted me to stick around for the Transgender training."

"**They spend more time peddling redundant irrelevant social training than military skills training.** My husband and I retired just in time, however our oldest daughter is only spending her initial enlistment in the Army due to all the woke distractions."

"I served 34 1/2 years in the military! Retired May 2022! The military has become political and is going woke!!! I got tired of having to sit thru briefing weekly on diversity and acceptance! If you were minority you were giving preferential treatment when it came to promotion,

schools, housing and positions and duty locations! I'm glad I'm out and I won't recommend anyone joining!"

"Family served Marine Corps and Army with multiple combat tours. **Told all my 5 sons to not even consider a career in the military.** The leadership has betrayed their mission. Lie all they want but combat readiness is not their goal."

"I can tell you here in the real world my Grandson just out of college, Eagle Scout, 3 years NJROTC, many hours of community service, very athletic and many of his Friends want nothing to do with Biden WOKIES."

"It is not the rhetoric. It is the imposition of woke on potential recruits. Same as any corporation. Go woke go broke. In the military case, go woke, no poke. Recruits to the military do not want the woke lifestyle."

"My son graduated high school 2 yrs ago . He wants to go into the Air Force. He won't join b/c of this Admin & the current b.s. going on in all the Armed Forces. My other son joined the Navy did his 3 yrs & said FTS. He came home in December. It's not like it used to be."

"I retired in 2019 and most of my fellow soldiers were all saying they would retire or not re-enlist because we could see what was coming down the road. The military does not want to go woke and should never be used for politics and testing new social policies."

"I served in the Navy in the 80's and 90's; my son is currently in the National Guard and is preparing for his 3rd deployment. Listening to him talk, anti-woke rhetoric is NOT the problem. **The woke policies and inept leadership at the top ARE the problems.** Flag officers are being put into positions they are not suited for because of who they know, because they have the right agendas or because they do not "rock the boat". Meanwhile, other candidates are not selected and pretty much forced to retire because they are willing to call out issues and stand up for their soldiers, sailors and marines. These inept leaders and their failed policies are having a direct impact on retention. My son was telling me this week how his unit struggles to retain people."

"I served 22 years in the Army, retiring in 2006. I was also in USAREC, the Army's recruiting command, for a number of years. I have seen some wild swings over the years given the politics in the USA. But never anything like this. Using cartoons that exploit the sexuality of a

recruit's parents is just whacky. You are a fighting force. Concentrate on fighting and winning wars. Use that Warrior mentality in your recruiting campaigns and you will succeed. Look at the Marines. They are staying fairly focused during this Woke political climate. They are leading by example."

"9 generations of our family served in the Navy and Marines. Generation X opted out. Generation Z never considered it. You have to believe the government and people you serve. The Democrats are unbelievable."

"I no longer recommend military service. It's kinda hard to fight a war when you are worried about pronouns. Served over 24 years USN."

"A few years ago the military was a viable option for my son. He's now 17, and we've completely eliminated the military as an option. There is no place in the military for woke policies."

"I wouldn't serve in Austin's woke military either, and I know many other veterans who say the same thing. Any military whose mission it is to serve as a cultural diversity experiment over giving me the best training and equipment for the best chance for survival is not going to draw the best men for the job."

"I can tell you that anyone who has been in the military is telling anyone thinking about joining to not join. The military is no longer a place where the best of the best are leading."

"I served 23 years as an officer, and although I don't regret a minute of it and wouldn't change a thing, there is no way in hell I would serve today."

"Why can't our top military leaders figure out that the reason for people enlisting at such a low rate is due to their DEI push? People want nothing to do with it. This is not rocket science. When someone is shooting at you, they could give a fig what your pronouns are."

"The military was the most level racial playground that I experienced (84-2015). It used to have a merit and ability basis that silenced racism."

"I was a Marine. In the current climate I would never repeat. And I am glad neither of my children have any interest in the military. Maybe this is the end of America."

“It’s not the military anymore, it’s a social experiment. Many are hanging on to get to retirement and their done. I retired as soon as I could. I don’t want my kids to serve in this woke bullshit.”

“The minority report that came out in 2020 is essentially the reason I left the military. The means of being promoted by TIG and TIS combined with merit was being pushed out, and promotion based on skin color was taken over.”

“I am a Department of the Army civilian (civil servant) with 30+ years of service. I work for a civilian-heavy organization of roughly 1500 people. We are going woke, and it’s accelerating. In 2021 we had the first ever Pride Week. There were several events. The week culminated with a Pride Walk around our little base. **It was kicked off by a “special guest” who pranced around tossing rose petals in the air. The group marched behind a big Pride flag.** That act, as it turns out, got the Command’s hand slapped, as it is against regs to display or march with any flag other than the US flag or a unit guide on. So this year they forbade display of the Pride flag. So the rainbows came in other shapes and sizes. This year we had a whole month of Pride events, culminating in a video presentation by Rachel Levine. Fun fact: Levine and Gen Milley played high school football together. I reckon it’s a safe bet they showered together. And here, all these years later...what are the odds? There’s more. We now have a set of Employee Resource Groups (ERG), closed groups for LGBT, Black, women, etc. All the usual protected classes. This year our Commander unilaterally, without any workplace polling, decreed that one restroom on each floor would become All Gender. We have exactly one M2F transgender person in the organization, and he works in another building. Minority rules. Cue Tevye singing: Inclusive! Inclusive! It will only get worse. We have many people who are not just the nation’s senior experts in their fields, but the world. Their knowledge is nearly impossible to replace. People are moving up their retirements because of the creeping wokeness. I can tell you that our Commander cares not a whit about that. He’ll be gone next year, and a new wokeling will take the reins and lead us further down the road to perdition.”

“As someone who served in the Marine Corps from 2013-2018, I have three words for those considering joining: DO NOT JOIN!”

“I personally have 2 family members separating from military duty ASAP, due to the woke policies, the job mandate, and the resident in the White House, and his idiotic police policies. Two other family members were considering military service, to uphold our strong family tradition of military service, but will not consider joining now, due to the above reasons. 4 people from one family. That says a lot, I think.”

“As a Veteran I discouraged my son from taking a military route. Not because of my personal experiences with combat but because of the things I hear about today’s military, not only from those currently serving but those recently discharged. The whole new ideology that that military has adopted these last two years is the issue.”

“My husband served twenty-four in the Corps. He retired in 2010. The military is not what it once was and my husband and I discourage anyone from joining.”

“I have senior enlisted friends in the Navy. **They love the Navy they enlisted in, but now they can’t wait to get out because the woke ideology that permeates the Navy denies white men the same opportunities and challenges once available to them.** The SEAL community is being rocked by suicide. Another black ops guy said in the first 6 months of the Biden Administration he did more missions than in 4 years of the Trump Administration. It’s not just a crisis of patriotism, it’s a crisis of leadership starting at the top with the Clinton Administration.”

“I’m a retired Army engineer, still work for the Army as a civilian and I can tell you that I would not recommend it. The officer corps is now more worried about getting in trouble with all the gender issues and having to deal with a bunch of spoiled children as Soldiers.”

“They missed the giant elephant in the room, that being the woke culture and leftist indoctrination taking place. **Instead of focusing on excellence and warfighting capabilities, they’re more interested in the diversity, equity and inclusion nonsense.** The sad part is that the biggest advocates they used to have for military service, those of us who spent an entire career in uniform, are no longer advocates. None of the fellow retirees who I know recommend military service anymore.”

“I served 25 years; both my kids said no thanks to the military. One was even excelling in ROTC. They see what was/is happening.”

“Every young person I’ve spoken with in the last couple of years that once thought about military service has specifically said that new policies, most of which came under Biden, are the reason why they won’t join. EVERY ONE OF THEM. These are people from all around the greater Washington DC many of which had parents and grandparents who were military. This is a pretty good sign that people don’t want to join the new “woke” military.”

“Daughter has 7yrs to retirement and she is just holding on at this point as bad as it is getting. I remember affirmative action promotions from when I was in the Army during the 80’s. People with no business being in charge of anything getting promoted. One of our E5’s couldn’t read at a grade school level.”

“I retired from the USAF in 2009, still work on the base I retired from and trust me, **the standards started getting lowered years ago. It’s so sad and maddening to see the quality of young troops these days.** Almost every young airman, and many NCOs, that I cross paths with look like they want to kill themselves, have no pride in their uniforms. I don’t know what’s going on but it’s shameful.”

“As a veteran, I would not join the military today. I advise young people against it when they ask me about it. Individuals I know who are currently serving echo my sentiments. I find this incredibly sad, as I come from a line of veterans...”

“I’m a retired 5th generation officer. I’m actively encouraging my kids to pursue another path so long as people like you are running the military. There is no honor in fighting for the priorities of this admin/congress. But good luck fighting climate change with diversity.”

“My family has served every generation since immigrating to this nation since the 1800s. Me and my brother are the last who will ever enlist. Thanks for ruining our honorable tradition of military service.”

“I deployed twice to Afghanistan and served in the 82nd and 173rd. I am not interested in sending my children to join an organization that is headed by woke commissars who do nothing but aggressively push for “diversity” and wokeism. I will be discouraging them from joining.”

“Your primary recruiting base was the sons of conservative families. You went woke and now they don’t want

their sons anywhere near your new fabulously diverse train wreck. Go woke Go lose the next major war.”

“I don’t know a single person that got out in the last 15 years that recommends joining right now.”

“I was grateful to have served in the Army National Guard for 8 years. I have told my sons to NOT follow in my footsteps. I cannot and will not recommend to anyone to serve in today’s Armed Forces.”

“Males in my family have serviced since the Revolution. I’ll be the last one to have a DD214. #notmychildren”

“I was enlisted from 99-07. At least 1 male from each generation served pre-dating the founding of the US in my family. It ended with me, when **I barred both of my son’s from joining as I watched our military become a joke.** Our national defense is no longer in uniform, it’s us.”

“Having served in the military under President Ronald Reagan, what the left is doing to our military now with this DEI and CRT garbage, the military is an embarrassment! It’s no wonder that morale and recruitment is way down!”

“Believe me when I say...as a veteran, with three other family members who are/were veterans...this new crap means everything. Plus, reservists are retiring early; active duty members are not re-enlisting. The leadership of our country...including the military...is destroying everything good and strong and moral about us with this focus on personal (fictional) identities & climate sh**, instead of colorblind combatting of evil. And we cannot help but pay the price in the future. So tragic.”

“This is our military today? May God help us. We are no longer a superpower, we are just another 3rd world country. I served back in the mid 60’s and loved it. I wouldn’t encourage any young person today to go into it.”

“The very day I de-assed college in June ‘67 I went to the recruiting office & enthusiastically enlisted. (I even tried to re-up after 9/11, at 55--but was told “We’ll call you if we need you, sir”) But today I’d sooner pull my own head off rather than enlist.”

“I’m a USAF veteran. 90% of the people I served with were conservatives, the remaining 10% were moderates. Not a liberal in the bunch. One of my nephews is a Navy SEAL and he is a conservative Christian. The military, by

going woke, has guaranteed it'll drive off the very people normally attracted to military service."

"Fellow air force vet here. And I totally agree with your post. Our mission is to protect this country, not to learn about pronouns and victimhood. If this keeps up, the primary language of North America will be mandarin Chinese."

"I am also a USAF veteran. Never was deployed anywhere (early 80s). I never met a Liberal in uniform when I was in USAF, not in enlisted ranks, and not in the officers I knew. Both of my sons in law are also US military veterans. One was in the Navy the other is a Marine. They are both, now, medical doctors. Both are staunch conservatives and they both HATE what the Left has done to our military (why neither of them is still in the military) and neither can stand Joe Biden or our SECDEF."

"I served 32 years and I will NOT allow my adult children to join this joke of a military, zero leadership, pathetic."

"I joined because I believed it was my Duty to do so. I served when the Country was worth serving. I now tell young people not to serve. That doesn't make me happy, but it is necessary."

"Totally agree. I'm not exactly ashamed of my service, USAF 1979-1985, but I don't advertise it anymore. One thing I do say, to my sons, grandsons, and anyone else who will listen is, don't serve. They hate you and everything you stand for."

"Wokeness is exactly why I won't join. Why should I or any young person be subjected to weirdness? It would be the worst military experience ever. I would rather be chased up a tree by spotted hyenas than serve that freak show that calls itself a military."

"That has long been the overwhelming reason for people to join. It was for a sense of loyalty to and a love of the country. Now if someone joins the military and talks about their country being the greatest country, they will be labeled as extreme, or in the case of a white male, "a White nationalist." The military has become a joke. There are still many men and women who serve with honor, but the leaders have failed the servicemembers and the country. How could someone follow an order from General Millie knowing he went to the Chinese and said he would let them know if President Trump was going to do something? Isn't that called treason?"

Then that same general said we have a problem with extremist in the ranks. We didn't, but with all the lgbtqxy\$%+)-:~? we do now. I served for 10 years and I am proud to have done so, even though there were sacrifices made. Now, I would not recommend for anyone to join."

"For those of us who lived in communist Eastern Europe, it was called "political education"."

"Thank god my son change he's mind after seeing all this woke crap."

"I joined the US Army in 1985, would I join it now? That is a hard No..."

"My sons are the first generation in our entire family line to NOT serve in the military. I retired from active duty a few years back and have repeatedly discouraged both my boys from serving at all costs strictly BECAUSE of woke leftist ideology that has taken hold. Rare is the real war-fighter found serving in the current uniformed leftist indoctrination regimes. They've been phased out through years of "tolerance" training and soulless 'yes-man' promoting regardless of mission decay. PC culture has massacred any and all military tradition & lethality. Nothing but soft betas now."

"BTW, my husband and I both served in the USAF and are so grateful our son hasn't joined the US military."

"We are a Marine Corps family. It hurts me to say that I would urge a young man to stay very far from any military service."

"My school is small. Graduating classes around 30 or so. Around 5 kids a year entered some type of military service. In the last 3 years, **zero have entered the service.**"

"When I was a Marine pilot many years ago I and no other pilots in my squadron could survive in today's Marine Corps. When in combat and when your body and mind are focused on one thing, there is no time to analyze the situation to see if it is proper or not. The camaraderie of the men and women in a platoon or company has to be totally family in nature or the trust will not be there. There can be no offended members who resent others or who demand to be something they are not. It is also absurd to allow transgender personnel into the service because of the drugs they must take to survive and the questionable mental state that they are living with. "

“There is NOT a chance in hell that I would join today’s military. Ex-U.S Navy.”

“Simply put, I would not voluntarily join today’s politically correct military. The military exists for only one reason, defending this country by breaking things and hurting people as directed by the leaders of this country. After serving nearly 29 years (1967-1995 and reaching the rank of Chief Master Sergeant, I must conclude that I would have never made Staff Sergeant, even in the shortage intelligence field I worked in if the current upper-level management had been in power then.”

“I am retired from just short of 37 years of Military service and right now I would direct people to not let their children join the military right now.”

“I’m just glad my wife and I both retired before this garbage went further south. The military we served in was proud of what we did. The “new” military has zero discipline, even less pride in what they do and integrity is a thing of the past. As a country we are doomed if it’s up to our government and fighting forces to defend us. The civilian populace is better armed, better trained and more willing to defend what we worked to have. Sad but true.”

“Real men don’t want to shower with tranny’s - real men don’t want to fight for a woke government - real men don’t want to be called racists and white supremacists and oppressors- real men don’t want to be forced to take an experimental vaccine - real men don’t want to fight for a President that used them for fodder like the disastrous Afghanistan surrender- real men don’t want to fight for Joe Biden....”

“No one in their right mind would ever consider volunteering for the military these days. The Pentagon is no longer interested in protecting our country - they are interested in only protecting the democrat party. We have removed our son from his JROTC high school program and put him in a private school. We support our country, but no way is he voluntarily entering the military or participating in ROTC at the college level. The military is destroying itself.”

“I retired from the Military and will do everything possible to talk my kids out of joining based on this awful corrupt woke leadership.”

“There are a lot of US veterans like me who are paying attention and are saying, **“This is NOT the America I fought so hard for!”**”

“I retired with over 30 years of service and before I was required and have actively discouraged my children to join the military. This will be the first time in four generations not to serve.”

“Spent 20 years in the Navy. With the new policies and feminization of the military, I don’t recommend it to any of my 7 grandsons.”

“My family since 1914 has been legally immigrating to the US, generation after generation... and at least one of each generation (often more than a few) serve as a show of thanks to being allowed to immigrate to the US. **This is the first generation that we’ve had that will not be serving in the military.** The damage done not just to the military by the Left, but also to the young generations in general by the left are why if/when we fall, it will be from within, and not from without.”

“Anyone who is / was in the military knows the success of the mission and their survival in combat requires that commitment to their other members of the unit. Whether you’re in a foxhole or flying a jet aircraft your survival depends on every person committed to the mission. Unfortunately, DEI has the exact opposite impact. Instead of creating a unified unit, **DEI creates mistrust between members of the unit. It destroys the unity that is the key to not only combat success, unit harmony and more importantly the persons survivability.**”

“My father was a Marine. My grandfather was a Sailor. My great grandfather was a Soldier. And I am a retired Soldier. Service to this country is one of the greatest things you can do in life. That being said. I discouraged all 3 of my sons from enlisting. The current military is beyond broken. It has nothing to do with the enlisted or junior officers. The problem lies with the upper leadership.”

“Retired from the military in 2017. I will not allow my children to serve in this current climate, especially when we have a “CinC” who has a habit of putting our service members in harms way.”

“Sad, I’ve been a contractor for almost 30 years and the quality of the military recruits are way down from even 10 years ago. At some point **military officers are more concerned about making rank instead of doing what’s best for our country.** If the President tells them to go woke, they’ll do it regardless of the consequences. They become more of a politician rather worry about the troops.”

“I started seeing this as early as 2006. I served with a mid-level NCO(E-6), that was brainwashed and was in the beginnings of being “Woke”. He was a contradiction to the Army mindset at the time. But, he got right for the direction the Army was going as he retired as an E-9.”

“My son has dreamed of being an “army man” since he was a child but the reality of it is that the current government sees them as cannon fodder and does not respect the soldiers as American citizens. They are forcing left wing political beliefs rather than American greatness that was once instilled into our brave soldiers and it’s just not the same. He doesn’t want to go fight wars for liberal beliefs or values. He will instead go to trade school and learn to lay bricks or operate heavy machinery. If Trump wins the next election, and changes the way the military operates he may reconsider, but for now its trade school.”

“My son has 10 plus years into the Army; infantryman. Currently a captain and ready to be promoted to a major. Unfortunately he wants out. His complaint- he has been made into a glorified babysitter. My friend’s son; a major in the Air Force. Got out for the same reason.”

“I am an Army officer with 30 years of service. My 19 and 17 year old sons are not joining the military and that is because I told them it is not a good option. This opinion story is an accurate representation. Also, I believe the withdrawal from Afghanistan was demoralizing to both those in uniform as well as anyone considering joining. Retention is at an all-time low at the same time that recruitment is as well. This is a leadership problem that starts with the administration. Military flag officers serve at the pleasure of Congress and the Executive Branch. They have become de facto political bureaucrats.”

“21 years of service with some of the best people in the country. Now, when people ask me about whether or not to go into the military, I pretty much say not in a million years.”

“I served 8 proud years in the military in the late 80’s, through mid-90’s. I used to recommend the military to

young people all the time. No more. And that’s pretty sad.....”

“I never thought I would say this: I spent 4 years active duty then 30 years in the active military reserves. During the same 30 years I was on the San Diego P.D. I retired from both on the same Friday. For obvious reasons because of today’s political climate, I could not in good conscience recommend either one of these professions to a young person. I enjoyed my time in both jobs, but that was a different time.”

“Recruiting hasn’t looked like this since the end of the Vietnam war after 55,000 fatalities in 450,000 battle injuries we walked away. We have done the same thing in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya... as a retired, lieutenant commander. I have counseled many to avoid military service at all cost. We don’t mind risking our lives. But risking our lives for fools is not in our interest.”

“My family has always encouraged service in the military. Both parents served in WWII, my brother in Vietnam, my son retired after 5 deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I was called out of retirement to serve in Afghanistan. We have always cherished the traditions and service of our military. As my grandsons are reaching the age of service and have expressed an interest in joining the army, our family has decided to discourage them in this endeavor. We don’t want them to be cannon fodder in one of Biden’s misadventures and be sacrificed because of a lack of training and mission focus. I am saddened that the military has declined to this sad state of readiness.”

“The branch of the military I served in and the nation I fought for are totally different today. Personally, I don’t feel my nation deserves my son’s blood and sacrifice. I would do everything in my power to discourage him if he ever considers joining.”

“I am a 30 year retired veteran of the US Army. It was my pleasure to serve the greatest nation on Earth. I served in Desert Storm, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. I am not sure I would serve today under our current Commander in Chief. Granted, I served under Carter and Obama but the attitude toward our current Armed Forces by this administration is frightening. It seems our military forces spend more time learning about hating their fellow countrymen (CRT, LGBTQ and other sensitivity training) then they do training to fight and

win our nation's wars. We will definitely get our nose bloodied when we go to war against the Chinese and or North Koreans."

"I spent twelve years in the Marine Corp, but I would discourage any young person to join today under this current Biden Administration or any future Democratic Administration."

"Back in the old days, everyone in was green, and there was no need to preach about equity or racism. this is a monster of their own creation."

"My father served in the British Royal Air Force toward the end of WWII, I served 21 years in the US Army - I used to encourage young men to join, but no longer. Now I try and talk them out of it. The military that used to be a matter of patriotic pride to serve in is now a sad joke."

"I was in the ARNG for 13 years, 1 year in Afghanistan. After seeing how quickly US/NATO's little nation-building project crashed and burned, how quickly everything we sacrificed for circled the drain, and how we basically replaced the Taliban with a Taliban armed with our own equipment. And then the US Govt wages a propaganda war against those who love liberty and also tries to lecture us on "gun safety" after letting the Taliban basically run wild with machine guns and military equipment. And you have the audacity to plead with the young people of this country, that they risk life and limb for a lie? Absolutely not, I tell everyone I can to NOT join the military, and don't serve the very political elites that hate them for existing. With no due respect, up yours."

"I'm an army veteran. I've never been so ashamed of our military as I am now. And I served when Bill Clinton was president."

"My wife and I both served, proudly. Both of us enlisted under Reagan. Under Reagan. I have two children. **I would lock each of them in a closet if they ever considered enlisting or taking a commission right now.** The US military went woke, and now it's extremely broken."

"Told my kid 10 years ago that he would not be joining the Army. I did 21 years, 96-17, and the changes during that time were horrible. The last 5 years of that were the worst and have been getting worse every year."

"I'm a fifth generation veteran. My great great grandfather fought for the Union in the Civil War. I convinced my son not to join. He's making a six digit income as a

chemical engineer now. My family will no longer serve in the future."

"I spent 30 years in the Infantry and seeing what has happened to the Army and the military in general **I have told my grandson do NOT go in the military.** It has gone from a war fighting organization to a woke, feel good at all cost, give me what I want civilian organization."

"I tell any kid that signing up is simply not worth it. It used to be patriotism, love of country, honor and duty. Now the military is squishy woke and a grand social experiment for the Dems."

"I joined veterans at a university to tell interested parties that the military should only be their fallback option. We all got to talking about our military families and someone asked how we can be proud of that while giving them the impression that it wasn't for them. I think I had the best answer: "What makes a profession great is not how much money it makes, but how much professionalism it can instill. Where you are sitting, you see your potential to be a warrior, and we know it is only your potential to be indoctrinated right now?"

"I am third generation military, and my beloved Marine Corps has been destroyed. I do NOT want my sons serving, they both dropped out of scouting when they were required to obtain woke merit badges just prior to Eagle Scout rank. Liberals destroy every think they touch."

"Despite my 35 years of service, I would not encourage anyone to join the service under the leadership put in place by this regime. They will not support the troops or appreciate the sacrifices those troops make following the foolish demands of their woke leaders. Who wants to be constantly told they have to step aside and watch others get promoted because of diversity, not merit?"

"I am a vet, enjoyed my time in when it was a professional military combat force and discouraged both my sons from enlisting into the new woke military and any of their friends. **It is no longer a professional fighting force, its current purpose is indoctrination into the woke agenda.**

"As an Army retiree/Vietnam Veteran, so far I have talked all of my eligible grandchildren out of joining the military. All services have changed dramatically for the worse. (5 of my children served)"

“In an economy like this one, recruitment should be up. The one recommendation I would make is very simple, get rid of the woke training. That’s all they have to do. People like myself, retired Navy vet are encouraging others not to join under the current depraved administration. Seems woke training has supplanted military ops training which will put people at risk in the battlefield. They are using the military as their grand social experiment rather than protecting our country against current threats.”

“23 years, retired combat engineer officer. Have actively discouraged my family from considering today’s military as a career choice. Breaks my heart.”

“I served and am a combat veteran. Was poisoned by your bullshit anthrax “vaccine” then watched your politically appointed Generals literally shit on our nation for their self-advancement and profit. The 4th generation of service in my family ended with me.”

“As a recently separated veteran, seeing a she/her in a leader’s email to the soldiers contributed to my disdain for the military.”

“My family had a long history of military service and patriotism which influenced me at the time. I can’t think of a single veteran whom I know or associate with who will encourage or support someone in enlisting for this new “woke military” nonsense. I have 3 adult children and 6 grandkids, none of which will be going into the military under this present failed administration.”

“Five generations of Naval Service, I think we have seen the last of encouraging the tradition.”

“I have 22 years active service, and **I would discourage anyone from serving under this Administration. Their priorities are all backwards.** Instead of building a cohesive professional fighting force, they are emphasizing diversity and wokeness. There is no color in the Army but green, and they should be brothers and sisters in arms.”

“What did I just read? I’ll tell you why in a few simple reasons: Social engineering, equity, demoralization, unscientific mandates, and a distrust of the Democrats and the DoD brass is why.”

“I did 20 in the Air Force, ’84 to ’04, and I could not in all honesty recommend today’s woke military as a career to any kid today.”

“When the Army reverts to being a war fighting organization instead of a social experiment organization it will meet its recruiting goals.”

“Two years ago after a year in college and not quite knowing what he really wanted my son was considering the military. His grandfather a 20+ year Navy vet told him not to do it and I couldn’t really recommend it either. I worked 30+ years for the AF as a civilian. It was generally a good experience, but you could see the changing environment getting more woke. I told him I’d support his decision either way and recommended the Air Force as the best. He decided against it. **If you can’t convince people who’ve been around the military their whole lives it’s got to be hard getting others to consider it.**”

“I come from a family with extensive military service and no one is encouraging our young ones to join. Not even up for discussion!”

“I would never enlist as long as the government is composed of socialists and woke leftists intent on destroying the country from within. What would be the point? **The US used to fight Marxists, now it is governed by them.**”

“It is hard to recruit people to be willing to pay the ultimate price when they have been indoctrinated to HATE their Country!”

“Grandfather, WWI; Father, WWII; ME, Vietnam Era volunteer, Son, retired USCG. Now? Our family is done.”

Re Army commercial: “Nice ad/propaganda. Too bad appealing to the historic patriotism of the Revolutionary War and two World Wars does nothing to mitigate the reality of the modern US Army. If you want that type of man, you need to change the current culture of the US Army. But wait, you just spent the last few decades dumping on those men. The men in the ad were mostly straight, White, Christian men of Anglo Saxon and Anglo Celt descent, with a healthy dose of Teutonic blood. Those men have been vilified and marginalized by the politicians in charge, and in popular culture.

I spent 20 years in, neither of my sons is going to join. Ever. Let the strong independent women, the BLM crowd, the homosexuals and transsexuals fight

the next war. Another good idea (for the Joint Chiefs and politicians) would be securing the Southern border, unless you are going to enlist all the millions of illegal immigrants.

Young men, before you join the modern woke Army, have a conversation NOT with your recruiter, but with someone who served in Iraq and Afghanistan as an enlisted man of your demographic. Listen to what they say. If you agree with it, or like it, by all means sign up. If you don't like what you hear, don't. Experience is the best teacher, not an appeal to history the current D.C. or academic elite regimes hate."

"I joined in 1989. I had watched the "Be all that you can be" commercials. I didn't know much about the Army, but I knew that I wanted to be an "Airborne Communicator". After graduating AIT @ Gordon and Jump School @ Benning, I ended up at Ft Bragg and was assigned to B Co 50th Signal Battalion (Airborne). Come to find out, A Co. 50th Sig BN (ABN) were the ones to film that commercial. So it had come full circle for me.

I had an arguably blessed career...17 years on jump status...15 years supporting Special Operations and some of the Finest Americans the world had ever known. Stationed in Stuttgart, Germany for 6 years, WORKED in 22 different countries in the Middle East, Europe and Africa. I was a part of things that made movies about. I ended my career, assigned to the Joint Staff, working at Raven Rock Mountain Complex (NMCC-Site R), something else people tend to talk about that have NO clue what they are talking about. I retired in 2011, after 22 years of Service.

So, would I recommend a young man or woman join the Army today? Not on your life. Nor the Navy, nor the Air Force/Marine Corps/Space Force/etc. The woke nonsense that has infiltrated and permeates every facete of the US Military. It's like a cancer, continuously SPREADING and GROWING within our armed services. Young Men are looking to be WARRIORS....they aren't looking to receive classes on some DEI/CRT point. Young women are looking to PROVE themselves....not have standards LOWERED so they too can compete.

At 6 ft, with no vertical jump, I KNEW that a basketball career was out of the question for me....was that FAIR? No....but it WAS reality. What I didn't do was try to make basketball "FAIR" for me to participate in....I found something I was good at instead. Fairness is for 4 year olds....not for men and women....Life is NOT fair in any way, shape or form. Quit pushing EQUITY in the Armed Services....we already HAD EQUALITY."

"I have bad memories of what at the time was called AAEEEO training that was regularly required; usually someone came down from G1 or AG to present it. **In units where there was little or no racial discord, this training always incited it.** In units where there was racial tension, this training always made it worse. Never been more glad to be out of that mess."

"You: Spend decades demoralizing, emasculating, humiliating and holding down men in all social and economic environments across the West in the name of "equality" and "feminism". Also You: Please fight to defend this system! Men: No. Please hire the strong, brave, courageous, independent #girlpower #girlboss feminist career women working easy email jobs in corporate offices to go fight your battles now. Good Luck!"

"I'm never dying for people who hate me. NEVER."

Re Army commercial: "That's a nice history lesson, about a country that doesn't exist anymore."

"As a veteran I'm absolutely disgusted with the so-called leadership in all the branches right now. I used to send a lot of young people to the recruiters, but I can no longer in good conscience do that until things improve."

"My grandson was the same. I have actively discouraged him the last few years because of the horrendous current leadership of the military. The last four generations of my family have served in the various branches with honor. Today, I see no honor leading those branches."

"The military has always depended on patriots to serve their country. But the new policies in the military are making it very unappealing to patriotic people, which is leaving a huge gap in recruitment and retention. The left has this idea that they can recruit more "open-minded" woke people to fill that gap, but they are learning the hard way that those woke individuals are generally far too self-absorbed to ever consider serving. So here we are with a recruitment retention crisis."

"As a 4 year Navy Vet Grandma, I would be against any of my grandchildren serving in today's WOKE military."

"My son has always wanted to be soldier. As a little boy he ran around in fatigues, he looked for any reason to. He's been in JROTC. He volunteers for everything he can... Food pantries, hospital help, picking up garbage around the town. He has a chest full of ribbons, and he's

extremely proud of himself and America. He is 16 now and wants his mom and I to sign him into the Marines early when he turns 17. I can't stomach the idea under this current administration. He'll go anyways when he's 18. I want him to have a great experience. I don't want him or myself to regret it."

"Most vets I know are telling everyone that will listen to keep their kids as far away from the government as they can."

"Military service is a kitchen table topic. Conservative families in today's world aren't likely to encourage their child to enlist or incur an obligation to serve through college ROTC. The current CINC, the SECDEF, and the Chairman don't inspire families to encourage their children towards military service. Hard. Cold. Truth."

"I was a U.S. Marine, and I can tell you that a lot of guys decided not to re-enlist because of this woke foolishness."

"Because of the state of the Government, I'm discouraging my sons from enlisting in the military and if there is a draft later on when they are old enough to join, I encourage them to leave the country. I don't agree with what the Government and military represents anymore as these ideologies conflict with our beliefs. And honestly I can say the United States isn't a free nation as liberties are trampled into the ground by the Government. **What my grandfather and father fought for is gone.**"

"I knew I wanted to serve in the Air Force when I was still a junior in high school. I had a teacher who was a veteran combat pilot in WWII who extolled the virtues of the citizen soldier. To him, there was no higher honor than to serve in the armed forces, and he was an inspiration to many of us. I joined delayed enlistment in October of 1978, and went to basic training in September of the following year. I graduated from basic on my 18th birthday and served twenty years. If today's recruiters reminded prospects not only of the benefits, but also continued to remind them that to serve one's fellow countrymen by placing themselves between their beloved country and the wars desolation is still the most honorable of professions, instead of the woke BS they try to push, they might inspire a whole new generation to serve. Speak to their hearts as well as their minds."

"Speaking as a 20 year veteran: They won't say what the real issue is, because they can't without punishment."

"Man, I did my time in Army Active Duty from July 2010 to April 2018. Almost eight years and unfortunately had to be medically discharged after being run over in 2015. Still don't regret it. I was born into a military family, my father, grandfather, great grandfather, uncles. Pretty much grew up in a hanger watching Huey's and Apache's being worked on. Now I talk to guys still in and **instead of being mission ready they have classes on pronouns.** How is that important in a fight?"

"My grandson was thinking of joining the US military this June. Shortly after New Year he said that he had changed his mind. "The government sucks" was his excuse."

"As a Vet, I do my best to steer everyone away from service."

"I can see it turning, I am Retired DOD and was a Marine in the early days, I still go on base to workout and can see it getting soft. Kids want a soft life now."

"We live in a time where all they do is shame men for being men. Why would anybody that's a guy want to join a society that craps on us."

"My son has been in the Navy for 13 years and I'm a big military supporter. Given the changes in the military I would not recommend it to people and I never thought that would be the case!"

"I was USAF in the 1980s. Here's the problem: Military is trying to recruit "woke" young people and those folks are NEVER going to join up. 85% of my service mates were conservative types, the other 15% moderates. This is like a steakhouse advertising in Vegan Monthly. It's just not happening."

"I am a veteran of 36 years Sea-going Navy service and a two combat tour Vietnam War veteran. I love the Navy and the Marine Corps; I absolutely despise everything that they have become."

"Give us an America worth fighting for again and watch the recruiting numbers jump."

"How about this: Knock all the woke garbage off. Military service doesn't appeal to the woke sheep. It appeals to Americans who still think this country is worth fighting and dying for. And as the repeated low recruitment and retention numbers show, more and more Americans feel the country is no longer worth fighting for."

“I’m from a military family and since Biden has started U.S on a path headed for destruction we have had every single active member in our family get out as soon as they could.”

“When the young are taught to hate everything about this country, why would they enlist to risk their lives for something they hate? Not too hard to figure out.”

“So just like that and despite calling men and boys toxic, they still need them to keep their fantasy society safe. Young men got the message loud and clear and are not going to defend such a feminized regime.”

“The Army used to be a place for people to become soldiers. Now, it is just another indoctrination center. As a veteran, I am appalled by what I see.”

“In short order, she will have the Army very reflective of the current administration – incompetent, unable to meet standards and worthless. Keep calling all white people racists and continue to see recruitment and retention suffer. Continue to be led by poor leadership and continue to see recruitment and retention suffer.”

“Retired in 2017 with 23 years and some change between the Navy and Army Guard. **Gone are the days that selfless service was important. With woke new ideologies, the military has become a joke**, as the Marines are the only ones still trying to hold on.”

“You would have to be insane to join the military under this administration.”

“As a 3-decade retired Army veteran, I would not encourage anyone to enlist in a defense organization that trades Wokeness for readiness. The only way our kids will return to us from hostile overseas deployments is in body bags.”

“Why would young people fight for an administration that hates the Constitution, hates liberty, and hates groups of Americans? The reason for low recruitment is obvious.”

“The low enlistment is due to Military policy changes and the push of CRT by high level Commanders/Leaders. The military leaders are weak compared to past, Gen Reimer, Gen Powell, Gen Sworkoff, Gen Bramblett etc.. The loss of benefits for retirement. Now soldiers have to invest their income instead of having one built for them

if they stay for 20 years. It’s a difficult transition to serve and takes a special person and family to adapt. It’s not like a civilian job and live in one place all your life and get paid a lot more. Service members can have to move every 36 months or less. Some can stay longer in one place. They are separated from their families often by deployments or field exercises. I was one separated for 20 months due to my position. Change back to old system needs to happen.”

“First, you need to restart the draft. Second, you need to include females, and others, in the draft. Third, **stop with all the “woke” nonsense** and work instead, to build a lethal fighting force. Young people...find a nice trade/technical college and learn a trade. You will be your own boss and make plenty of \$\$\$. Me...21 years active, 7th ID, 3rd ID, 4th ID and 10th Mtn division.”

“Not a viable option for my son or daughter. Sadly, the patriotism I teach at home is all they are going to get.”

“When you teach children that their country is bad for the past 20 years, you shouldn’t really be shocked when nobody wants to volunteer to defend it.”

“It could be that intelligent and patriotic candidates don’t want to fight for a corrupt government.”

“Sorry, I’m not dying for this country. It left me, I didn’t leave it.”

“The U.S. military has forsaken its mandate to protect American citizens and American interests. Its current leadership is more focused on social “equality” and woke principals. It’s no wonder recruitment is down.”

“A tight jobs market usually increases recruiting, since service is seen as a hedge against unemployment for many. Having worked in and around DoD for 25 years and **watching the mass exodus of E-7 to E-9 and O-4 to O-6 take retirement earlier than expected, I can emphatically say that it is due to the social training/requirement aspect**. I won’t call it “woke” because it’s beyond that. Many recruits come from military families and many of these retirees are simply not pushing their kids toward service because they feel that the purpose and direction of the military is no longer defense of the nation.”

“Wokeness has no place in the military. I would not want to be in the military now because much of what is being taught is against my beliefs. It would be hard to serve a country that has for now abandoned many

American values at the top. On patrol and in battle, who would care about he/him/his bla bla bla. I hope we can turn things around. Ex-Army, and proud of it.”

“The author left one HUGE thing out. Any young person who is paying attention will be reticent to serve this president. Police recruitment is problematic as well, since candidates have good reason to doubt that (leftist) politicians will stand behind them. I personally know several military members who have left the service due to their distrust for Biden. Likewise, I know experienced police officers who have retired early, as they are unwilling to have themselves thrown under the bus by their political bosses.”

“As a former combat veteran, with two deployments to Iraq, I would not recommend woke military service to anyone.”

“As a retired Air Force vet I would never recommend the military to anyone until Milley, Austin, and Biden are gone.”

“I was able to serve in the military under Presidents Reagan and Bush. Reagan rebuilt the military and Bush formed a large coalition against Iraq and kept the military strong. I wouldn’t want to serve under Bewildered Biden, his administration is absolutely clueless.”

“Likewise, I served from 1971 – 1993 and wouldn’t think of serving or recommending anyone enlisting today. Our current commander-in-chief is clueless and a coward, let alone not upholding his oath of office.”

“Let’s not forget the military failures have led to no senior leaders being fired. The botched NEO in Afghanistan whose responsibility fell on Austin, Milley, and McKenzie. And, now failing to protect our skies by VanHerck, NORTHCOM commander. **As a veteran of 26 years, I won’t recommend military service for those thinking of joining.**”

“According to a recent Heritage foundation poll, 68% of active-duty service members shared that the politicization of our military — particularly this administration’s focus on climate and gender issues as top national security priorities — would negatively impact their decision to encourage their children to join,” Florida GOP Rep. Michael Waltz told Fox News Digital. **THIS is why my son is getting OUT this year from the Army!** This admin and the joints chiefs is staff have ruined the military’s moral!!!”

“I served from ’86-’92 and would not recommend anyone serve in today’s military. It’s too Woke and heading in the wrong direction.—79 – 89. Glad I’m out.”

“After 23 years in the Army, I’m so glad I’m not in today’s political excuse for the military. I advise all the young folks that ask me nowadays to learn a trade or go to a trade school or college, but to stay away from the military, it’s no longer the way to go!”

“Unfortunately, since I retired from the military in the mid-90s, the services have become extremely politicized, and in its current state I doubt I’d have enlisted, let alone, made it a career.”

“Ditto! Retired Navy.”

“So true. We have generations connection with VMI and military service. My oldest is a graduate and currently serving. **The other three have declined due to the woke direction of the military.**”

“I spent 35 years in uniform, E-1 to O-5, 1979- 2015. Leftist democrats used the military as their laboratory for social experiments. Obama accelerated the rapid politicization and decline. It has never been worse. The Leftist plan to destroy our institutions continues.”

“Mr Waltz, Navy, retired, 25 years. I knew in 04 when I got out we were screwed. What these clowns in DC have done to the military is an f—g tragedy. Patton/Bradley/Nimitz/Halsey/Ike, and Marshall, would be rolling over in their graves. It’s sad what they have done to warriors.”

“Word of mouth and family history is the leading recruiting tool. Over 60% is family history or friend’s recommendation to join. That has ENDED. My son is the first in 7 generations to not sign up.”

“I work as a contractor at a military base. Most of my coworkers are veterans. We are constantly having to be careful not to offend the new kids in the service. It’s gotten pretty ridiculous.”

“Wokeness has no place in the military. I served over 26 years and if I had to do it again, I won’t. I can assure you that China and Russia could care less about being to touchy or feely.”

“Was in the Corps from 85 to 95, and a Navy CSAR/SPECWAR squadron from 95 to 98. Did 3 tours down range. My son and daughter did combat tours in the ‘stan. I work and council veterans every day, and THE

one question most asked by vets is, "Is this the country we fought for?" I know longer have an answer to that..."

"Steady erosion over time, accelerated over the last two years. Would never recommend serving at this time. **The mission, the nation's security has taken a back seat to diversity, equity and inclusion.** Female this, black that, it's exhausting. We had a 22 year old black female assigned to be a DEI facilitator for a group of 40, 50 and 60 year olds, mostly white guys. Needless to say, she couldn't run the meeting, couldn't define what extremism was and couldn't answer the simplest questions, this was during Austin's stand down."

"I was in the artillery from 1968-70. I would have my grandchildren kidnapped before I would let them serve in what passes as an army now."

"I served in the same Infantry Battalion with my late Dad. We were both career soldiers. My sons are in the military and are now reaching the 20 year mark. My whole life was centered around serving the country like my forefathers did at Kings Mountain during the Revolutionary war. I hope this woke trend can be reversed so my grandchildren can also serve this greatest nation on earth."

"I have 3 teenage boys. 10 years ago I encouraged the oldest to join the Marines because he expressed interest in it. Last year I told them all this isn't the same Military of old and that being white, straight, male, and Christian they have NO place in America's military anymore. Someone close to me asked if I was willing do nothing if America was attacked and my reply was that if the enemy comes on American soil, I'll be there."

"Who wants to go to a foreign land and fight or die in a war Joe and his appointees started?"

"I'm retired Army, and five years ago I was discouraging people from joining the military. Now I would probably handcuff a friend to a light pole to keep them from entering a recruiting station."

"I'm a retired Army vet with 27 years of service and if asked by ANY young man or woman if they should go into the military, sadly I would have to say **ABSOLUTELY NOT!** It pains me deeply to say that because our Republic is worth saving and the U.S. military is the echelon to protect and fight for it. This rot has to be cleaned out immediately if not sooner. With these D.C. democrat traitors in power I see little to no hope that,

that will happen. My hope is that we as a Republic can last the next two years. God save our Republic!"

"I spent 25 years defending a Country that, it turns out, no longer exists. Proud I did it, but it seems like it was all for nothing."

"As a veteran, I no longer recommend joining our military to any young person. At least not for the present moment."

"Ditto. Our family of Vets will not be joining the military as long as they have to salute men wearing dresses, along with the rest of the woke nonsense."

"Count me in. 25 years in the Air Force, and I would be EXTREMELY hesitant to see my kids serve. COMBAT CAPABILITY was the overriding concern during my career. Now? Just look at the transgender mess, forced vaccinations, and the Afghanistan withdrawal debacle to see where DOD's priorities now lie."

"I served in the US Navy for thirty years (active and reserve). I loved being in the military; however, I would strongly discourage anyone joining THIS WOKE military. This is not your country's military. It is the radical Leftist military, which hates Christians and heterosexual males."

"No way would I recommend joining the Armed Services to anyone today."

"Of course it's politicized. I served six years in the USAF(SAC). I convinced my grandchildren to not join the military because of all the woke nonsense."

"As a veteran I would not advise my son to join I don't trust the leadership nor their woke policies. I was thinking after watch another Wounded Warrior, DAV commercial that there are so many of those commercials showing such grave injuries I wonder if that is also contributing to lower enlistments. When I joined in 1981 I don't recall so many commercials often 6 or more an hour."

"It's not just the commercials, but even the movies virtually every veteran is riddled with PTSD or is a woman heroine? What's the incentive for those young men to join up in an organization that clearly doesn't respect them or want them other than the catch a bullet?"

“When I retired in 1989 the politics and the wooing down of the Air Force was well under way. We now have woke generals and staff and whatever warrior officers we had or have are now gone or silenced. I too used to recommend the military to young folks, but no more. It truly is a tragedy what the politicians have done to our armed forces.”

“I am a veteran and I would not advise anyone to join our military at this point in time. Who would want to serve under Biden or, God forbid, Kamala?”

“I spent 21 years in the US Army. It treated me good. I worked some the finest people I have ever met and had faith in our senior leadership during my time of service. Seeing what I see now, I could not in good conscience recommend anyone to enlist in our military under the current so called leadership.”

“When I was a recruit in ’71 while in boot camp I remember a trainee getting dressed down by a DI and told “This United States Army is NOT a gawd d@mned social experiment”... (can’t recall what triggered it). Bet he is spinning in his grave, because it sure as hell is now.”

“I did my 20 years and retired. However, these days, there is no way I’d recommend military service to the 1% of kids that now qualify for it.”

“Ret. Army Nurse 1984-2009. Ronald Reagan to Barack Hussein Obama. The woke crap that accelerated under Clinton to Obama. It turns my stomach what’s happening with Biden and friends. I would advise my kids or grandkids don’t enlist. Also public education carries over into the military....scary.”

“I was not, to the surprise of many, selected for Staff College. When I went on to another service school, I discovered that an African-American woman, one rank below me, was on her way to Staff College next. I had a master’s degree, fluency in a foreign language, years in the line, and graduated top of my class at that particular school. She barely passed the PT test and graduated near the bottom of our class. **The Army thought it was more important that she be around to lead troops than I be around.** Very glad to have resigned and have happily found a new and rewarding career.”

“Twenty-three Air Force career and retired for 28 years. No way in hell can I recommend a young man or wom-

an join the US military. Find an apprenticeship program or tech school to attend.”

“Retired from the Air Force in 1993. Didn’t regret any of it. Today, I would not recommend joining.”

“For me, it was when the SecAF said the USAF was systemically racist, showed no proof, and the simp GOs, who had commanded in this “racist” military for 20 years, agreed. Not one of those generals resigned for their part in the “systemic racism” though. Then those same lowlifes had the audacity to use words like accountability. To hell with them all. If they want to go down in flames over Ukraine or Taiwan, they can have at it. My kids won’t be there.”

“I loved the Air Force back in the 60’s ad 70’s. They lost me when they started this shjt.”

“In 2009 after Obama purged the flag ranks of more than 135 officers, you knew what was coming. Did 23 years and I told my kids to never join the military.”

“I got out of the service when the Clinton BS started, thank God. I could see the writing on the wall. **In no way would I encourage my children to join the military today.**”

“I would never allow my children to go into the military now. Even though my son was thinking about taking them up on his medical school education. I told him my wife and I would find a way to pay for it. No way is he going into that mess. Not now not ever.”

“One of our dear friends has a son who just passed his medical boards in the Air Force he is of Indian descent. His CO is constantly pushing him to propogandize for the military. So much so that he has become very uncomfortable. He relayed that to my wife and I when he was last home. Prior to last year he was going to re-up. But now he just wants out.”

“I did 22 years in the USAF. I loved my time serving America and the CiCs I served under. **Now, I would never urge anyone to join.** And although I am way too old to ever serve again, I would never want to serve with the current military with its current so-called leaders.”

“I was in the Navy many decades ago. There is no way I would join today. There are many in my peer group who feel the same. That should give everyone pause. The

Armed Forces of this nation are what keep this nation safe, and it is a very dangerous job. Get rid of the woke insanity in the Military and recruitment will go up.”

“I served 13 years in the US Army, including time as a basic training officer. I would not be able to tolerate these new “woke” requirements. The service has to be shaken up from the top down.”

“I served 20 as an Infantryman, retired as a 1SG. I want my son to serve one, 3 year stint as a character Builder. But not in this trash service created by Dems.”

“I used to encourage people to join the Navy. Not anymore.”

“If you’re still wondering why the Army is 25 percent short of its recruiting goals, and the National Guard is losing people, and now the Navy is short of personnel, look no further. Despite my 35 years of service, I would not encourage anyone to join the service under the leadership put in place by this regime. They will not support the troops or appreciate the sacrifices those troops make following the foolish demands of their woke leaders. **Who wants to be constantly told they have to step aside and watch others get promoted because of diversity, not merit?** Many soldiers join the guard after a tour of active service, but the experience of active duty is no longer a positive one for many. Also, The regime underestimates the impact of older and retired veterans influence on their children and the young people who they come into contact with.”

“You say there’s a recruiting crisis? What?? You mean most people don’t want to join a military that is woke and immoral, and which enforces and defends an out of control and equally immoral Federal government? I’m shocked, just shocked!”

“The military went woke in the 1990’s. If you are in, get out. If you are not in, stay out. Let Trudeau and Biden go fight. I served as an officer in the US Navy in the 2000’s and it was horrible, wokeness, political correctness. (N)ever (A)gain (V)olunteer (Y)ourself. If you are an American and a patriot it’s not worth serving. You can get all the training you want or need on the civilian side.”

“As a proud 20 year US Army retiree, I do not, did not and will not encourage my grandchildren and great grandchildren to join today’s military. That fact saddens me, yet my love for these children is greater than the sadness.”

“In my 21 years in the US Air Force we concentrated on cohesion. In training, combat or contingency operation, your life depended on the men and women around you who worked as a team. Your combat effectiveness (and life) depended on that shared mission. **Inject “identity politics” into the equation destroys unit integrity and reduces the ability of the unit to successfully compete its mission.** Like everything else in the Biden Administration the objective is to destroy America as she existed.”

“I know 5 kids, all Christians, who told me over the Christmas break, they were going to join the military after graduation but due to what the Biden Administration has done, they have changed their minds and will not join now.”

“It is so sad to what our military has become. I saw this 10 years ago before I retired from the military. **People who couldn’t do their jobs were promoted because no one had the guts to get rid of them.** Numbers you know. Some even made it to General. So much touchy feely policies now. So much wasted time on trying not to offend someone that there isn’t any good training happening.”

“I’m a United States Marine for life and have been since 1949. The reports of what’s happening in our military is very hard for me to handle.”

“**As a Marine I can personally tell you that the USMC is going woke** and it started in the early 2000s, then got much worse under Obama..now the Obama days are coming back for another round.”

“Army here, 1978-80. Those Special Ops guys are the experts, they know. And he’s right. We had all races, we had gays, even back then. Nobody cared, we are one team, with one overall function. Not anymore. Thanks for having the stones to say it in a platform where people will read and understand just what is happening. The weakening of our military is the globalist plan as well.”

“Proud to have served when there were men and women working together to keep our freedom. Hard to understand why this administration would want to destroy the spirit needed to fight together as a family to protect our nation.”

“Today’s military is a joke, when I served 82-88 we had none of this stuff. we addressed officer’s as yes mam and yes sir, it was not a democracy. So sad, my youngest

daughter wanted to join the army, I talked her out of it. The PT test is a joke from what I hear.”

“This is disturbing. I served in the USMC in the mid 80s and to see what our beloved Corps has become is saddening.”

“I took an oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies both foreign and domestic. It says nothing about defending woke policy or that I should be ashamed of my race. I served with a lot of blacks who would defend me as I would defend them. In war we all bleed red. In these times, I would be very hesitant to join the military because of what is happening.”

“As a Drill Instructor x2 I’m absolutely disgusted and disappointed in our MC.”

“As a prior service member that was deployed and served in two wars this makes me laugh and sick at the same time. What a load of crap.”

“I’m a Vietnam vet; I’m so ashamed of our military and it’s so sad!”

“I would seriously discourage my kids from joining today’s military. And my family has long been involved with the armed forces.”

“I spent 23 years in the Army, I’m happy I retired when I did. These good idea fairies are destroying our war fighters.”

“As a veteran, I’m completely disgusted with what’s happening to our military.”

“I wouldn’t recommend the military to anyone. I used to and I joined in 1982.”

“I’m glad I served when I did. At the present time, I would not want to enter the military.”

“When I served in the Army, every promotion board I appeared before or served on had at least one question on the Federal Constitution and another on American history as it related to the military. I would not volunteer to serve on the Biden-Harris military.”

“Retire Combat Engineer officer here, and I am so, SO grateful I am not in now. I would be a walking Article 15!”

“This is horrible. The standards are too low now. Especially for the ASVAB. If someone cannot score at least 30 on the ASVAB, they have no business in the military. It isn’t like the military has ANY real grunt jobs anymore. Even infantry members have to deal with a lot more than shooting a rifle. They need to be proficient with all the tech gear that the military employs today. I was an Army recruiter in the late 90s and I know what caliber of kid cannot score over 30 on the ASVAB. They are not they kind of kid I would want to go to war with and need to depend on in a bad situation.”

“If young fit qualified men are not volunteering and you have to lower the standards to meet quotas. Then you are not addressing the “real” issues. I served but would not recommend anyone serve in today’s military.”

“I spent 6 years in the navy and 2 years of that underwater. Nuclear submarines and basically all naval vessels are not the place for “low quality” applicants. They are dangerous places and you need to be able to depend on your shipmates to be able to do what it takes to keep safe. I served at the beginning of the all volunteer military and at the end of my 6 years, they were already lowering the standards and it was getting scary to go to sea with some of these guys. By lowering the standards, The military is just asking for accidents that should never happen. Maybe they should spend less time on the “woke” nonsense and vaccine mandates and then maybe they wouldn’t have to lower the standards. I know if I were a young man today, I wouldn’t want to be in the military with today’s leadership (or lack thereof).”

“When you are a soldier, you’re part of a group, with one common goal, defend our country and your fellow soldier, defeat the enemy. Our government seems to be undermining that thought process and weakening the rank and file. When you go into battle, you go in as one solid board. Not as a splintered piece of wood.”

“As a former Navy Instructor and Training Program Designer for the Military and a State Govt, it’s dangerous when you’re just trying to get bodies. Dropping the quality of recruits to a level of almost incompetency means mistakes will happen, big mistakes.”

“I am proud to have served in the Army back when all we had to worry about was Soviet tanks invading Western Europe. Now our Army is so concerned with gender-affirming, climate change, white supremacy,

diversity and other issues that nothing is left to defend America from invasion and conquest.”

“Come from a long line of people who served in the Military. I did 20 years myself. My daughter has 16 years in, and my other two sons have served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan but not one of them wants their children to serve in today’s military when they grow up. People don’t want to serve in an organization where you’re not proud of the organization you’re serving, and it represents everything you’re against.”

“I won’t give my exact age, but I was born in the 1990’s. Here’s my reason why I chose, and continue to choose, against joining the “U.S.” military. Time has proven that the United States armed forces have recently been used to protect and defend the sovereignty of multiple foreign countries — while practically nothing is done to defend our own country’s sovereignty. Swaths of criminal migrants, who share nothing in common with our nation, are swarming our border; this is of little concern, but sending what amounts to 100 billion dollars to Ukraine for their defense is apparently a top priority. Why would I choose to potentially sacrifice my health for a foreign country while our own is losing its sovereignty and self-determination? Furthermore, I will not act to spread the “values” of destructive “LGBT” behavior, and the right to place elementary school children on hormone blockers and “sex reassignment” surgery. The top brass of the U.S. military’s “values” are neither mine nor of historical American values and principles. At home, our national history and heritage is being sought for removal, along with our constitutional freedoms being subject to infringement. And this human garbage by the title of Gen. Miley, who would be my superior, is expressing his desire to learn about “White rage” in a European-derived Western country!?! I want nothing to do with this usurped U.S. military; and many, MANY more feel the same way. If you have a child or grandchild, wise would it be to advise against joining that which stands for nothing of value to the United States of America at this time.”

“How can you expect young people to enlist to defend a country that they have been taught to hate in school and by athletes kneeling for the National Anthem?”

“I’m a US Army retiree with 2 sons, one whose served in combat as Military Police, my second son is 9 years

younger than his brother. I would not allow him to serve with current leadership in place under any circumstances.”

“I as a veteran have lost trust in the upper echelon leadership of the military not the rank and file.”

“When my son came back from Afghanistan considering re-uping in Ranger training as the offer was there. My brother in law and I teamed up and convinced him to stay out. We did that because he’s a brave young man who saw a lot of action in a forward moving area and this military woke agenda and equity BS was in contrast to what he is. Being white and the pussification of the military could have gotten him killed. **I suggest to all nephews, stay away from wokeism and lack of true military leadership as it has all the underpinnings of disastrous consequences as witnessed with the Afghanistan withdrawal.**”

“I am glad my kids are out of the military now. My son spent 4 tours overseas and has shrapnel throughout his body. He suffers PTSD after watching friends die in front of him. I would never let a child join at this point and time. This administration has destroyed our military. God bless the young men and women currently serving.”

“As a veteran I’m wondering why with the anti-American president anyone would go into the service.”

“Each of my parents and my husband spent 20 years each in the military. Now that my sons are getting close to graduating high school, we have told them, “No way.” The amount of wokeness in the military now means it isn’t about protecting country and more about coddling big babies who have been told they are special.”

“As a veteran from a long standing military family, I’ve made sure that my children will never join the current Woke military. Get Woke, Go Broke.”

“I’m an army veteran, and what’s happening to our military is heartbreaking. And the problem is definitely from the top down. We don’t win any more on purpose. It’s all political and about money. And no, I don’t want my son in this military, and that’s sad.”

“I am retired Navy with a son who is beginning his career in the Navy. We all have suffered through the sensitivity training and growing wokism but I still believe

that the best performing individuals will rise to the top. We all know that there will be unacknowledged quotas for advancement but even then, most that get the quota nod are still the best of those groups and have been exceptional leaders in their own right. Leaders will always have to deal with the underperformers who will pull out the “intersectional card,” but documentation and standards solve those issues. As long as the government doesn’t change the UCMJ, the military will adapt and overcome in the end.”

“I have one child left at home, and I’ll be damned if she’s going into the service.”

“Just retired. Told my kids no way they can join.”

“A history of service back to WW1, I did 25 years in Army, my son turns 18 in a few months and I told him that by no means did I want him to enlist under this administration to be sent off to die for this failed president!”

“Happy to have served when I did but today I try to talk young people out of joining the military. Poor weak leadership and political correctness has ruined most of our military.”

“I served in 2/327, I got out in 2019 and I would never think of joining back up with the country the way it is now.”

“Reasons why I (US Army Veteran honorably 1994-2002) refuse to allow my adult children to participate in the military. My dad and Grandfather were both military. #1. Mandatory experimental vaccines. #2. Political correctness #3. Wokeness #4. Getting rid of shark attacks and yelling (weeding out weakness).”

“Glad my children and I are out of the military, none of us would have served in the current environment. I guess it goes along with the rest of this crappy administration.”

“I thought about joining before they decided the mRNA was mandatory.”

“I am a proud (and disabled) veteran. I do not suggest anyone volunteer to serve at the moment; especially under this “leadership.”

“I spent 22 years in the Marine Corps. My father fought in Korea (USMC). Both grandfathers in WW2. For the first time in my life, I can’t recommend joining any branch.”

“I served proudly and honorably but in today’s climate I would not do so. There is nothing honorable in today’s senior military leadership!”

“No way in hell would I allow my kids to serve under this administration. . . .all the men in my family served.”

“I served in the USAF 20 years ago. I would not enlist if I were 19 today. I have two boys now. I will not encourage military service. Clown world the USA has become.”

“I would never allow my young kids serve in the military nowadays, it makes their sacrifice obsolete. Shameful.”

“I am 7th generation US Navy and my 12 year old son will NOT be the 8th.”

“Nope. As someone who volunteered during GWOT, I tell any kid now that joining is a bad idea. **Too many woke leaders, including yourself who value shoving diversity down our throats instead of building an Army to fight and win against our enemies.**”

“My family has been in the US Military since 1850. I served 22 yrs, 16 act. 6 res. most in an Elite Unit, the 160th SOAR 2 of my sons, 1 SEAL, 1 Green Beret. I’m Pro Military. I will NOT encourage anybody to join now woke, pronouns, weak leaders, Biden--that shit will kill the Military & you.”

“I agree ! I served USMC 50 + Years ago, and I would not serve in today’s military.”

“My father WW11, Lt Cruiser Boise in Pacific; myself 71-91 USAF Engineers Prime Beef & Red Horse, my brother USAF Nuc weapons tech, my son USAF Special Operations MH53, my nephew Army Major armor, my grand nephew USAF air battle manager. I can’t encourage my grandchildren to join.”

“I can trace my family’s military back to the Revolutionary way. I grew up as an army brat. 2 brothers served, 2 sons served. I will do everything in my power to talk serving out of my grandchildren. This is NOT the country/military my forefathers fought in and for!”

“As a 21-year Navy Vet, I fully support his post. This administration has one concern, make money for themselves and use all our assets and money to get this done! I watch a Marine tell his story on how they had no support from leadership!! It is time to draw a line and say no!!!”

“My family served in every war from the War of 1812 until Desert Storm. My father gave 35 years of his life to the military. I agree with you completely.”

“I love the United States Army. It gave a poor kid a home and a start in life for me. I have friends as close as any brothers by blood I served with. It saddens me but this is not the Army I knew. Saddens me listening to my kid who served tell me how bad woke is in all branches.”

“I’m proud to be a USMA grad. I’m proud to have been an army officer. I’m proud to have been a battalion CDR (until wrongfully relieved). But most of all, I’m proud to have had the integrity to walk away once it was clear the Army stood in opposition to Constitution and country.”

“No. You all squandered and destroyed every bit of goodwill I had. I am the last to serve in my family because of your ineptitude. Every branch is now a hollow shell and fancy PR campaigns won’t solve the sickness. You’re blind or willfully ignorant of the problems.”

“My family has served since this country was created. I have a few tabs, a scroll and a couple of trips to Afghanistan. Guess who will encourage my family to enlist? Not me. Be all you can be my ass.”

“As someone who got out in no small part because of the Navy going woke, I can illustrate it with ease. Name one Medal of Honor or Navy Cross recipient of Pearl Harbor. ... Doris Miller will be the most common answer. Why, because we get briefed on him every February. Throughout the year we learn about every culture and gender and how they were slighted in the past in one way or another. What we don’t learn about is how we are all sailors, sure lip service is paid, usually 10secs at the end of the brief about how so and so was discriminated against in the 1940s or 1840s, or the 1970s. And since that is the message sent for 29min 30s of the brief. What message are you sending? I will tell you the message sent is not one of unity. Not one of we are all sailors. DEI is woke. Its roots are in Critical Theory, which is an offshoot of Marxism from the Frankfurt school. Whose intention was to divide the United States from within via culture and gender because workers vs bourgeois wasn’t working. Second point of the Navy is going woke. Onboard a CG we had 2 transgender sailors. They went through boot camp, came to the ship, declared they were transgender went through the hoops of proving it to medical, whatever those hoops were, and were sent up

to Oregon for Gender reassignment, hormone therapies, etc. That takes about 2.5 years to complete and hundreds of thousands of dollars. By which time they are at the end of their contract and get out with little to no benefit to the Navy or the nation. Before, transgender would have been a failure to adapt and good luck. The Navy is not welfare program, it is not free medical service. It is a warfighting entity.”

“The more we focus on our differences, the more divided we will become. **The DEI, transgender and sexuality based will defeat the Navy in time.** In ways our adversaries could never dream of. Want proof? The economy isn’t doing that great, normally that is prime time for recruiting. So about those recruiting numbers.”

“As a formerly proud AF vet, count on losing recruits and soldiers leaving as soon as their enlistments are up. BIG mistake.....”

“I come from a long line of patriots who served the US with great respect and honor. I will not encourage my grandchildren to serve. Democrats did that.”

“My (18-year-old farm boy) dad volunteered to Army in 1940. Then to Army Air Corps and Indochina. Then to USAF OCS, then Korea, and a 30 year career as bomber pilot, wing and base commander, then Pentagon Joint Chiefs of Staff. He could not have handled this sick disease that has penetrated the USAF. Shame. Shame. I am so glad our daughter looked at USAF ten years ago but then declined. She works for Lockheed Martin as her “duty” on those F35s.”

“So glad I am retired from this woke military. These senior leaders are absolute cowards and should all be fired. DEI has never been a problem in the military. We have people from all cultures, races and backgrounds that come together and complete their missions. Look at Iraq and Afghanistan. Guys on the ground doing the fighting weren’t the problem. It was the incompetent and cowardly senior leaders and politicians that handcuffed REAL warriors from doing what needed to be done. I’m so disgusted at the senior leaders both on the officer and NCO side.”

“The vast majority of recruits come from red states, are conservative and have little inclination to be lectured to on race, gender or climate change.”

“The progressives gained control of the “educational” institutions decades ago. They’ve been grooming and

brainwashing the American youth for decades. The next inevitable target was the military. When I was in the military, it was “don’t ask, don’t tell” not it’s “heyyyyy, scream it from the roof topssss!” Next thing that’s going to happen is outlawing views that hold to traditional/biblical views on sexuality and marriage. My guess is it will be within the next 10 to 20 years.”

“We also need to thank our Woke Military leadership for this problem. I know many in the Military will not re-enlist because of the many weak policies they have put in to discourage our young military personnel.”

“These are not blunders, they are deliberate policy decisions to “encourage” traditional patriotic soldiers to get out of the military so woke soldiers with flexible values can climb the ranks. All of which is intentionally designed to weaken are military.”

“The “recruiting crisis” has nothing to do with China. People with aspirations of joining our military do so out of love of country and don’t want to be subjected to “woke” garbage such as “proper pronoun use,” “diversity and equity,” and allowing “transgenders” to share their locker rooms. These are diseases that seem to be permeating almost every part of our lives lately, and until it’s stopped, recruiting will STAY at all-time lows.”

“The power struggle of the Leftist leaders in DoD against the people serving. Instead of stopping this tyrannical effort against service men and women, they continue to punish them for not obeying. The new NDAA eliminates the vaccine requirement, yet DoD under Austin is slow rolling this guidance. They are surprised when no one wants to sign up to the woke military. Army, 14,000 recruits short in a single year. The other services thousands short. As a 26 year veteran, I will not recommend young people join in this toxic climate.”

“The military has lost its way and no longer has sight of its mission. The woke policies of the last several years has resulted in a major decline in readiness. Armies of our adversaries are much stronger physically and mentally because they focus on the realities of war, not gender issues and making sure some soldiers feel guilty for what their ancient ancestors did.”

“The left is turning this country into one that fewer men and women are willing to risk life or limbs to defend. Meanwhile, the Chinese have passed the US Navy in number of ships.”

“To young people considering joining like I did: would you risk your life for the politicians that “lead” this country right now? Because that’s who you will be serving if you join, not your country, not the Constitution. Would you lay down your life for their personal profits?”

“When I was 18, I literally walked out of a college classroom, and joined the Army. Joining an Army with leadership that hates me is the last fucking thing I would now ever do at age 18.”

“4 combat tours and 1 peacekeeping. you will never get my vote of confidence. After the debacle and the way ya’ll handled it in Afghanistan. who was held accountable? Who was accountable for the drone strike? Ain’t no way as a vet I can tell kids to join.”

“I know several Democrats in the corporate world and they are tired of the woke and DEI nonsense. It is dividing America and weakening our military. We should all be concerned.”

“You kicked out good Soldiers for not getting the job, you drove out performing Soldiers in the name of diversity, you gave out weapons and ammo to a war that we should have zero involvement in, we still have troops in Syria for some reason.... Anything else?”

“Former #11B here. Will be the last in my family to have a DD-214. Would never recommend the current US military to any of my kids or family. #wentwokebecameajoke”

“I served 23 years in the army I used to say I would do it again but not now. Too much BS and we fight for everything we earned while useless people get handed everything. I tell everyone to never join!”

“I spent 7 years as an 0311 from 07-14. I will do no more for this country while corruption leads us. Our enemy is here at home first.”

“Families with generations of Army service dating back to the Civil War are now counseling their kids to not enlist. This is for two reasons: 1. A Woke Army. 2. Politicians will throw their lives away on a whim.”

“No. I served in the USMC infantry, and most of my family before me has served as well. But after what “leadership” has done to our service members over the several years, no child of mine will serve until you’ve all been fired, punished, and your shitty policies have been repealed.”

“I spent 20 years. 10 years ago, I would not recommend military service to anybody. Now would not need much persuading to picket recruiting offices and beg potential recruits to think again.”

“The war movies always glorified war. They said we fought wars against other people to defend our country and way of life. I am old. Our way of life has been erased and the country We fought for doesn’t exist. They stole our election and opened the borders and expect us to go fight for them. My people have been fighting wars for this country for the last 200 years. I think we need to sit out the next few wars.”

“Nope. I’ll never recommend to any of my grandkids. Yes, I served.”

“4th generation gunfighter here. Zero chance my son goes to OCS.”

“This Cold War vet finds it hard to defend (in words or deeds) the nation that acts almost totally like the communists I wanted to defeat.”

“At our family reunion in 2020 where there were over 100 adults we discussed the issues of today’s military and jointly recommended that any of the youngsters reconsider and NOT join. Note that most adult males in my extended family are vets and quite a few females too. We had a tradition of service going back generations. We think the US is headed down a very dark path, Intentionally or not and didn’t want family to be caught up in it. They can still join (I knew I wanted to join the navy from around 8 years old and follow in my father’s and grandfather footsteps) and we will not censor them but since it isn’t a worthy organization any longer (any branch) we urged other paths and our help to follow those paths. No one has joined since.”

“Proud retiree: disgusted with the woke crap being forced upon our service members. I and many others aren’t encouraging young people to join under an administration who’d just as soon have them butchered, brainwashed or killed as have them sit in a classroom learning about abhorrent pronouns. No thanks.”

“The military is mandating all personnel become human guinea pigs to get an unapproved, unverified injection while having diversity training rammed down their throats. The U.S. is no longer the policeman of the world but a conquering thug that has destroyed hundreds of countries economically and socially for the past 70 years. The U.S. has become so corrupt that elected officials are no longer elected, they are appointed. The military needs to look at supporting the constitution they swore an oath to protect.”

“They should not ‘serve’, because the US military is no longer serving America. If we can have a President who was not elected. and who has no mind — so who is really calling the shots? — and who serves foreign masters who helped him subvert our election — then why should our young men serve such creatures?”

“My grandfather served, my father served, I served. I will do everything in my power to ensure my children do NOT serve. Why should they fight and die in forever wars that have nothing to do with protecting their own lands or ideals? Why should they be willing to be sacrificed like the 13 brave souls who were murdered by this regime and its botched Afghanistan pull-out? Why should they risk their lives to serve under a tranny commanding officer to spread the culturally poisonous rainbow jihad across the globe while politicians line their pockets laundering tax dollars through NGOs supporting the “war effort”? Through policies like the jab mandate the military is being whittled down to a force that will be willing to fire upon the citizenry. That standing army we’re so proud of looks wonderful until the tanks are pointed at us.”

“There are no leftist patriots and the mask is off, America has a more Marxist government than Red China. Parking the military in Afghanistan was the last straw, Uncle Sam has no more credit with the American body donor public.”

“People watch their country and countrymen sacrifice for 20 years only to have an inept idiotic president and left wing administration flush it all away with a disastrous Afghanistan withdrawal. Then they see a diversity hire secretary of defense and a woke senior leadership embrace CRT and demonize straight white males, promote “equity” and diversity training which only creates a divisive culture. Is it any wonder recruitment is lagging. The next administration faces quite a task of rebuilding our military. But it’s the same thing every time the left is in power.”

“I proudly served 22 years in the Marines Corps and retired in 2004. It would be a cold day in hell if would join in today’s woke military. Combat readiness is at an all-time low.”

“They are teaching CRT and racism. In combat, there are no colors only your brothers who are fighting to ensure everyone comes home safely from the theater of operations. We are doomed.”

“**People want their sacrifice to mean something.** They don’t want to be associated with LGBTQ weirdness. They don’t want to be the “rainbow generation”. But more importantly they don’t want to sacrifice themselves in conflicts that don’t matter — Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Korea, hundreds of other minor skirmishes around the globe — there’s no feeling that any of them truly mattered. This manufactured Ukraine fiasco won’t matter either. It will just get thousands (perhaps millions) killed. For what? For corrupt politicians in Ukraine and America? For a defense contractor to get a big bonus? People aren’t joining because they don’t want to sacrifice themselves for something that isn’t honorable. Period.”

“As a veteran of two branches of the military, I am discouraging anybody, especially my kids and grandkids, from joining the military. Why? Because they will be brainwashed into hateful, woke zombies.”

“Between the strong arm tactics used with Covid vaccines and the focus of the likes of Milley, Austin, and Biden himself on equity, **the American people don’t trust you anymore.** Most kids who join have been encouraged in that direction by a parent. When you lose the parents, you have absolutely lost the children.”

“The top echelon of the military is a corrupt tool of the Deep State, and they’ve been undermining morale in every possible way for many years. The COVID “vaccine” mandates are only the latest outrage. Furthermore, the US military has now for a generation been indoctrinated into targeting the currently non-existent domestic terrorism that the authorities expect and fear is coming as they tighten their totalitarian grip on the county. **If you are a decent person and a loyal American, you should get out of the military, and if you’re thinking of joining, DON’T.**”

“Decades ago I was so proud of the US military but with it being destroyed over wokeness, LGBTQ acceptance and CRT crap. Why would any young person

today want to serve. Generations, who haven’t thought for themselves but have become indoctrinated to hate capitalism and our American freedoms. We are not war ready and could be taken over by foreign enemies. But they will do so when we are destroyed from within which is happening every day in our once great and strong country destroyed by Democrats, illegitimate (not elected) regimes and ignorant liberals who actually voted for this!”

“Go Woke, Go Broke. I volunteered for the Viet Nam war. I wouldn’t do so now. I would want nothing to do with the Woke/DEI/Marxist military of today. Defending “the Hiden Biden” regime and a country controlled by insane Far Left, Marxist Demonrats, no thank you!”

“I’m a vet, but my kids won’t be going near the military unless there are some serious changes like no mandatory experimental medical treatments and drop all the pervert pedo bulls–t and stop fighting stupid wars for globalists.”

“I wouldn’t let my children join the military now. This government is too fond of unnecessary wars and lying to us about them. It makes me sick to think how many brave young men and women have sacrificed themselves so politicians can get rich off the war machine. Don’t get me wrong...I’m grateful to all who serve and have given their lives, but I don’t think we should continue to sacrifice our children if our constitution is being stomped on.”

“The cause is obvious. No self-respecting patriot who believes in duty, honor, country and has any other option would support the farce the current system (DOD) has produced. I recommended military service for years to friends and family no more. The military compromised its policies and principles to willingly become politicized for the sake of individual advancement in the chain of command.”

“We used to encourage to everyone how awesome it was to be a military family. Ha! What’s a joke that was. They tried forcing my husband to get the death shot and since he won’t, they’re trying to boot him. Now, we discourage everyone, and I mean everyone, from joining. Besides, they’ve gone woke.”

“I grew up in a PROUD Military Family...Dad went in at age 17 1940. Stayed in and retired 1970. Continued to work for the military as a private citizen for 15 years. My granpa moms side and dads side both career military. I grew up as a military brat and hey, I lived all over the world. I married military. Now, I'll say: anyone with any patriotism is smart enough to know not to join this POS woke liberal communist military.”

“I've always wanted to be a Navy fighter pilot. I'd have to get surgery to fix my eyes. I'd do it in a heartbeat if I were guaranteed a place where I could do my job to the best of my ability and serve my nation proudly, even if I ended up somewhere other than a fighter jet. If they would do away with woke and vaccine mandates, I'd walk over to the recruiting office and sign up right now. Have had an interest since I was a young thing, and after Top Gun: Maverick and realizing at 24 years old it's my last shot, **I would be there today if they wouldn't kick me out for not being vaccinated or gay enough.**”

“These are socialist ideas. One of the reasons I left the service. No matter how hard I worked and excelled at my job I was passed over for promotions. I had intended to make the service my career.”

“Former USMC here...if I had a military aged kid that wanted to enlist today, and if I couldn't talk him / her out of it, I would knee-cap them. I wouldn't let them dishonor themselves or their country by joining this circus clown show of what was once a cohesive, highly trained, military whose only mission was national defense. What exists now is just another platform for exhibiting woke-ness and socialism. Totally disgusting!”

“Austin, I'm a veteran from the days when serving in the military was an honor. I served in Vietnam, but would never lift a finger to serve again, seeing what my once great country has become. You are a disgrace to your uniform and unfit to lead a flock of sheep. I, as do many of my fellow veterans and VFW members, find you and your willing accomplice, Milley, disgusting, deplorable and totally unfit to hold your offices at the very top of our military chain of command. I don't include our Commander-in-Chief because he doesn't even know what day it is. If our military is unable to meet its recruitment and retention challenges, look in the mirror

instead of blaming **real Americans who want dignity and respect restored to our military!**”

“What parent would let their kids serve in this new woke armed forces. As a veteran myself I would advise my kids against serving this administration.”

“I'm retired military and I would advise in the strongest term my kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews, not join. American principles and values are definitely worth fighting for...but apparently Washington DC doesn't think they're worth following.”

“The military chose to cater to people who are ill suited nor inclined to serve while demonizing & denigrating those who traditionally have. They pissed all over the right while making no new inroads with the left. Now they've got no one!”

Wonder why.what's changed? Maybe the constant drumbeat of vilification of the segments most likely to join the military has caused them to reject military service?

“Maybe... we shouldn't have kicked out perfectly healthy and able soldiers for refusing an experimental vax. Also, alienating soldiers via social engineering political whims was never a good idea.”

“The absolute largest and cheapest recruiting factor was family tradition and family support. That's DONE. Veterans no longer recommend or speak positive about military service. **My son will be the first in 10 generations to not enlist.**”

“As a retired veteran who joined after the Viet Nam era and retired after twenty years, I know that if I were young enough to do it again, I would not enlist.”

“My MOS was 0847 and I strongly urge nobody serve for these clowns.”

“As a veteran I advise other young men who are like me not to serve under the current regime.”

“Seeing Afghanistan flushed down the toilet, and not a single person in the State Department, nor the White House, nor any of the Joint Chiefs faced any repercussions, is also a huge blow to American confidence. Our leadership at the highest level is rotten.”

“The people whom America needs in the military won’t go because it’s value system does not align anymore.”

“Explanation: Regular men & women who are natural candidates for military service don’t want to join a military where woke lunacy will be foisted on them; and woke androgynous weirdos don’t want to join any military regardless. Hence, our unserious country has a recruitment problem.”

“If I wanted to destroy the US without firing a shot, I’d work super hard to make it so red blooded American patriots hate and distrust things like football, the military and the Justice system.”

“You guys kicked out anyone who wouldn’t get the Vaccine and you also demonize straight white men and tell people not to be proud of being an American and tell them not to love America No wonder why no one wants to serve for you.”

“This was always the result of mandating a useless vaccine and placing an emphasis on cultural issues. The morons making those decisions either knew this would be the outcome and didn’t care or are completely oblivious.”

“One of the most dangerous outcomes of toxic leftist culture. **The US military is more focused on gender ideology, neoracism, and everything except fighting.** Add in the actions of braindead Biden dismissing people over COVID vaccines, and you wonder why anyone would join.”

“For the last two years the Navy has been attempting to kick out my son-in-law for refusing the clot shot. Now that he has seen and experienced how people with a more conservative leaning are treated, he has put in his papers for separation. Now that he wants out, they don’t want to let him out.”

“The same thing happened or is happening to numerous soldiers that I serve with or know. **The mass exodus of soldiers who are 22-27 is ungodly.** I get the old farts like me (51) who are tired of the BS, but all those young soldiers is just devastating.”

“My grandson dropped out of ROTC because of Biden administration policies. I actually encouraged him to, so did his Mother. Really not a good career choice anymore.”

“I got out of the military when they started doing all of this woke nonsense. The retention officer asked me “what would it take to get you to re-enlist for a few years?” I legitimately laughed so hard and told him, “you aren’t authorized to give me the amount of money it would take for me to re-enlist.”

“As a prior infantry man. And a father of four. I would not join nor want my children to join the military anymore!”

“As a long service veteran, I can’t recommend military service for others in good conscience anymore. The support for the troops within the military structure itself seems to be dead.”

“Our military is being systematically destroyed by this woke nonsense. I speak as a veteran that served 3 tours in Afghanistan and 1 in Iraq. I still have connections in the Army and most are retiring early, getting out, or buying their time until retirement if they’re close to retirement. Recruitment is way down.”

“When I was growing up my 9 military uncles and father expected the next generation to join the service. Most all have. Now, my generation of vets are encouraging their kids not to. A woke military & endless wars are to blame for your 25% loss in recruitments.”

“I am doing the same thing. My son will not serve. and we always had planned he would like every man in my family before him. No more.”

“Don’t forget forcing experimental treatment on our servicemen and women. By the grace of God, my husband will get to retire this year after fighting the vaccine mandate for almost 18 months. A right he had that the DOD completely ignored in their own policy and per fed law.”

“I am a 25 year Vet, and joined the military, both to make a difference, as well as to make myself a good career. I too have told my kids, they are absolutely NOT to join and helped one of them get out before it was too late. **I saw firsthand how corrupt it is.**”

“I served for over 20 years. I refuse to allow my son to join the military. It’s disgraceful what’s happening to those institutions.”

“I totally agree! I tell anyone who asks me if they should join the military like I did, and I always say no. With the

change in rules of engagement and the wokeness, it's no longer the elite fighting force it once was." Army veteran

"I am a first generation army vet. I had hopes at one point my son would join. I'm so glad he didn't."

"When the younger generation sees firsthand our own commander in chief abandon troops, I can't even blame them. And don't even get me started on the vaccine mandates and woke BS."

"Want to know why so many fine young men and women are leaving military service? Because of the woke policies of this criminal installed administration. They are destroying the US military." – Veteran

"That's why I left!" – Another veteran

"Yep. Exactly the reason I didn't reenlist."

"Can not recommend military service for my kids or anyone now with the woke LGBTQ propaganda permeating everything now!"

"How woke is the US Navy? When my brother was in Nuke school in SC back in 2020-they gave him a transgender roommate. A girl, transitioned to a guy-and on her days off, she would wear dresses on base. She had stuffed animals all over her bed, panda bear slippers and refused to clear her bed. She would sleep on the floor of their 2 person room- at the entrance to the bathroom. As if Nuclear school wasn't difficult enough--this literally stressed my brother out beyond what I could possibly explain here."

"Your brother was there around the same time as my son. **I heard similar stories.**"

"A friend of mine is an AF pilot. When he was going through flight training, one of his instructors was a man who wore women's clothing. Beard, high heels and dresses. That cross-dresser ended up quitting because he was too stressed out being around men all day."

"As an active duty sailor, it gets worse. I once had a supervisor who was in "transition". **This was a 6'6" man who would abuse authority and anyone who he felt made him feel "oppressed" received a negative eval,**

which made it impossible to progress to rank up. This is an epidemic."

"I work with a couple retired CSM. They both did 25+ years and had no plans of retiring. **Both retired because this agenda got in the way of efficiency of duty.** Frustrating solving issues at the highest levels but now you need to focus on 1 person's feelings ahead of the service."

"I'm glad that I got out when I did in 2018."

"I'm glad I'm out. Even the Marines is like that now, it's just terrible."

"It's really bad. 17 years ago when I first came in it was nothing like this."

"It's getting more woke by the day. The entire military is. Before I got out it was getting bad. I feel bad for those still in that have to deal with all the bs."

"We did transgender training and it was awful. They basically said that people with gender dysphoria were allowed to do all their surgeries for free but people who had self esteem issues maybe about their nose or their teeth were not granted the same privilege."

"Glad I'm retired, in my opinion the military is no place for the woke political bullshit, its supposed to be a fighting force, not a experimental guinea pig woke tank."

"I was Army 2013 to 2019. I never dreamed the country I believed in and chose to serve as a way to be a part of all that we stand for would fall so low in 2 or 3 years much less my lifetime. This doesn't look like the country I swore an oath to protect anymore. And that kills me a bit more every day."

"I'm also a veteran, my father was a lifer veteran also. He turned 16 on a ship in the South Pacific fighting Japanese. Then later joined Air Force. Served through Korea and Vietnam, 23 years. My heart breaks a bit more every day."

"My father and brother fought for our freedom I lost them both and for what? That's how I feel now. Thanks to our Government I agree fantastic song it's so hard to be proud to be an American today."

“I was probably the most pro-military person most people ever met. Bled olive drab. And I’ve told my kids that before I’d let them spill their blood for this waste of what was once my country, I’d shoot them in the foot myself.”

“Yup. I agree. My whole family, cousins, son, granddaughters, Grandpa, father etc. All Military. Not anymore. Military is sick morally. 4 years Navy here.”

“I grew up with a level of support for our military that knew no bounds but today, even if I were young enough to serve, I’d refuse to go. All our military is today are muscle for the globalists.”

“I was willing to give my life for my country, and came close to doing so, twice. For years I asked God why me? Why would I come home when so many others didn’t? Once again I’m asking God why me? **Why would you save me only to make me witness the destruction of something I was willing to die for?**”

“The problem isn’t obesity. The problem isn’t lower SAT scores. **The problem is our Godforsaken military’s abandonment of military preparedness in pursuit of a woke diversity-equity-inclusion agenda that sadly excludes reason and sanity.** Today’s military aspires not to prepare men to win battles but to provide equal-opportunity employment for women, sexual perverts, and totally deluded (or totally deceitful) “transgenders.” At the same time it foolishly seeks to “reeducate” traditional male recruits about their “toxic masculinity,” racial insensitivity, and, as applicable, “white privilege” or “black victimhood.” What self-respecting young man with even a modicum of patriotism wants to sign up for that? As a former Navy man, I heartily discourage young men from joining today’s military. I would not serve under our current joke of a commander-in-chief. And I would not enlist unless and until the present military “leadership” either comes to its senses or is replaced.”

“Who would want to serve under this regime, one that stole an election, received bribes from China, and wants to diminish America and disgrace it on the global stage to satisfy their Chi-Com masters? I’m a USMC Veteran from the late 80s. I’d never recommend that my child, grandchild or any young person I care about join the current, woke military while our nation declines.”

“This degeneration of military effectiveness has been clear for some time. I finished 6 in USN in 87. That

might have been the highwater mark during Reagan years. No tolerance for drugs and don’t ask don’t tell. From there the decline has been swift. The wasted human souls of volunteers in Afghanistan and Iraq will keep those who can avoid it away. No sense being pawns on the chess board to be squandered for glory and fortune.”

“I retired back in 2005. I am completely baffled and disgusted at today’s military.”

“Multiple in our family left the military to remain job-free. Their religious liberties were trampled on, they were pressured and harassed by command. Finally out after years in limbo while being prevented from training, deploying or advancing rank! After lifelong support of the military and generations of Veterans, we are DONE and would never recommend it to anyone as a career path under current leadership failure. Enlist at your peril!!”

“Please remember there are still Patriots in the US military, me being one of them. My age is 42, and I’m a part of a generation that believes in this country. I’ll fight with all my might. Once my generation is gone from the military, I’m not sure what the future holds. We have taken God out of our ranks. Now we worry about hurting peoples feelings and accepting gender transformation. I will stand up for my God. 3 more years, and I’m out. I’ve heard of military presentations about how we are to accept transgender within our ranks. If I’m asked to watch and sign off on accepting transgender, they’ll need to start processing my discharge. My God comes first. They will lose a patriot willing to die for our freedom.”

“A friend recently retired after 30 years in the Army. His certificate of retirement was auto-pen signed by Biden. He shredded it. He said Brandon has completely destroyed morale in the military. He and others like him are warning potential recruits not to join.”

“As one who spent 26 years on active duty and retired, then worked for the DoD at two separate commands until late last year (14 years), the military is woke! The wokeness the military exemplifies impact on its readiness. Had to sit thru extremism training and then they tried to get me to take an oath. I said the only oath I would take it the oath of enlistment!”

“20 years service with the US Marine Corps. I do not recognize the service which I once had proudly served only 12 years ago. My son joined the Marines - article was spot on; he is getting out because in his words “I am not some germ in a political petri dish””

“I have been beating the drum about some of the WOKE decisions made by the Department of Defense and the Air Force in the last two years. How some of the decisions made have undermined the work we did from the 80s, through the 90s into the early 2000s to overcome the problems we inherited from the Vietnam Era and immediately Post-Vietnam Era policies that severely damaged our military. The Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force mentioned on some of these policies were due to a need to open the Air Force to the cultures of those joining the Air Force (something along those lines). That is a fundamental misunderstanding of culture, at least in the sense of an Organization such as the Air Force. Culture is defined as the sum of our values, beliefs, and norms of behavior. When they are misaligned, the culture is broken. Changes in appearance standards violate the long-held idea “military image” is the most important aspect of dress and appearance. It is important to look like the military and act like the military, as an apolitical entity, that people have come to depend on in times of turmoil. We worked really, really, really hard to make that happen. We are seeing the undoing in a couple of short years the work of 30+ years. This is what happens when you vote for someone because you are led to dislike the other guy, not because he was a poor President (like the current incompetent in the WH), but because he makes mean posts and speaks truth. I fear for our country.”

“It’s not just recruitment. It’s also retention. The backbone of the US military has always been the middle and senior NCOs. They’re leaving the services in larger numbers than in the past and that’s actually more damaging than the recruitment problem. These were your experienced people who also taught to new recruits. Few of them want anything to do with a woke military.”

“My family has spilled their blood on American and foreign soil all the way back before the revolutionary War. If my ancestors could have seen what America has become, they would have headed to the local pub and just gotten drunk.”

“As a Veteran I always appreciate those who have and or serve today in our country’s military. In the past as teacher and a Pastor I have encouraged young people to serve, my son served, both my son-in-laws served. But as I see the cultural experimentation and Woke ideology spreading in the ranks today, I can no longer encourage young people enter the military.”

“Likewise.. as a retired 35 yr vet I could’ve steered family into a flying career. I have been retired 12 years and no longer recognize the service I left. Neither of my children want anything to do with a “woke” service. They see and hear how China, North Korea, and Iran are strengthening their forces. They also see how Russia commits troops without concern for losses and make comparisons to our pullout from Afghanistan. They hear how the Navy is set to lose even more ships. All things considered, they along with their friends don’t want to be sacrificial lambs for this administration. This will be another year of not meeting recruiting goals. You can bet no politician will even consider reinstating a draft or acknowledge there’s a problem.”

“Agree 100%. **I would not encourage any family member to serve in this woke military.** This incompetent commander-in-chief will get people killed with his indecisiveness. It’s hard to protect a country when you won’t protect a border.”

“Well said, and I agree as well. I retired after serving a few months shy of 25 years. I haven’t spent much of the last 8 and a half years around young people, therefore I haven’t given my opinion about joining these days. But I’ve voiced my opinion to those of us veterans here, and with some friends in RL that are closer to my age. Until current leadership is replaced, vis a vis our current administration, now isn’t the best time. Unless people are hard-up to serve...then they have my gratitude and best wishes.”

“I served to protect , honor and preserve the constitution of the United States of America and to see how the Covid-19 pandemic destroyed the constitution and the people Bill of Rights as Government took control of our life why would anyone serve!”

“I stand with you on this. I served my country with a feeling of both pride and a fulfillment of patriotic duty. Every time I go into a VA facility and see a picture of Brandon on the wall, I want to tear it down. Then I see Sec Def Austin and Chief of Staff Miley I am reminded why I decided to throw away 17 years of active service and retirement. The higher in rank I went, the more incompetent and self serving officers I worked with. They were not the dedicated and self sacrificing leaders I followed when I first accepted my commission. Too often they are followers and self serving sycophants aka brown nosers.”

“I am one 5 generations Veterans and the same, the officer Corp is woke and corrupt. I will not encourage enlistment!”

“A lot of NCO’s have bailed in the last couple years and then count in the servicemember’s who refused the vaccine & were forced out. I’m glad I retired when I did, would seriously consider conscientious objector if Biden was my CINC.”

“When our entire education system is teaching our youth that this country is terrible and that white people are all awful racists, and people of color deserve everything for free with zero effort, why would they want to fight for it? These are Democrat self-defeating policies.”

“I’m a 30 year veteran and I encouraged my son to join after he graduated from college 3 years ago, but the recruiters in the DC area didn’t seem to want a white male, STEM graduate in the service (weren’t motivated to have him). As a Biochemist he’s been employed in the lab of several companies that were glad to have him. At this point I’m not disappointed that he didn’t follow in my footsteps at all. I wouldn’t recommend the services to anyone at this point.”

“I’m a 25 year Army veteran. I have helped dozens of young people join the Army and other branches of the military. Today, however, I find it very difficult to encourage young people to join the military.”

“25 plus United States Marine. Retired right before Biden was sworn in. I could not in good conscience serve under a man who has no respect for half of our

country. I would not recommend service with the leadership we have at or near the top.”

“Same here.....30 years Army. I will discourage my grandchildren from entering the service when the time comes.”

“My son is 18 and would love to enlist, he has spoken to Army, Navy and Air-force, he scored exceptional on his assessment. Every time he speaks with members of our family that have served or has spoken to neighbors or friends. They all ask the same thing. Why would you enlist when we have the absolutely worst commander in chief in office. He also hears that it would be a good idea to wait, as all four branches have lost track of their priorities, explaining there were once two major priorities; 1) keep our nation safe, and 2) freedom is worth fighting for. Neither are a priority today, as America’s best is met with today’s priority, CRT, DEI, LBGTQ, indoctrination. Also disturbing is that these young kids were lost and locked-out of learning, living, and thriving for 2 years, these kids are not prepared. They are no longer learning in our schools, our nation is not prepared to protect itself. Biden did all that is just 2 years. Remember when you vote what you are voting for.”

“Having served with our military for 25+ years, I think I can speak for the vast majority of our military which is compromised of mostly conservative Americans. No one wants to serve under a liberal regime like Biden and his administration. Liberals are pounding the war drums. We have never been closer to WWII than we are today. Who in their right mind wants to serve under a Commander-in-Chief that has lost his mind?!? The numbers will stay as low as the country’s moral which is dropping considerably every day.”

“I spent 22 years Navy. I was thinking the exact same thing.”

“Same here. Mentored many over the years. Now, I don’t due to the woke and dei push. With the lack of quality VA healthcare, reduced benefits, it’s not worth it.”

“It should be obvious to all Americans that the majority of new recruits to military service are the result of the influence of men & women who formerly served their country. Like my father who served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, I proudly served in Vietnam and in the Middle East. Military service was common throughout our entire family. However when my eldest daughter told me my grandson was hot to join the military and would I advise him of my thoughts on the subject I

was quick to advise him not to join. My reasoning was simple, America's imminent threat is not from overseas but it is a malignant communist growth in our government. I do not want a grandson of mine to be forced to take up arms against his own people. Unless something fortuitous occurs in the near future, this war may soon come to pass. It is my belief that Americans will not go peacefully into that good night."

"I for one would never encourage young people to join the military. Why put our children in harm's way for the benefit of the military industrial complex? It used to be honorable, it used to be noble, but now it's just about money. Regardless of who sits in the White House."

"I served in the USN for 10 years and only left as my wife could not handle the separations. Fortunately I was taught a skill while serving that proved to be a plus in aerospace. I witnessed the Zumwalt experiment in the 60's but could not fathom what was to come. I retired from one of the biggest aerospace contractors in 2017 disillusioned of the then woke (they were not known as that then) policies management forced on all employees. I am a Nam vet and it is with great sorrow I will never encourage any of my grandchildren to enlist. Like the Roman Empire we are doomed by the same forces that turned them to dust."

"I'm a former military submariner, with 2 sons who are at the end of their military careers, no way I would ever encourage any of my grandchildren to serve under the failed leadership of Milley, Austin and the current CiC."

"I am a former Military Police in the US Army and a civilian Law Enforcement Officer in metro Atlanta. There is no way with the WOKE culture I could recommend a young person joining the military and I would recommend that any person wanting to become a Law Enforcement Officer to seek only those states where Law Enforcement is appreciated and not prohibited from doing their jobs."

"I retired in 2009 because quotas were more important than skill and ability. At that point I put in my papers and sadly look back at the great decision I made as the military declined. There will be a day when us relics will be needed. I fear it will be before Biden retires and China attacks."

"Three of my children became United States Marines (two still active duty). After serving in Afghanistan Operation Allies Refuge, my son withdrew his reenlistment package. He said the government did not allow them

to properly do their jobs (fight back). It's all a rich man's game shrouded in patriotic purpose making friends and family wealthier via government contracts at the detriment of service members who really love their country."

"Maybe it is because of Biden, his policies, and Democrats in General. My grandson wanted to enlist as I did when I graduated from HS and spent two tours in Vietnam before I turned 20, and **I talked him out of it.** Why go and risk your life when your Commander in Chief doesn't care about you or the Country? Biden and Democrats, care more for the Illegals than he does Veterans."

"The best recruiting tool is veterans. However, I as a retired USAF member would never recommend the military to anyone today."

"I was proud to enlist in 85. Marine recon. If this leadership was in then, I wouldn't have. If I was 18-22 today, no way would I consider the military, FBI or CIA. All once great agencies, now just political platforms."

"My dad was Navy, I was Navy, my daughter was Navy. I preached military service til Joey's Pentagon took over. Now, I sadly say, stay away."

"I'm a Vietnam veteran who served in the Navy. My middle brother served in the Army in Vietnam. My oldest brother was career Air Force. My dad was in the Coast Guard in WWII, my grandfather in the Army in WWI, my great grandfather in the Confederate army and a great great grandfather in the Union army. 28 Patriots of the American Revolution. **I told my sons, that I would have no part of today's WOKE military. Neither of my sons served and I hope my grandsons don't, either, until we have a return to normalcy, if ever.** Biden, Milley and Austin are buffoons, complete JOKES. They are so focused on WOKENess, they put our national security in jeopardy. No way would I serve today."

"Don't expect anything different with the marxist administration. The people who join our armed forces are patriots that respect the constitution. This regime has proven they are not interested in American values."

"So sad. I wish everyone could have the same lifetime memories I gained in the Navy. We were decidedly unwoke!"

"I served in the US Marine Corps for 8 years from 1983-1991. I loved it and learned life skills that cannot be taught in the civilian world. I saw the world and am very proud, today these young people have been taught to hate our military, law enforcement and country. They have been spoon fed and taught liberalism courtesy of social media platforms, teachers and professors. Biden has made our once proud country weak and unpatriotic."

"I spoke with three young adults yesterday evening that had gone through Civil Air Patrol. All of them are high achievers with good grades and volunteer work. All three had goals to serve in the USAF when they joined CAP. Now, one wants to just be an airline pilot, one a teacher and another a 911 dispatcher. Great trades of course. I asked why all had changed their minds, and it all came down to the woke push in the military. I warned the future airline guy that it will be heavily pushed there. I hope the two ladies will enjoy their choices."

"42 years in the Army and Air Force. I now counsel young people who ask my advice to avoid military service. Failed leadership starts at top and disintegration of good order and discipline has corrupted the ranks with the bizarre WOKE diversity mandates. Afghanistan withdrawal was a disastrous revelation of Failed Leadership starting with Biden and complimented by SECDEF, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, the Service Chiefs and the CENTCOM CC. Not a single senior officer offered their resignation as a protest for this amateurish, inept and pathetic operation, leaving one of the worst Terrorist groups in the world armed with hundreds of millions of dollars worth of American Military Equipment. Not to mention the obscene deaths of countless Afghani allies who were loyal to American troops. Made the duplicity of Benghazi by Hillary Clinton and Obama look like a venial sin. Weakness enables aggression and Biden has severely weakened our Economic and Military strength. Compound this with the millions of illegals flooding our country that have to be harboring terrorist enemies and we will all pay a grim price for Biden and his appointees failures. The landscape of a viable military to protect and defend us is being compromised through abjectly poor and incompetent leadership. And the reality of the sick-

ness is painfully evident in Americans no longer wanting to serve in our Military."

"This USMC veteran would highly advise someone to NOT enlist and become a pawn for weak leaders' political games. Never forget the Afghanistan debacle and Biden checking his watch as the caskets roll off the plane."

"The biggest recruitment base for the military comes from those who don't play the woke game. Since the government leadership doesn't understand this, they forced the military to go woke and now we are seeing the results."

"My San Diego high school, as well as a few others, had an active ROTC and a indoor gun range. Not anymore. Now they sponsor drag shows, force students and staff to use "correct pronouns" and allow misbehavior to run the classroom. Try recruiting from that!"

"Freely admit, after spending 28 years in uniform....I don't recommend this career choice like I used to."

"It's a sad day when are civilian and military leadership are responsible for the decline in our military. **The military I joined and honorably served for over 26 years doesn't exist anymore** which I never thought I would see. I'm actually embarrassed with what our leadership has turned what was the greatest military in the world into what it is today."

"I spent six years in the Marines, 1985-1991. The best decision I ever made. I absolutely loved the military. I have two boys now, one 23 and one 21. I would ABSOLUTELY discourage them both to serve if they wanted to. Our current administration, our military leaders and half this nation being socialists, FORGET THAT! I love my country with all my heart, but NOW, I wouldn't let my boys sacrifice their safety for this third world country we now live in."

"My grandsons are 17 and 18. Time to think about future. I am an Army vet and will not encourage either to enlist until there is competent and loyal leadership in our military. This new "WOKE" military is a danger to our freedom. I pray for all our service members, danger!"

"I was in the navy in the mid-sixties. I was proud to have served...but not now."

“There are several complex factors in play. Those of us who served decades, deploying for 12 months at a time, just to see our government admit their faults and run away, are not promoting military service like our fathers and grandfathers did. That in addition to new generations of lazy, self-serving liberal kids who are more concerned about pronouns and being climate activists, rather than serving their country, while being fed constant narratives of anti-American hate by their false-virtue-signaling liberal teachers, and are thus not motivated to do anything, much less serve in the military. All of that on top of a general lack of grit and work ethic, results in the Democrat backed erosion of American values in general, one of which is serving your country in the military.”

“I did eight years active duty. Told my sons and daughters don’t even think about it.”

“As a separated captain who volunteered as enlisted out of high school I would never consider today’s weak and woke military. Soldiers need to train, not be indoctrinated with extreme liberalism. I would not chose that path in this era. As they are finding, I’m far from alone.”

“When I served, we had a mission against our cold war foe and later, world terrorism. Now, why would any young kid join when they see poor leadership that is pushing “wokeism” and dropping stadands. I never thought that so I would see so many snowflakes, overweight, woke-warriors in my lifetime serving. There is no way I would survive in today’s military. I would be accused of being too mean, hurting feelings, and being too toxic. So glad I retired!”

“Who wants to join a rigged system? A military that shoves woke nonsense down your throat. I am a retired Army veteran that served 3 tours in Afghanistan and 1 in Iraq and I can tell you that the Biden administration is absolutely gutting and ruining our military. **Many are retiring early or want out asap.**”

“When I joined the US Navy in 1967 it was the greatest Navy in the world. We had everything, and wanted for nothing. Housing, Food, Equipment. We worked hard, fought hard, and played hard. We had Chief Petty Officers, Division Officers, and Commanding Officers you could respect. There was NO POLITICS, or PC RUBBISH! You knew exactly who you were, what your job was, and you were rewarded for real achievements. Most of all we all had a great sense of humor that kept our spirits up with each other. Today these poor kids

are serving under political Officers and Chiefs who are only looking after one thing, themselves. They are scared to lead as you look at someone wrong, or say the littlest thing wrong and they are up for the high jump. I read the Navy Times and the amount of Commanding Officers, and Senior Enlisted Leaders being relieved of their positions today is alarming, and for unspecified reasons? Nobody wants to join that. There is no future in the military due to these political gutter snipes ready to kneecap you for the smallest off color joke, or because you asked out a Wave for a date. I even saw a picture of a Sailor that does Drag Queen Shows every week on an Aircraft Carrier. That’s not my Navy.”

“Having served faithfully for 31 yrs, I cannot in good conscience recommend military service to anyone asking if I would recommend it.”

“I did 25 years total in the Marines and later the Army. I would tell anyone to not serve now because the military is a failed democrat social experiment.”

“I retired from USAF after 24 years. I don’t blame anyone for not joining now. I wouldn’t have joined either if “woke” would’ve been a thing back when I agreed to devote the best years of my life to serving my country. USAF 2E191, retired 2001.”

“I’m retired military. My daughter had plans to join after graduating with an RN degree. She told me that isn’t part of her plans now. She understands full well, when I served, the Army could tell men from women. That’s not the case anymore.”

“My family has served since before the revolution, doing so helped form this nation, instilled military heritage, honor and gave many opportunities for my family for generations...but I would never give my blessing for my children to serve under this administration, I know I’m not alone....”

“The vast majority of enlisted people come from sparsely populated areas that don’t have the same woke ideology that is being pushed. **I have been told by many high school kids that they wanted to join the military but they are not going to be forced into things they don’t believe.**”

“My parents served as did I, my brother, and a slew of nieces and nephews. I raised my son with the skills to serve. When Biden won, my son and his best friend were the age to join and fit enough to do it but there was no way they were going into that woke mess.”

“When did this downfall start? I work for DoD and see the young military members walking around with beards, needing haircuts, overweight, it saddens me to know that’s what we’ve become. I’ve been retired from active duty for 19 years now, don’t like where it’s going.”

“Being as how I am retired military of long service, I get young folks asking for my opinion about career choices they are facing. They are going to get told to go to college by everyone else, so I try to steer them towards trade and technical schools for HVAC, plumbing, welding, nursing, electronics, networking, fiber-optic, electrical lineman, commercial and/or residential electrician, carpentry, bricklaying.....stuff like that. I no longer support advocating for the military profession, neither for athletes nor academics among them. Not even for the young people who have a family history of military service. **The military has lost their collective freaking mind over the last couple of years, but it actually started in the Obama regime where they got rid of “don’t ask, don’t tell” and said transgendered people could serve and get their gender of choice surgeries paid for by the American taxpayer.** Then I knew Pax Americana was over and we were in heading into a several decades slide into filth, irrelevance and military defeats. Nothing has disabused me of this notion since the Obama years. No. It is accelerating under Joe. President Trump did the right thing and got rid of the harmful policies and many of the prancers, but many went underground and popped up again with Biden.”

“My neighbors kid came over wanted me to be reference for his enlistment tried to talk him out of it, & I have two honorables.”

My father, and his father before him, served honorably in the U.S. Army. When I turned 18 and military service was an option, my father warned me against it. I think he was paying attention and knew the military was going straight downhill. Were he alive today, he’d be horrified at the woke generals and all the nonsense under the current administration. He’d be especially distressed at how

we never fight wars to actually win anymore. Dad’s military service actually meant something tangible (fighting Hitler and totalitarianism); today’s military service is just at the beck and call of diversity/equity/inclusion, the last things a military should be about.”

“As someone who is currently on recruiting duty for a branch of the Armed Forces, I agree with the author. The sales pitch is increasingly based on tangible benefits. But even the money, bonuses, etc are not enough to entice a lot of young people.

The historical “bread and butter” of recruits (young, conservative, patriotic) has dried up because **they increasingly see the military as a politicized institution that falls to the whims of the current party in power.** The military is used as a political pawn, a place to institute policies and hold it up as an example to the rest of the nation that your politics work.

These people aren’t idiots, and they see the shameful things we did to those who refused the COVID vaccine. We were extremely aggressive and sought Other Than Honorable discharges in the beginning and gave them RE-4 enlistment codes (not eligible for reenlistment). We softened up a little bit later, but the damage had already been done.

And when politicians finally forced the reversal of this policy, and allowed those forcibly separated to come back in, they didn’t offer anything other than the removal of negative paperwork. No back pay after being forcibly removed from your livelihood over something that we are now admitting never made sense in the first place. These people have families to feed and we showed a complete disregard for them.

We offered “religious exemptions” to those who did not want the vaccine on moral grounds, but the responses were rubber stamped “No” without any real consideration. It required a General Officer’s approval or disapproval, and in all of my experience, I’ve never seen a General Officer sign anything in less than 48 hours. But very automatically and swiftly the responses came back without any real consideration. Everyone knew it was just a convenient way to give the appearance of fairness, even though they had already concluded in their mind was the conclusion was going to be.

People see the lack of interest in having an honest debate about current or prospective service members with gender dysphoria and whether a condition that is highly correlative with other mental health conditions like anxiety, suicidality, and depression is truly suitable for military service in a war zone. It requires constant and routine medication in order to maintain. We take a hard stance on all other mental health conditions and any

recent medication use for ADHD, depression, anxiety is immediately disqualifying. I sincerely want people with gender dysphoria to get better, but a lot of people can't square a condition like that with military service and our leaders show zero interest in having that conversation without the Democrat/Republican hyperbole.

I also remember the SECDEF mandated "extremist training" that softly accused service members of being extremists and white supremacists after January 6th. The implication was that an extremist could be among us, lurking around any corner, and we had to report suspicious behavior.

I find myself often wondering if the military is still the place for me in today's climate. I've dedicated the last 10 years of my life to it, but the military I joined is no longer the same. I just want to defend my country if called upon, but I'm not interested in being someone's political prop or pawn in the culture war."

"When I was in the service during the Vietnam War, it was regularly emphasized that we all were one color; green; and that we all bled red. The meaning of E Pluribus Unum, From Many One; was also explained to us. Sadly, those days appear to be gone forever."

"The Long March took longer in our military, because few young Leftists were willing to subject themselves to military discipline and an atmosphere of patriotism for the sake of the cause. But it is now clear that enough of them were able to stick it out and reach positions of power. Now that young conservatives have realized that the military--like every other institution in our society--has been taken over by the Left, they no longer want to join."

"I joined this in 2004 and after deploying got out in 2008. I was proud of my service and my country if not a little disillusioned with the motives. I would never join now. I don't stand for what the government has become. I feel less patriotic than I ever have. I blame that largely on what you described and I'm not entirely convinced of the authors pointing to the new generation. This is rampant in all generations. **All my friends who I served with would take no pride in their children serving today's military.**"

"Even the short time I've been in (2015-2019 active and currently in the reserves), **I've noticed pretty big cultural changes; none for the better.** The military's reaction to Covid, the withdrawal from Afghanistan, and the

vaccine mandate killed morale. If our military ever does recover from the damage it did to itself, it'll take years."

"A buddy of mine and I from the Marines both agreed that if we were both 18 again, we wouldn't want to join the military. Sad, man."

"I have a very bright and accomplished son who is considering the academies ---and I have to admit very mixed feelings about it that I would not have had 10 years ago. I am still immensely grateful for what this country has meant to my Italian immigrant/ peasant family. I am in awe of where my parents started in life and where I and my siblings are today. Only in America. So when I look backwards it is easy to be patriotic. It's the present and future that drain it. I fear my son becoming a cog in a perpetual war machine. I resent his future participation in a "Battle of Taiwan" over microchips, and the dependence on them that the greed of our elites enabled. **I also see a country that, more and more, sees its own citizens as its biggest threat, and i want my son to have nothing to do with defending that version of the US, which feels the need to censor and repress its own people.** In the end I will support him but he will hear from me on everything I see."

"I was born at the Air Force Academy and my father had no employer in his long life other than the USAF. Every uncle, one sister, brother-in-laws... all career military. My children consider themselves patriotic, but I would not encourage them to enlist in today's military - and I feel like a heretic even writing this. But the lax standards and the adherence to individual identity make it an unsafe environment in the true, physical sense - you cannot venture into unstable situations when no one has your six."

"A relative of mine was in the USAF, a "best of the best" the penultimate stereotype jet fighter jock. The kind that trained the others. I'd like to say that stupid Covid vax mandates or pointless wars broke him, but it wasn't. It was the lack of faith in our electoral system, this current feckless and irrational POTUS, and simply a loss of faith in the mission and the population he devoted his life to protect.

"I think the biggest difference in my Navy and today's Navy is the lack of mentoring. During my time we

didn't hesitate to take a young sailor aside and work with him to take care of military issues and even personal problems. We as NCOs truly cared for our young men & women. I was recently told by a young Navy Petty Officer home on leave that no way would you mentor (provide guidance) to a young sailor in today's Navy. It could be the end of your career if you said the wrong thing or provided unacceptable guidance. Basically today's NCOs are afraid to speak up or provide counseling. You no longer have the career enlisted role models that existed during the "Cold War" & Vietnam eras. So much that could be said to help a young sailor is no longer acceptable. The initiation from E6 to Chief Petty Officer (a right of passage) has been eliminated by the higher ups. The initiation for crossing the equator has been practically eliminated. If you yell at a young recruit or say anything considered unacceptable you could find yourself facing non judicial punishment. In today's Navy you better think carefully before you offer advice. Protecting your career comes first."

"My son left the Marines right before they mandated the clot-shot. He could tell it was about to happen and it was time for him to re-enlist. He had passed the tests to be part of the Recon and he was extremely dedicated. The wokeness was also a factor in his decision."

"Retired AF here...today's AF is a woke mess. Saw a guy on LinkedIn, active duty WHITE MSgt saying having to shave is racist. He is a member of the Thunderbirds and just an example of the woke shit that it is."

"There is no way I would let my grandkids serve in the military today. I'm a 100%service connected disabled Vietnam Veteran and these idiots have ruined our once great fighting force."

"I proudly served in the U.S.A.F. and I will emphatically state that I would NEVER serve in the present day Armed Forces nor would I support my kids doing so. It's become a woke joke led by feckless globalists and limp wristed progressives that would sooner toss our sons and daughters onto a sacrificial altar for their masters than to EVER truly serve this nation and defend its Constitution. It's an embarrassment that dishonors all the men and woman that served with integrity."

"I'm an Air Force veteran (National Guard), totally of-fended and don't know how to express myself, if I should still claim I served my time with the Air Force without

feeling embarrassed or humiliated. So degrading for what I was so proud of."

"I'm a service academy grad. My husband is ROTC. We have young children and he recently mentioned them going to a service academy. He was shocked at my HELL NO. He didn't realize how woke they've gone. It's tragic."

"As a former career military officer, my children would NOT serve under ANYONE in the current "leadership" military or civilian. Jennifer Granholm recently said that all military vehicles should be electric and not ONE flag officer had the courage to speak out against this idiocy"

"I left the military shortly after one of their diversity trainings where I discovered that my boss by virtue of his skin color couldn't be racist because he was at such a disadvantage in the world. Dude went to Ivy League."

"As a Disabled American Veteran who served 20 years in the USAF I am EMBARRASSED what our Military has become...WOKE & WEAK!"

"I'm one {recent retirees are telling their kids not to sign up, and the primary one I hear is "Woke BS"}. **Former successful recruiter saying just say NO."**

"I retired from the USAF in 2005 after 24 years of service and could not see going into any branch of service today due to the woke BS I hear from current members... Very sad!"

"People join the military because it's a great deal, and it's COOL! They don't join because they want to defend a nation!" RESPONSE: "I know a LOT of vets that joined specifically to defend the country." "Please shove it, with the notion that the patriots motive to defend the country Is somehow tainted or not genuine because the powers that be have utilized the military in a manner we find incorrect. Yes the soldiers that fought in Iraq, Vietnam and elsewhere operated to protect the country. Just because you find the consequences aren't as dire or threatening of destruction as maybe ww2 presented. Doesn't make their efforts any less worthy of respect."

"My son served in 1st Iraq war three tours and then again during enduring freedom...and he like many others...say **no way they would join now.** WE have a se-

rious problems and we are going to be in serious trouble if we have to defend our country.”

“The military practically begged my youngest grandson to join and with the neglect to our brave heroes overseas and all the WOKE bs info from friends now, he said NO way. Trust is gone.”

“I’ve met an astounding number of people, including retired high ranking officers, who say they will not let their children and grandchildren join the military with the current Commander in Chief and with the **current focus on DEI instead of focus on the mission.**”

“Recruiting numbers suck not just because of the politization of the military but because it’s now taught in schools to hate the United States and the military. A lot of my generation didn’t wait for a recruiter to walk up to us to try and sell us on joining. We loved our country then as much as we do now to walk our own butts into that Recruiting station and sign up. We did it because we were proud of our country and the freedom it gave us all. **If you’re taught to hate American values, then there will be no one left to preserve such values.**”

“Gen Brown, as a recently retired AF officer, you are absolutely part of the problem. Notice the slight of hand in his words: “The majority of our training is on readiness”. Ok the truth is they view DEI as a mainstay of readiness, and they say it all the time. It’s just pure baloney. Second, he says we’re focused on unity. We’ll I’m here to tell you the **ANY DEI training is inherently divisive because it is telling all of us servicemen and women that we are inherently racist...which we are not!** And we know it! We have no trust in our military and civilian leaders anymore to keep politics out of our military. Instead, they call it part of “readiness”. The wise see this from a mile away. They are fooling themselves. They’re destroying the military from within and from without.”

“So glad I retired from the USAF before these hacks made it to command level. Prior to the 90s, the AF promoted folks based on abilities. We did not give a damn about their feelings, gender or race. It was all about could the person do the job as required.”

“My dad retired from the Air Force, and I served also. When it came to my son, I wanted him to serve also.

Thank god he did not listen to me. DIE is destroying our country.”

“I retired from the Corps in 2020 right when all of this crap started and there is no way I would be able to take it seriously now. The military is the most diverse and equitable populace out there, because everything is based upon merit. Not your skin color, where you come from, gender you are, it’s what you can do. That how the military is based and when you change that dynamic you ruin everything that has been built since 1775.”

“As an Air Force veteran, I advise everyone not to join the military due to what it has become now.”

Navy used sailor who is a drag queen as a recruiter:

“I served six years in the Navy, and was proud to have done so. I would never recommend that anyone join any of the service branches today. Woke insanity has ruined the once great armed forces of this nation. Yes, military recruitment is down. Way down. This all started with “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” and it’s gotten much worse now that the Obama and Biden administrations have done their best to purge our Armed Forces of those who hold fast to actual values. Our top military leaders either lack the moral courage to stand up against this demoralizing bunk, or they are part of the problem and are actually supporting it. Do we want a military devoid of all moral standards!”

“Soooooo glad to be retired. There is no way I would ever serve for this government today.”

“There is no way I could serve today. This was not the Navy I joined. I know a lot of people make fun of the Navy, but this was not acceptable at any level in my day.”

“Former sailor here. No this is why people aren’t joining.” (story on Navy using drag queen to help with recruitment)

“This kind of woke bullsht is what is driving good people away from joining. It’s why a lot are retiring.”

“I’m a vet and can honestly say I’d never want Any of my kids serving our country in today’s woke military. Period.”

“My Navy Veteran daughter is disgusted and ashamed that she served in this military branch.”

“I served in the Marine Corp., my dad served in the Navy, My grandfather served in the Corp. too. Numerous Uncles and Cousins served in the Air Force, Army as well. Great Grandfather’s served in the Corp. or Army. It’s been something that almost every man in our family has done for ages either before or after college. My son is just about done with High School and is thinking military. I had been thinking about which branch he would want to go in. I may talk him out of it from what I’ve seen over the past few years. How could Drag Queens and WOKE policies help a fighting military force?”

“I am a young man but no way I would go in the Military. I don’t want to be ordered to dress like a girl, I am a MAN. I don’t want to serve with mentally unstable or people with mental illness as the doctors say it is and people with mental illness should not be allowed to carry or purchase guns.”

“My husband retired recently from the military. We have two children of age to enlist. We have advised them not to even consider the military as an option. They are going into trade schools.”

“When our school aged children are indoctrinated into believing America is a racist, evil country why would they want to join the military? The recruitment problem is with the department of education. **Teach kids the real history of communism and socialism. Teach them about the atrocities of WW II. Teaching them to be woke is what will destroy our nation. Teach them why they should be proud to be an American.**”

“I’m a grandfather, have asked my grandsons to stand down and not participate with Biden’s military. They are the wrong race, wrong political affiliation, not “woke”. Not part of the nonbinary gender-confused nonsense. Let the democrats deploy and fight any war coming, just for them to stand guard on our borders if an invasion is attempted.”

“If that’s not using the Uniform for political purposes, I don’t know what is... Served 23 years, four of my direct household are signed up to serve, serving, and served! Considering asking my son to cancel his contract! Never

thought I would say that. This is a slap in the face! Another act that continues to degrade the U.S.”

“My dad is Navy, my brother is currently in. I have two boys. At this moment, I wouldn’t let them sign up in any service. I will house them myself for the next 20 yrs before this. That’s heartbreaking to me.”

“As a one-time submariner, absolutely no. If this is what it takes to get men to enlist, those are men we don’t need.”

“I spent four years in the infantry in the Marines. I spent eight months in the desert during the first Gulf War; I served with 1st Battalion Fifth Marine Regiment (1/5). This is shameful and I’m glad that I am out right now!!”

“Retired Navy. Twenty years on submarines. Three boys. Two of whom could serve. Actively discouraged both from joining. The job of the military is to fight and win wars. All of the social experimentation is going to get people killed when we have to fight.”

“I served 26 years in the Army. You couldn’t pay me enough to join any military service today. Truly sad.”

“I was in the Navy. This kind of crap is just unbelievable to me. No conservative or moderate should join any branch of the military now. And if they start a war with China and try to draft you, resist, flee, do what you need to do to stay alive. Don’t fight for this country - this country doesn’t represent you anymore. Let the LGBT crowd handle it. I’m serious, there’s no flipping way I’d join the military unless and until they reverse their woke ideology.”

“23 years, retired and I would never do it again. My son is 12 and apologizes to me for not wanting to ever be in the military. I tell him not to worry and I don’t want him serving. The American People are by and large not worth it any longer. Maybe we truly need to get invaded to wake up the largely clueless masses.”

“Proudly served in the Navy for 6 years in the late 70s early 80s. Consider it the best decision I ever made. Turned that enlistment into a 35 year career in the civilian nuclear industry. Wouldn’t do it today. A military where senior leadership takes no responsibility and people are more interested on what wrung of the oppression ladder they stand on.”

“Our family has a long history of military service. My oldest children served; but our family now shares a drastically different mindset about military service. We may continue to serve through contract employment as civilians; but there’ll be no more military members for generations. **We, collectively, consider our military today to be dysfunctional, unreliable, untrustworthy and misguided, due to politics and weak military leadership.** Perhaps that leadership wishes to deflect from their failures by promoting divisive agendas?”

“I come from a family with a long line of military service, going back to the Revolution. Serving in the USMC was a great honor, and fantastic experience. When my children came of age over the last decade, I strongly counseled them against joining. It is no longer serving your country and fellow citizens, it is now being used as a pawn in a social experiment.”

“As a USNA grad and former submarine officer, I do not want to see my children, or extended family members, joining the armed forces under this type of leadership.”

“I’m an early seventies army veteran and my son did 9 years in the Navy. We are both ashamed of our military leaders.”

“I am a 25 year Veteran of the Navy. This saddens me greatly. I never cared what my Sailors did in their private life as long as it did not affect the mission or others. But, **now they are putting this type of lifestyle (drag queen) as the face of the new Navy. I am at a loss for words and ashamed of those in command who approve this new woke policy.**”

“In my 32 years of military service and currently retired Army officer, I’ve have never been so embarrassed by the Navy supporting Drag Queer recruiting. It’s not going to bring trans people in because those kind of people only think about themselves and not how they can serve to protect the United States of America.”

“I’m a 30+ year combat aviation veteran of this era...I just retired in 2018 and I left then because this stuff was just starting to happen...the leadership has failed and kicked people like me to the curb.... and continued the digression, to what you’re seeing now...I served my country... today, service is “self”...I never thought I would see this...”

“My father was a part of the “Greatest Generation” serving in WWII as a 17yr. old Higgins boat driver taking

Marines to fight on Japanese held islands. Then he went to Korea and finished w/ 2 tours to Vietnam. I served 22yrs. in the Air Force w/ 3 tours to the Middle East. My youngest daughter spent 4yrs. in the Virginia Tech Cadet Corp and once on active duty (2011) she experienced the complete joke the Armed Forces have become. **She intended to make a career out of the AF but instead, served her 4yrs. and got the hell out.**”

“I personally have a very strong, masculine, level-headed, good son who had seen a recruiter, completed all his requirements, and last week came to me and told me that he just can’t “stomach being with a bunch of weirdos” so he changed his mind. Their loss!”

“My son and daughter will not sign up for the navy or any military branch because of this. It used to be the parents join military, and then the parents encourage the children to join. NOT ANYMORE!”

“I’m a 7 year Navy vet (86-91, 01-03), **I have spoken to many former shipmates and even NROTC kids who tell me that they hate the way that the military is going woke.** Is it any wonder why recruitment is down, and now this crap?! THIS crap is one of the reasons why the Navy is hurting for new recruits. And they are only making it worse!”

“I got out in 2017 of the marine corps because politics were swallowing us alive and were out of control. You couldn’t yell at anyone, you couldn’t punish anyone, you couldn’t do what marines do and even joke around anymore. I had guys in my unit that were scared and against guns!!! Why the ffff would you join the Marine corps while being scared of guns... The crazy part, everyone was forced to oblige and give him a pass exemption for rifle quals... It was becoming so administratively political, everyone’s feelings were top priority... It was always feelings above mission and training. Everyone became so pathetic, soft and weak in ever seemed to be such a short time frame. All I can say as sad I was to get out, easily the best decision I ever made looking back... and I was in for 8 years.”

“I retired from the Air Force after 20 years as a MSgt because of a lot of this crap.”

“I’m an army vet and have generations of family that were in the military (father, grad father, great grandfather). I will not allow my son to go near the military

now. I can only imagine the terrible leadership running rampant in the upper echelon, making dumb decisions.”

“As a former Naval Officer this (Navy drag queen) was the most offensive portrayal of are dedicated military men, women and their families I have ever seen. Someday the people responsible for this will have to face the facts they disgraced our military, undermined our traditions and weakened our nation. I have two teenage children that would love to one day serve this nation in the military. I really cannot support that under the current leadership. I am sure most veterans with children are thinking the same thing. This is an intentional aggressive act to weaken our nation! I am more than disgusted!”

“My son was one of the 5,000 soldiers at Kabul airport and like him most are NOT re-enlisting. I am thankful he gets out of the military this Summer.”

“I am so glad that I no longer wear the uniform that I am so proud of. I used to think that American culture could go to hell, but the military will ALWAYS cultivate a culture of Commitment, Duty, Pride, Patriotism, Accountability, and Espirit de Corps. Unfortunately, even the military has now fallen victim to the Liberal agenda that is destroying our country. I could not, in good conscience, go along with the Divisiveness and Insanity that has started to infect the U.S. military.”

“I renovated a Navy facility in Arlington, VA 15 years ago. They had an entire office suite dedicated to social engineering for LGBTQIA+ causes. I was shocked at the time, that scores of uniformed angry lesbians and effeminate little boys actually had such taxpayer-funded military careers keeping American safe. I expect their “mission” probably dominates that entire building by now.”

“As a veteran, I would say right now is NOT the time to become a protector of our country. I would wait until this insanity inside the ranks is “ejected” from the serving force. **Many of the active military are seeing this influx of “woke” ideology and are first dismayed and leaving the armed forces. This ideology is destroying moral and overall competency of Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen, completely.** We as warriors have one mission...to protect our constitution, our country, our families, and fight to protect the freedoms that we all

cherish. It is only to “identify” as a protector of our country, that we are “separated” only by 3 meters on the battlefield, we have only one vision, serve and defend our country till our last breath.”

“All males in my family served as far back as we can trace, my son as well as 3 other nephews made the decision to break that tradition with my full support.”

“Entered in 86. Retired in 2006. I saw the writing on the wall then. We used to train warriors. We trained hard and played even harder. We read books on warfighting, tactics, and history. We didn’t worry about “white rage” because we were brothers and handled business in house.”

“I live in a town that is almost 25% veterans, myself included. I rarely run into or hear about any veterans recommending the military (even at the VFW) and there are tons of dependent and veterans’ kids here. Pick a reason, they are all correct. All of them.”

“Between myself, my father, and his father, we completed 45+ years in the military. We enlisted, and we did so because we believed America, though not perfect, was deserving of our sacrifice. This once popular belief is fading, our shared beliefs are unraveling, and it is sad.”

“I was a “virgin recruit” in that I didn’t come from a line of career military family. The military is definitely woke enough and if anything operates like a corporation than a military. Between all the DEI and dodging woman who would be glad to ruin your life with harassment charges, it might as well be a regular 9-5. Even if it weren’t any of those things, who would support the never ending wars that result in mass civilian casualty and the global police force that we’ve become with no compensation?”

“I can tell you as a military man that the biggest driver really comes down to a dying sense of nationalism amongst the people that were most likely to serve, they were usually white. If patriotism was still something common amongst this crowd you’d have plenty of recruits.”

“I’m hunting buddies with two army recruiters, they tell a slightly different story. The pipeline of vets sending their kids into the meat grinder snapped. The real problem started after Afghanistan. Midwest parents aren’t sending their boys to do that shit anymore.”

“We believe what we see. All my younger brothers planned to join and carry on the family legacy, but now they’re not. I’m only in because I joined before things went really downhill. Bunch of my childhood friends (conservatives) who served left during Covid. It’s real.”

“Vaccine is tip of iceberg. Forced masking would have been equally big issue for me if I was still in. Add in a little botched Afghan withdrawal and Ukraine porn, plus pronouns and forced lectures on privilege and oppressed groups, and you no amount of enlistment bonus is enough.”

“As someone who has served in the military for over 30+ years, the high brass may be compromised with this woke ideology, but those under the high brass (for the most part), hate what is going on in the military currently.”

“I’ve been in/ around military for 35 years. It’s worse than you think. Gen. Milley the best/ worst example, but his predecessor Adm. Mullen virtually encouraged homosexual disobedience in the DADT days. And “stalwart” Gen Dunford just joined amicus brief in FAVOR of racial quotas. And “staunch” SECDEF Mattis objected to Trump’s trans ban. DoD announced it will help troops get interstate abortions. The brainwashing “stand downs” are endemic, “conversations” go only one way. It IS woke central. And no one in Congress or GOP will challenge it.”

“I am a Ranger-qualified former infantry captain recently stationed in Europe; I commissioned from West Point near the top of my class and only just left the service, so I have *plenty* of firsthand experience with the new model woke military. I would like to focus on his point that your writing on the woke military is ‘off-key’. In a way, this is true. The military isn’t completely woke--not yet. But it is getting there rapidly. And it is doing so because wokeness is a symptom of total, bottomless ideological corruption on the part of America’s military leadership. These people don’t care about winning wars. They don’t care about national defense. They don’t care about the American people. The only thing that matters to them are sinecures at Raytheon and Lockheed after retirement. Ideological corruption, not wokeness, will put paid to the American military when we next fight another war. But wokeness is the un-missable sign that this will *surely* happen. Corrupt leadership has demoralized our troops. The Pentagon’s insistent focus on wokeness and its

fear of offending progressives has totally evaporated its ability to effectively advise and assist the Congress and the American people in military affairs. We are in dire straits as a country. **Pray that we do not go to war soon. When we do, the loss of life on the part of American soldiery will be immense.”**

“As a retired USAF Colonel, fighter pilot of 28 years service, I would not serve in today’s modern WOKE Military / USAF if I was 22 again. When the BEST are not being promoted today as in the past, but by color (BLM) and the use of the GLBTQ agenda. All the CRT, DEI curriculum that is being taught is merely destroying the military. It is not my Great Country / Military that I served and defended in war and peace times. Bottom line is: I would not have anything to do with today’s WOKE military. Then we ask why young men and women do not want to serve today. I think the answers are both simple and easy to see and understand as why....period.”

“I am an army wife and my husband is deploying in 2 days for his 5th time. I would never send a child to a woke military.”

“My husband served 40 years in the Army, my son Marines, myself Air Force. Today’s military is not the same strong service we served in.”

“The men who join the military have traditional values. They believe masculinity is good not toxic. They don’t believe in the woke concepts that are being forced down their throats. They are tough old school hard-nosed people ready to sacrifice and kill for our country. They don’t want lectured on pronouns. Consequently, they won’t join. And our military which has been the best in the world will decay.

“It’s made the military a shell of its former self. I know since I served over 26 years active duty and 16 years civil service. I wouldn’t join today’s military no matter what they paid me.”

“The military used to have the primary responsibility to fight and win, but now it’s a big social experiment in wokeness and gender confusion. I served 22 years

but would not recommend serving under the current leadership.”

“Retired Army here, and yep, the military is woke. Still have friends in who are very high up the rank, and they tell me all the time as well. Facts!”

“As a veteran in the Army I am appalled at what is happening to our military. **Cohesion is the key to a successful military. You must be able to count on the soldier next to you. Dividing by tribalism is destroying our cohesion.** Nobody wants to join a rigged system. Having wokeness shoved down their throat is not something any rational person wants. You join because you love your country and want to serve in a greater cause other than yourself.”

“I would not recommend service to my children under these conditions. . . my son was USMC/Army and I am a 38 yr veteran.”

“Being a veteran of 20 years of service, I’m appalled at how the military has gotten away from protecting our country and fallen “ woke” and being reduced to a weak unprepared military that’s more concerned about political correctness than national security!””

My father enlisted in the Navy the day after Pearl Harbor and served on a PT boat in the South Pacific during WWII. Today he’s rolling over in his grave over what his Navy has morphed into. I served in Southeast Asia, including Vietnam, in the ‘60s and I’m equally disgusted over what’s happened to our once most feared military in the history of mankind.”

“I spent 23 years in the U.S. Navy. I am so ashamed!” [of Navy drag queen used as recruitment ambassador]

“I served in the Navy and my son wanted to follow in my footsteps. Although I told him it was his choice, I strongly discouraged him from serving in this “woke” Navy that has placed pathetic and weak puppets in leadership roles.”

“One senior officer who has left the military told me that within the ranks, there is a sense that politicians are using the forces to carry out political and cultural agendas. There is a sense that the armed forces are the playthings of politicians, and that policies can change

with each passing administration. There is no stability there.”

“Woke politics and the marginalizing of men is what is happening. My son serves and while he’s a lifer, he’s disgusted by it. He’s also disgusted by the bad actors that seem to be in the military that cause problems. He’s drummed a couple out. The Military has one job. To defend this country and defeat our enemies. It shouldn’t be a microcosm of the latest in political nonsense.”

“I work on a military base in Colorado and I can tell you it as woke as it’s ever been. People walking around with their hands in their pockets, beards and dudes pretending to be chicks. We won’t stand a chance if war broke out. It’s disgusting!”

“I am so deeply concerned about the loss of bright, motivated cadets from the service academies because of the leftist intolerant attitude and brainwashing cadets are subjected to in their required readings, lectures, curricula, discussions and environment (such as, removal of monuments, names of buildings, etc. of past outstanding cadets and military leaders) because of the CRT, BLM craze in the military under SECDEF Austin. Women were not allowed at the academies when I was granted a direct commission in the WAAC in 1977. I served on active duty and active reserve duty for (30 yrs less 11 days). I know that I would not have wanted to continue to serve my nation had I been subjected to the indoctrination and mandatory acceptance of the race garbage these young adults are being force fed. I weep for the future of our military, the Officer Corps, and Sr NCO leadership unless this grotesque assault on our proud history and honored traditions is stopped immediately and sanity restored in the academies’ shaping of tomorrow’s military leaders.”

“I was a Security Policeman in the USAF from 1977 to 1997. In 1996 a Four Star General warned me about the transition that the DOD was about to implement. To be quite honest I didn’t believe him. Sadly it happened.”

“I was career military, my son wanted to do the same, but he’s no longer interested in a woke military at all, especially after the spectacle Biden put on at the White House. Disgustingly sad. . .”

“As a 26 year Army veteran, I am absolutely appalled at the politicalization of our top military leaders. Disgusting. Oh, and they will discount “little people” comments like mine. Soldiers, sailors Marines, and Airmen, could generally care less who is fighting beside them, but most abhor forced social agendas being crammed down their throats. And PLEASE don’t make the analogy of integrating the forces. This is way (woke) different.”

“No one wanted to join the military after Vietnam because of all the craziness and drugs, but it is worse today and woke is part of the equation that creates tribes within the military and the lawlessness that goes with it.”

“I’m retired military, as are my two sons, plus most of my friends. Not one of us would join today’s military with openly sexual deviates accepted!”

“I’ve got a kid in who’s an instructor. The kid just ignores the stupid stuff and does the job as intended. Sending graduates to the fleet. I can tell you most E5’s-E7/8’s ignore the stupid stuff because they’re concerned about staying alive and making sure shipmates know their jobs to keep them alive. A lot less politics in the enlisted ranks.”

“For a while after I retired in 1991 I talked up the Navy as a good career for a young person. Had some success at it. But I haven’t pushed it at all for about a dozen years and hate that I cannot muster the enthusiasm anymore.”

“As a proud veteran of 14 years I absolutely understand why people no longer wish to join. The current mess in the armed forces is as all political making. Something that has no place in the military.”

“According to my recently retired brother who served 27 years, the military has been going woke for a long time.”

“One of the biggest factors for recruitment is family that has served; simply read the comments. I served myself and have family that has also served going back to the founding of this country. This tradition is coming to an end, as I will discourage my son from service, and none of my nieces/nephews will serve either. This is an issue that is easy to fix, but based on the Biden administration, they will double down on bad decisions. How sad!”

“They don’t get it. Normal young men do not want to be associated with an organization that caters to sexually deviant individuals.”

“The horror to this “woke” culture affecting the military is that the military is/was a great place for young adults to learn and understand what responsibility really is. The military is truly a mixed salad of people from various demographics of our country. And once you are adjusted to being responsible you build camaraderie amongst your peers. Lifelong bonds, but when you force confusing ideology amongst service members they inveterately are going to question everything they have learned. It just doesn’t need to be forced upon service members.”

“Perhaps they don’t want to be subject to the leadership they witnessed in the botched Afghanistan withdrawal.”

“I served in the AF from 1976 - 2004. Up until recent years, I’d recommended military service to young people as a great merit-based opportunity to serve the country and attain education and a salable skill set. No way will I recommend today’s woke mess of a military to anyone.”

“USMC 84 to 92, don’t ask don’t tell. My daughter is now in the Corps, one of her instructors is a gay man married to a man. NOT WOKE HUH? THIS IS HURTING OUR MILITARY!!”

“People will only fight for someone they believe in or something they believe in. Biden and today’s America is not worth the fight.”

“AFGHANISTAN AFGHANISTAN AFGHANISTAN AFGHANISTAN AFGHANISTAN AFGHANISTAN”

“Maybe if the leadership stopped calling straight white males that are serving domestic terrorists, that would be a good start.”

“As a veteran, I have to say, that it deeply concerns me that China prepares for war, while America prepares for “woke”. We have taken our eye off the ball! This woke garbage starts at the top and is pushed down through the chain of command! While I find it disgraceful to our men and women in uniform, more importantly I find it very concerning that the enemy now knows just how vulnerable we are as a country with our failed leadership/policies!”

“My immediate family have a combined service of 90 years. I would not encourage anyone to join and be abandoned to die like Joe Biden did in Afghanistan or Hillary Clinton did in Benghazi.”

“Well, no kidding recruiting waaaaay is down. If you’re a straight, White, patriotically-minded your person the military is saying that it doesn’t want you. US Army 1989-2012”

“USMC 05-09. Word is from folks I know still there that I wouldn’t even recognize it.”

“I’m an army vet, my three brothers are vets, my dad was a vet, and so was my step-dad. Who wants to go die for a corrupt government that won’t even protect its borders, democracy, our way of life and our ideals?”

“You went woke first sweet pea. We responded. I spent 23 years in, I wouldn’t join now. Are you willing to die for a country run on Biden’s policies?”

“I’m proud of my daughter’s service and I am also happy that she did not re-sign when her contract was up. After the pullout debacle in Afghanistan where we handed power back to the terrorists we fought against, what did our service men and women get for losing their lives and injuries that the survivors will live with the rest of their lives? What is the point in fighting for a country where its leaders will not even protect its own borders? All of the service men and women who have given all in previous wars just so our leaders today can give it away to anyone who crosses the border illegally, really, what is the point in serving under this kind of administration? This administration and any other like it in the future are a disgrace to the United States of America. The sad part is that if we are involved in another war and recruitment continues to fall a draft will be necessary. I guess that will be the wake up call for all the woke voters. Unfortunately, their kids will be the ones who pay the price for their parents voting practices.”

“The Left continues to fail due to its own policies and will never admit that what they are doing is counter-productive. They all fall back to the same page on their playbook - blame someone else.”

“I come from a long line of those who served. Myself, I spent 22 years in Combat Arms in the Army. My youngest son has 16 years in the infantry, and we both agree that neither he or I think much of today’s military leadership at the top. I would never join today. Never.”

“This is worth repeating. My family has a long history of all males serving in our armed services. It has always

been understood that those that have served honorably were the best promoters of their family members and acquaintances to likewise serve their country. As you can see from many of the responses above this is no longer the case. **I too discouraged my grandson from joining and will do the same to anyone considering joining the military.** Simple reason is this Democrat Administration under Biden has changed the focus of the true mission of the American military, which is to defend the Constitution and the citizens of the USA. **Political indoctrination is a Communist strength, not an American one.** We live our freedoms without government interference or guidance. When this clown show is over we need to retire out or otherwise remove the “woke” civilian and military leadership from the ranks of military service and get back to protecting America from enemies foreign and domestic.”

“The people that traditionally join our military love America and would die defending it. Leftists hate our country and think it’s just another faculty lounge social experiment, not to defend us and win wars. I know, I joined shortly after Vietnam and retired in 2008.”

“After serving in the Army for 23 years and was always proud to have felt the calling I am no longer proud of the military nor country. I tell all young people... don’t do it!”

“I’m a vet and I used to tell people that seemed to be wandering through life to join the military. No more. The capital letter club dragging it down, the race baiting. Now I tell them to go to trade school. Welding, HVAC, mechanic, plumber, electrician.”

“29 year veteran...I talk people out joining now instead of encouraging them...no senior “leadership” accountability for military failures such as the Kabul debacle, endless/indecisive wars, Equal Opportunity program personnel are little better than Soviet political officers and the bases are littered with destructive social “JustUs” signs. Damn shame things have come to this.”

“Military service is about merit. I spent 28 years in the USMC. Why would I encourage my “white” boys to serve when the fix is in?”

“One of my sons just got out of the Navy. I’m so glad too. I am a veteran myself (army) and come from a long line of veterans, but I am done with all the Hooah and Oraahhh *****. **This country does not deserve my son’s sacrifice as far as I am concerned.** We have so

lost our way and there will be a price paid for it somewhere in the future. Every young person I talk to that is contemplating joining up, I really try to make them weigh other options. This country does not deserve their sacrifice either.”

“10 grandkids. Retired from military. Father retired from military. Family members in service all the way back to Revolution. Will not recommend to grandkids.”

“3rd gen military. I stopped advising any young person to join the military 5 or 6 years ago. I give them a strong warning that as a white, Christian, conservative they will be at the bottom of the sh-t pile.”

“As a former infantryman, DEI has no place in the art of combat and war, so it shouldn’t be there, period.”

During one of the Military Extremism Down-Days (i.e. a scheduled day of training where the topic of discussion was POTENTIAL extremist views that might be circulating around the workplace), **there was an 1+ hour long seminar where a ranked officer talked about “The Art of Intersectionality” and how she used it to “get ahead” in the Military workplace!** Other training segments scheduled that day included talking points about CRT, “white privilege and fragility”, etc ! All of THIS was (of course) tied to “extremism” (in some way or another), but the icing on the cake were the numerous ACCUSATIONS that “anyone who ‘failed’ to accept the results of the 2020 Presidential Election” were to be “monitored and/or reported” for POSSIBLE signs of “extremist tendencies”.

“I had a great career in the United States Air Force. 23 years from Airman Basic - Major. I’ve no regrets about my choice. Looking at today’s force & social media by service members, it became politicized & all about the individual not the mission. I can’t recommend to my kids. Identity politics rules today’s military.”

“Many of us signed up to serve out of love for country. What we got was war after war based on lie after lie, from an elite ruling class whose contempt for most of its service members (primarily conservative Christian men) has been put right into the open. What did you expect?”

“I spent 23 years in the Army. I don’t want my children in the military. What we have now is not worth sacrificing my children’s lives for. Gold Star families are chumps.”

“I did 4 years and I have two sons. When I look at the low quality political leaders American voters keep sending to D.C., it inspires me to ensure my sons never join up to put themselves in harm’s way for the interests of our elites.”

“My father’s family has served since 1775 up to and including three of my five children. We no longer recruit and will not until this rogue government is back under constitutional control. Same with my wife’s family.”

“There is no way I would encourage my son to serve this Nation. I come from multiple generations that have served.”--ret Navy Chief

“I’d break kids’ leg first. I’m the last in a long line.”

“I’m a VFW, I/O airborne. Dad was a red leg, granddad a Marine in Vietnam, WWII family, grandma was WAC, family on both sides of civil war, three plots for revolutionary war and 1812. Beyond that? Supposedly, who knows. **No; My family will no longer be providing war fighters.**”

“I tell my two sons every day that I do not want to see them in the service. I do not trust the leaders that will be responsible for them to lead them right.”

“I served proudly for 29 yrs and come from a family of military vets. There is no way that I will be promoting the military to my son.”

“I come from a long list of service members. I’ll be the last one in my fam.”

“After the withdrawal of Afghanistan I can’t see me ever allowing my child to join....The government uses its citizens and plays on their patriotism with lies. I lost friends and years of my life so the government can make a buck for their donors. They won’t get my kids.”

“My husband and I both served in the USAF and are so grateful our son hasn’t joined the US military.”

“My kids are not going to die for this corrupt government. PERIOD!!”

"I'm told (from a recently 20 yr vet), we the taxpayer are paying the cost of bottom surgery on male soldiers who are then placed on multiple meds and classified as "under observation" for years at a time and are no longer part of the fighting force."

"I chose to leave my 10 and a half years of service in big part because of the woke mentality. Promotions given based off woke standings instead of job ability. The mission started coming after the new ideology. I don't know how anyone would feel safe following someone into battle that openly hates you because of their woke beliefs. When I first went in, there was no emphasis on the differences in people; just on how well you performed your duties. Midway through the promotions for identities started along with biased disciplinary actions. I have much pride in my service, but I could no longer take part in what the military is becoming. It's a joke and we are now becoming the laughing stock of the world."

"I try and dissuade kids from joining the woke clown show the military is today. It's not worth it to put your life on the line for a country that hates you for doing it. They can pound sand."

"Ft Meade had a pride month celebration. One of our local supporters of the LGBTQ+ community received a beautiful glass disc with the US Army symbol and the Ft Meade logo that said "In grateful appreciation for your outstanding contribution to the success of the Fort George G. Meade Military Community LGBTQ+ Pride Month Observance. Thank you." I have many gay friends so this does not come from a place of dislike, **I don't want my military concentrating on Pride Month (or any other group "month"). I want them worrying about protecting my country. This nonsense has no place in the military and it's past time the armed services got back to their roots - protecting the nation and winning wars."**

"Imagine having to ship your daughters and sons off to die in a war created by a socialist or communist government, it is earth shattering to know your children will die for a government that hates you and wants you to do nothing but sacrifice for the sake of a totalitarian government. Now you have a small idea of how most American loving citizens feel about the democrat party."

"Why would anyone join the military with the commander in chief that this country unfortunately has?"

"As a veteran from a military family, and my first son serving 8 years including an Afghanistan tour, the botched pullout hurt, but was not what influenced the conversations I have had with my 23 and 16 year old sons (19yo daughter engaged to a crayon eater, but hey), this conversations were real about the direction of our military and the risks to their future by being a part of it. There is no higher calling than serving our country, but not at the price of their mental health and futures in case they say the wrong thing. No, they are better off performing civil service than joining the military. I hope one day that changes."

"The Afghanistan Cut & Run was harmful. But the real reason recruiting is in the toilet is that most people eligible to serve, have no confidence in Biden, Austin and the Generals in charge of the services, caused by their total absence of leadership."

"I come from a military family — my Navy older son has been telling my younger son to please not join, as he had hoped to, because of this horrific mess of Biden's making."

"I would advise any young man to not join the Military under its current leadership both civilian and otherwise."

"I am proud to have served during the Korean war and am a combat vet. There's no way I'd sign up to serve under the likes of this administration."

"An absolute lack of trust and faith in the entire chain of command is why this family will not recommend anyone continue our tradition of service. 7 members of my immediate family in the USMC since 1962, no longer."

"Alienating the best and most patriotic young people with Wokeness and incompetence, coupled with spineless General officers who are willing to sacrifice the good of the service in favor of their own personal professional ambition, by supporting a corrosive progressive agenda where liberals who never served use the Armed forces as a petri dish for their social experimentation - THAT is "harmful."

"I think the push for DEI is a bigger factor. No one wants to be forced to accept the insane. The military says you have to accept the soldier next to you who looks like Klinger from MASH, even if goes against everything you believe in and stand for."

"I served 27 years in the Corps, fought in two wars, Vietnam and Desert Storm, and a stint in Mogadishu. My bride of 54 years looks at me every night and says she thanks God I'm not currently serving under this President or these politico/woke Generals and Admirals. Smart woman I married. ..SEMPER FI!"

"22 year Army Vet. Thank God I retired before all this insanity. No way could I have made it a career if I had to deal with the PC/Woke bullshit."

"I retired from the Marine Corps in 2004. I am disgusted by what has happened in the last 20 years."

"You are one thousand percent right and I proudly served with straight and gay people and we never gave a crap because we all treat each other with 1000% respect. But the woke crap going on from the top down I would never have joined nor do I recommend family members join you can either have this crap or you can have a safe country but you will not have both under no circumstances."

"It's a huge problem man. The military is more sensitive than the civilian world. I literally just got out last month and I feel so free just mentally from all that woke crap and censoring the things you can say!"

"I went to basic in 2011 to be an infantryman. Our drill sergeants said multiple times things like "shit is changing, the army is getting soft, y'all are going to be the last real mother f**er's to come through this sh**." They drove us hard, many guys dropped out. We didn't think anything about it at the time when they kept saying stuff like that, we thought they probably said that kind've stuff to every group to "motivate" them. However, I went to airborne holdover some months after basic, and actually spent some time hanging out with my old Drill Sergeants. They had another class at the time. I found out they were not lying. They were no longer able to smoke privates in the same manner they did to us. They could only train them so many hours a day. They could only make them do so many push-ups/sit-ups during smoke sessions. It was honestly pathetic to watch. **In protest, the drill sergeants basically quit caring. They didn't even really try to train them anymore.** And in hindsight, I realized they were not lying to us. It really did change on a dime it seemed. They made sure they got one last "real group" in with us before things got soft. A couple of my drill sergeants even told me that they felt

they had crossed the line many times with my group of guys by being too hard on us. I'm glad they did though. We joined the infantry to challenge ourselves as men, not to be gently guided along like toddlers."

"My entire family is military. No one else is going at this point."

"Absolutely, my trans station commander is personally responsible for at least 4 people deciding to get out and over 20 recruits not getting in because they weren't woke enough. I was a recruiter until last year. She couldn't even pass her PT test but was untouchable. Toxic is an understatement."

"30+ years of service here. **Yes it is woke, and it is getting worse every year.** You will likely not hear that from our civilian and military leadership, because it's a career-ender. However, the bigger problem is the mental health of all ages of our service men and women. In my experience, this is the most mentally weak our military has been, and it causes huge issues across the force. Very little resiliency!"

"I'm 20 year AF vet. Retired in 2017, so I have some buddies still enlisted. A few of them are great leaders, E-9s. Unfortunately they're being unofficially pushed towards retirement because they are the wrong race and gender. This is already having a massive domino effect, and I hate to say that it's going to get much worse in the coming years."

"As soon as I left Luke AFB in 2019, they installed a DEI office on base. Messages to "celebrate" identity groups were getting louder. Nothing good comes from this crap."

"18 years active duty, been medical my entire career, been to Iraq in '06, Bahrain, Kuwait, Norway, Sweden, and several other places. I'm not gonna lie when I say I'm having a hard time leading as an experienced clinician in the military. **I'd say in the last 10 years, the military has drastically changed.** I remember the don't ask, don't tell policy. I don't care if you are gay, lesbian, trans, or whatever your race, religion, gender is; however, I do care when it affects me as a straight white male married to the same woman for 17 years, 4 kids with the same woman and I get reverse discriminated against because of that. We hear all this systemic racism that's happening, I've felt it as a straight white male the entire time I've

been in. I've never been super political, but I've gotten to the point I want my kids to understand and I've been educating them on social media, the current state of the country, etc."

"I served for 33 years and just retired last year. This is partly why I cashed out. **Promotions based on race is all I saw in the last couple of years.** On another subject, I served in Iraq and Afghanistan with some true female warriors. They were awesome and hard core, however that was in a war where we had a huge advantage. A war that's coming with China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran all at the same time things will be vastly different for my female sisters. Hand to hand in the middle of the night in a trench will be what it is about. It always comes down to that. Not to mention the POW situations that will occur that will make the Hanoi Hilton look like Club Med. Can you imagine female prisoners in today's environment? Also, especially in the Air Force, there are numerous joint spouses who fly, are Commanders etc. If one gets captured especially if she is female. What will happen to her in Russia, China, North Korea or an Iranian POW camp? Will she be passed around to the troops in the field to be humiliated and videoed, and if the internet is still going, that video goes viral on purpose? No one is thinking about this at all."

"We were on our final ruck in basic before graduation. There was a recruit named Rowe. Her feet were bowed out to the side, walked like a penguin. She couldn't keep up. DS Baker pulls me from the front, I was flag guy. He says "look soldier we gotta quota to meet. she has to finish. And I'm making it your problem." They literally linked us together with 550 and I dragged this lady for a few miles! mind you my ruck was already 75lbs. I was salty, but we made it."

"It's so funny, the military propagates the women in combat arms discussion so religiously that hearing a grown up casually point out the obvious about feels like I'm committing an EEO violation for agreeing - even though most people privately agree 100% with what he is saying."

"20 year vet here. Yes, it is. To be clear, while I disagree with the gay lifestyle, I have served with gays, I've had two gay commanders, both of which were fantastic btw, and at the end of the day, whether I disagree with people

or not, we're working on the same mission and we are all pulling together. However, **when DE&I started to become a thing, when they started ramming down our throats how we didn't have to just tolerate people but celebrate depravity and lunacy, that's where they lost me...** I've been told I'm a piece of trash because I'm male, because I look white, because I'm a Christian, because I'm straight, because I am a conservative... I've been told I'm a rapist, a racist, and an extremist, and that's all garbage... Meanwhile, I passed signs every day in my building for all kinds of events celebrating this group and that group and this other crazy thing. Not only am I completely left out of that, I am asked to celebrate things I don't agree with. I am asked to take time off mission to do it. I am asked to consider diversity above actual mission requirements. I am asked to make sure things look right rather than actually being right or effective. This is not sustainable, and if people think they're going to get the kind of performance that we used to get out of the military out of this mandatory celebration, diversity is our strength bullshit, they have another thing coming."

"I was in the army from 2013-2019, even in that time-frame I saw a lot of change. I left right as they were allowing women to get combat roles. It's dangerous because other countries / cultures do not respect women the same way we do in America and in the west. Women in combat roles could find themselves in very dangerous and traumatic situations that a man may not encounter."

"I almost got the boot after 16 years of service because I refused to use pronouns. That's when I knew, the military was over."

"My friend is being targeted for being straight and not wearing a pride flag where his American goes on his uniform."

"I got out just in time to avoid the wokeness. I have thought about going back in, but since the military adopted the opinion that masculinity is toxic, I have no desire for a return and neither do any of the others (men and women) I served with."

"Family member maxed ASVAB, had great grades, scored super high on PT (3rd best 3-mile run in nation) yet wasn't awarded the Marines OCS scholarship due to quotas, & flat out told that. So, good luck USA (go to hell) w/ the next war."

“There is a very good reason men do not want women in combat, and especially not in positions of military authority: men know they’re supposed to protect and defend women, and that the military leader lays his life down for his men. And men do not want to sacrifice women or force them to take care of themselves. It has nothing to do with a lack of respect for women, or with any kind of misogyny. It’s about common sense and natural male instinct to protect.”

“As a veteran, descendant of many veterans. I have suggested to my kids and nieces and nephews, do not join. It’s truly sad and frustrating to watch what is happening to our Military.”

“As a Navy Veteran who also still works for the Navy in civil service, I wholeheartedly agree with you.”

“I got out on medical after 17 years. **This government is so upside down that I couldn’t finish my last three years in good conscience.** I can’t believe that I can no longer recommend military service to the next generation.”

“I left the Department of the Army after having to attend mandatory transgender sensitivity training in 2018. I no longer recognize the country I love.”

“I served in the military for 24 years. There is no way on God’s green earth that I would recommend any young person to sign up for today’s military. Too much woke and too many political generals who don’t give a damn about the troops.”

“I am not ashamed of my many years in the military service of my country. But, I wouldn’t sign now if they offered me my own tank.”

“I served 21 years in the Army. I talked my son out from enlisting in a WOKE military. Explain how being taught DEI prepares our military for combat.”

“I left the Army in 2022 after serving 6 years. Even in that short time, I saw drastic changes that made it clear to me that it was a leftist institution that wasn’t worth giving my time to.”

“Got out of the Navy in 2020. The last 4-5 yrs the significant changes being made by top leadership made it clear **things were going off the rails.**”

“Served 6 years as an Officer and recently left. **I went in thinking this was the biggest honor of my life and wanted to do the hardest things possible to give back and give 20 years+.** Fast forward to seeing people pushed through my Ranger graduation because of numbers/ difficulty actually removing individuals from the course. Airborne school graduation with individuals standing next to me that fell out of every run, failed pul-lup test and overweight... Deployment being handcuffed to actually accomplish something...**They just sucked any chance of pride from these accomplishments away** where I could sit back and say “Damm, I actually did it”. Lastly getting a chance to be an instructor and being forced to push individual’s into the force AS LEADERS, I was done. **You could not remove terrible applicants from the school house** because it would fall apart in a pile of paperwork. Disrespectful to an NCO or Officer? No problem. Failed a PT test? No problem, try again. Horrible attitude? No issue, they passed minimum standards. Failed academic tests? No issue, recycle and try again. **I am absolutely the demographic the Army wants. I couldn’t be more patriotic, I couldn’t have been more motivated and the Army killed all of that.** I would never trade those years because of the people I met, but the institution is absolutely broken. **If the Army is pushing people like me away, I do not know who they want.”**

“I was in 2006-2015, combat arms job in an airborne unit. I got out because I saw the writing on the wall. All of the time and energy allocated to pushing political and social concerns end up pulling away focus from war-fighting and readiness. Woke policies will undoubtedly fail on the battlefield, when that day comes I will be happy that I am out.”

“9 years of military service - 3 years of defense contracting - - - thinking about service in TODAY’s military - - - RUN the other way.”

“I got out of the AF in 2010 and things were still fine then. But **my friends who are still in, tell me that morale sucks everywhere and they’re just trying to coast to retirement.**”

“As a recent retiree May 2023, the leadership I walked away from was an absolute shit show. An even bigger issue is the people they do manage to recruit are absolutely the softest most useless people I’ve seen my whole

career. Out of 12 new technicians, only 2 of them were what I'd call "keepers". The old timers like myself proping them up are exiting at an unbelievable rate too. My TAPs instructor told us she had to increase the number of classes provided due to the amount of people punching out. It's gonna get really bad the next few years."

"I joined two years before you and retired in 17...I'm still associated with military as a JROTC instructor. **I left because of how fast and far our standards slid. It's well off the cliff now.** It's not bad...it was bad and getting worse. It's unacceptable and people in charge are in complete denial. At least publicly...the system is not designed for an internal fix. This is coming from the top and picked up steam with the 44th POTUS."

"I did ten years in the Navy and was HYT'ed (High-Year Tenure) back in 2021. One of the biggest strikes that I personally encountered was the automatic promotion (affirmative action) of sailors straight out of school that had no experience whatsoever making E-5/6. I went to my second command in WA back in 2017, checked in to my clinic coming from a major medical center, had my surface warfare pin, lots of experience, I was the only male in the clinic, was treated like dog shit, saw one female, straight from "C" school literally GIVEN promotion twice and went from E-4 to E-6 without lifting a finger, and yet I was told, "you still need to earn your promotion". **That's when I realized that the Navy has an agenda.**"

"Most males in my family have served going back to the Revolutionary War and NONE of us recommend serving now. I go out of my way to tell people DONT DO IT. I was out in 2019 and I watched the 'Woke' politics strangle put the last bit of hope I had for the military. It's broken."

"I bailed because of this (woke in the military) and its far worse than people realize. Don't join any branch of service and just learn a trade. Absolute dumpster fire..."

"The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting."

"I did 32.5 years and am so glad I am out. The military is an embarrassment. We can no longer go fight, kill, and win. Now they are worried about wholeness. I had a fellow Soldier in the Army transition from a female to

male Soldier it was a nightmare. They were treated like a celebrity, they were the promised child."

"As a retired Air Force Vet I would discourage my children from entering the military: unless they become commissioned. However, even that may not be enough. Today's Military is not pushed or marketed to promote patriotism but more for wokeness and checking all these boxes for the sake of diversity. Another reason I think many aren't willing to enlist is the mandated Covid shot."

"I was forced to medical retire because the AF didn't want to pay for a cheap drug every month in 1999 and now they are paying for breast enlargement surgery and sex reassignment surgery plus the very expensive multiple drugs they must take daily. And I had never missed a day of work or any deployment and I volunteered for all of them. Unreal what has changed in the once most feared fighting force on the planet."

"After serving from 2013 to 2022, **The Army became all about politics, the standards are not there anymore.** All they do now is rotations, now is all about Equal Opportunity and Sharp training you can't tell soldiers nothing these days because there is no backbone anymore. We as NCO's can't enforce standards because the second we do is Hazing or the soldier will get their feelings hurt and the NCO gets their ass handed. Counseling's I lost track of how many hours I spend writing counseling's that were pointless, at the end of the day there had to be a trail and after spending all the time doing all that additional work and spending time away from my family, we get to 1SG office just to have him give the soldier a weak tap on the wrist because *he cant afford to lose soldiers.* **SO WE ARE KEEPING TRASH who are just there showing up daily to do THE BARE MINIMUM and get promoted before those of us who bust our ASS.** Financially we don't get paid enough to be babysitting and losing my family, This creates a big mental health issue. As civilians we feel more appreciated and we actually get Paid. I have served with some of America's most Badass Mf's and I will forever Honor my brothers and sisters who have sacrificed so much for us"

"This is part of why I got out of the Marines in 2016. Shit was starting to be forced top down HARD. The feminist agenda was front and center."

“As long as Progressives hold the White House, America will continue to decline in all international spheres of influence and of course, domestically! On the military side of this post, **a great young USN Captain I have known all of his life is leaving because of the DEI focus.**”

“I follow military-based accounts on various social media platforms. **The substance and morale of the US military has been intentionally gutted.** There’s literally no one left in the entire command structure who’s both ethical and competent and recruitment is at an all-time low. Further, military readiness is very low, much lower than reported due to corruption and incompetence. All the units lie about their readiness, e.g., the motor pool reports 90% of its vehicles are ready to go when it’s really 20%. That’s going on everywhere.”

“It’s heart breaking. A lot of families, including my own, have served generation after generation. Imagine all the brothers and sisters we lost would say about the military today. So, I will do everything in my power to tell my son to NOT to fulfill that oath we all raised our hand for. From my family to any family out there that served, we had a hell of a run and I’m glad I served during and after the generations that stood for honor and commitment.”

“My grandfather, brother, husband, and many uncles and cousins all served. My boys grew up wanting to serve and now they are not interested! Between the woke propaganda and lack of readiness, we see, I don’t want them going to fight in a proxy war that our nation should have never been involved in from the beginning.”

“Our son, who graduated before his 21st birthday with dual college degrees, is a staff sergeant in Special Forces, spent his Christmas leave caring for my husband and I during serious cancer and cardiac surgeries in December. While he was home with us, he showed me an email from the DOD, with a survey attached, asking if he felt he was able to do his job without harming the environment. Guess who’s getting out.”

“I served 30 years in the Army. The libs try to blame the job market and the number of young people qualified to serve. I just read an article about a **young female recruit considering doing whatever it takes to get out of her contract because she has to shower with transgender females with male genitalia.** That is the real reason

young people aren’t interested in the military. They realize that if they join, they will have no choice but to participate in these policies that promote depravity and perversion.”

“My great grandfather served in WWI, my grandfather was in the Aleutians during WW2, My great aunt was a WAC, my dad was in Vietnam, my mom served 20 years, all of my siblings and I served (at different times) between 1979 and 2015. My oldest daughter served 4 years from 2001-2005. While I am very patriotic, and was extremely proud to serve, I will not encourage my youngest daughter or my grandchildren to serve at this point in history. US Army 1981-2008

“I saw an article in which a soldier said he and many of his fellow soldiers are discouraging and even outright denying their sons and daughters to enter the military. They don’t want to see their children die for someone’s ideology. You can ask a man to die for honor, for his fellow countrymen, for his God. But none of them will lay their lives down for a government that has shown it has no plans to protect the families they will be leaving behind.”

“He is not alone. I know several military families. They have had at least one person in the military since they came to the US. In the case of one of the three families, that was since the revolutionary war. All three families have advised their younger members to not join. In two cases, members who were in the military have left. One resigned his commission, and the other refused reenlistment. **My family has a history of every male member serving at least one enlistment. I have advised all three grand nephews to not enlist.** The military has a decades long cycle of political generals messing everything up, and then war fighting generals coming in to fix it. This time I don’t think it can be fixed.”

“21 year veteran of the Air Force here...yes, we need to rekindle the warrior ethos back into our ranks. Too many useless distractions will get our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, coasties and guardians killed. I have three daughters and they are not seeing the military as a future option or career path.”

“I think he is a smart young man. I retired from the military, but I would not recommend anyone join it today,

nor would I. The few are doing their best to ruin everything in our country for the majority of us and even force the majority to pay for everything and anything the minority wants.”

“My son serves in the military and he told me that the enlisted do not trust anyone with the rank of 2nd Lt and above. The brass is seen as woke and political while not fully committed to the troops well being and readiness status. It usually left up to the individual combat soldiers to supplement their gear out of pocket to maintain personal combat readiness as best as they can. And they usually do a good job at it when allowed to.”

“I was kicked out of military for “misgendering” one of my fellow soldiers. I was told I could stay if I apologized and took classes on “diversity sensitivity awareness training”. I said F no, and now that I am out I am making a shitload of money at a real job.”

“Me and my son-in-law are both Army vets. We both discouraged his son from joining. My entire family has served in the Army for at least 3 generations, but I would not join today. It saddens me to say that because I love America.”

“I did 20 years and 8 months. I’m the last in my family to serve, and no one in my bloodline will ever serve this country voluntarily again. Good people will no longer be party to this evil empire.”

“Afghanistan pull-out and woke policies were enough to turn my boys (18 and 20) away from service. As a former marine I completely agree with their decisions.”

“I am a BRAT and served. I am 65 and I will do anything to prevent my grandkids from serving right now. The administration and the pentagon have changed our once great military into a social woke experiment and has and will continue to put America at risk.”

“Both of my teens (16/17) had indicated a willingness to enlist in the Air Force or Navy...but that was before they started hearing stories from the net or from actual people from our community who enlisted. They didn’t like the idea of saluting some dude who was wearing a dress. I don’t blame them.”

“DEI was bad in the military when I retired in ‘15. I know literally dozens of people who since have gotten out before retirement because they couldn’t take it anymore.”

“As a United States Marine who served this country for 8 years, from 98-2006, I am disgusted and ashamed of what’s happened to our once great military. Just like EVERYTHING else they touch, the democrats are ruining it.”

“My grandson was planning to join the military but after the Afghanistan debacle and the apparent politicization of the military decided not to join. He is a young man who finished college with a degree in computer science and cybersecurity. He would have been a terrific asset as an officer but the military leadership destroyed the ambitions and sense of security in the armed forces of young people. **Something is wrong with the leadership of the military and is potentially dangerous for the country.**”

“When the U.S. military (even the Marines) has “diversity officers”, aka commissars, you know all you need to know about why recruiting is horrible.”

“I spent 22 years in the service. I definitely agree with last post which speaks to “woke” leadership. What is disconcerting is that I don’t know if the senior officers actually believe the woke agenda or are they just trying to please their master. In either case, it is a lack of principled leadership that has helped get us here.”

“The most fundamental transformation to our republic that has come about this century is the success the left has had with transforming our nation into one that few would defend.”

“We won’t meet our recruitment goals until the current PC Generals leave the ranks. Instead of talking about warfighting, they talk about DEI, CRT, LGBTQ. Let’s not forget that no one was fired for the Afghanistan debacle. As a 26 yr veteran, I wouldn’t recommend signing up as many fellow veterans feel the same. Until Defense cleans house and rights the ship, we’ll continue to fall short on recruits.”

“The problem with recruiting is that it isn’t all about money and incentives. For 30 years at least American universities and the commanding heights of the culture dismissed the legitimacy of citizenship and taught the young that America is bad. When people DON’T BE-

LIEVE in their country, they won't fight for it. That's why we're in this mess with recruiting."

"Young men want adventure. They want danger. This is the draw to the military. Woke hipsters have never been the people who make up the military. People from rural, conservative America are. When you remove the adventure and create a politically leftist environment, these young men will seek their adventure elsewhere. And our "leaders" are so dumb and out of touch that they will double down on the rainbow brigade. This only makes sense if they are trying to remake the military into something political that wouldn't have a problem turning its guns on its own citizens. There is no other reason for it."

"All of a sudden (since January 2020) the potential recruit pool has gotten fatter, stupider, and less patriotic. All of a sudden families that have sent generations of sons to the combat arms are saying 'don't go'. All of a sudden potential recruits have discovered that the military isn't where the big money is made. All of a sudden....."

"I think we have a lost generation here with Gen Z. I read where these young people are so anxious they don't answer their phones. They obviously have not been prepared for the real world of competitiveness and harsh realities. The military hasn't helped their recruitment cause. Devising military programs to attract transgenerations is very much at cross purpose to military doctrines. **Leadership matters and when weak woke leadership comes from the top rung we all suffer the consequences of the mistakes made.** No one escapes from real world consequences for very long."

"We built a society in which no one feels connected to anyone or anything. Everything is just about power and money these days. We used to care about our communities, our neighbors, our church, but now there's just the material world and everything is devoid of meaning or purpose. My neighbor wants completely different things than I do, and even wants my religion and ideas removed from public life, and I'm supposed to fight for him? No thank you. I'm supposed to fight for a nation that wants to dismantle traditional ways of family and

life? I'm supposed to fight for a nation that considers my values and faith to be intolerable and even hate speech?"

"As a third generation career military officer (retired) I would not recommend a military enlistment to any of my family. **What was once proud organizations providing the legitimate defense of our nation has become a political tool for the indoctrination of our youth and country.** We send our troops to all corners of the world to stick America's nose into issues that have no relevance to our national security and defense. We are not the world's policeman. A review of the countries that were once under the control of our current enemies (Russia and China) shows a profound hatred of those countries once freed. Our first president George Washington warned of entangling alliances and the application of "favored nation" to countries of the world. The mission of our military should be to defend America - not everyone else in the world."

"Most liberals see the military as a bastion of white male conservative thought and, with some success, by politicization, have been able to purge those they have labeled as extremists. **The woke agenda that the Pentagon has promoted serves as an indication that the administrative state fears the military and needs to politicize it in order to be able to neuter its command structure** less they someday "cross the Rubicon", their greatest fear. And Gen Zers are far from stupid. The message they have received because of this attempted subjugation is that the military may no longer be able to offer a viable alternative, certainly not financially and certainly one that no longer offers inherent comradeship, lifelong associations and pride."

"If we spent more of our time building a great military, based on willingness to defend this Country versus what sign to put on a restroom, we would be much better off."

Army intelligence veteran: "These wars of choice by the United States have nothing to do with our defense and everything to do with America maintaining and extending its empire across the globe. The wars are not meant to end as we leapfrog from one to another. The goal is to keep the money flowing to the military-industrial complex and the oligarchs in our country that control it. It's not about freedom, democracy, Mom, and apple pie as I've stated many times before. It's pure power politics played by the war-mongers currently in control of our government for their benefit to the detriment of the

rest of the nation. Military recruiting is down because more and more Americans are finally waking up to the sorrows of empire and they want nothing to do with it. It's not that there are a multitude of differences between the kids in the 70s and those of today. The difference today is that people have a lot more information about the inner workings of their government and they don't like what they see."

"The idea that Special Operations can and will fight our coming wars is a fallacy. War is fought and won by Joe Snuffy putting a short sword on his rifle, getting up out of his hole, and going over to the enemy and killing, wounding, or capturing the enemy. The Current generation has two problems: one is a physical, mental, or sociological problem with serving in the military. **The second problem is the politicization of the military, where ideological adherence is more important than the training of our Service Members.** The Services are made up of families who serve, my father served, I served, my son served but my grandchildren will not under the present administration."

"It's not just obesity and mental standards that are hurting recruiting. **Young Americans realize that their incompetent leaders do not have the best interests of themselves or their country in mind.** All the hero talk from the Afghanistan and Iraq debacles has worn thin as the kids are no longer willing to be cannon fodder for the oligarchy that runs our country. Americans have lost trust in their government, and this has fueled their distrust of the military. Many citizens finally realize that the United States is one colossal plutocracy that doesn't represent them. It represents multi-national corporations, oligarchs in Ukraine, despots in the Middle East, totalitarian governments in Asia, and murderous defense contractors in the United States. Military recruiting is down and the military is in disarray because people are finally realizing that the emperor has no clothes and he's been naked for a long, long time."

"For a generation that has grown up in a time of American Imperialism, endless wars, multiple economic crises, and declining hope for a future like their parents, it's not shocking that Pro-American sentiment is at an all-time low. To many young people, the military is seen as just a meat grinder that doesn't offer the same incentives it once did. I see a lot of people complaining about the military being too "woke" and I'm sure for some that's the case, but for many others it's seen as a brutal force of imperialism that lacks all of the ideals that I see older generations describing it as. The military as such faces a

two sided problem: to half it's too woke and political, and to others it's inherently a force for bad in many parts of the world - both cause a rejection by different members of Gen Z."

"Would you join an organization that routinely sends you to the far reaches of the world to be shot at, killed, maimed, and insulted by forcing you to fight with self-imposed handicaps then brings what's left of you home and abandons you to whatever charity agrees to help you out? And oh by the way, the places where you fight are no better off when you leave than they were before? Not to mention the emphasis on whatever crazed politics happen to be currently in vogue?" --Navy veteran, medical doctor

"Today is 2 years since the Afghan debacle. Biden is the cause of that fiasco that killed 13 young service members. When they came home, coffins passing, Joe is looking at his watch. **Military family here and we advised our children not to join.**"

"After two decades of "forever" wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the next generation takes a serious look at serving in the military and says "Naw, I think I'll pass". Good for them."

In response to a left-leaning young person's comment:

"Wokeism is an ideology that classifies and treats people based on principles of (1) identity politics and (2) an oppressor-oppressed dynamic. Identity politics differentiates people based on various identity "markers" - race, ethnicity, sex, gender identification, immigration status, etc. The oppressor-oppressed dynamic differentiates people based on whether they are oppressors or oppressed. Wokeism combines these two principles to create the concept of intersectionality, under which people can have overlapping identities that affect their standing in society. The numerous possible permutations of intersecting identities, combined with the ever-evolving identities imagined by wokesters, can obviously complicate the rankings of the members of the oppressed class. Finally, wokeism is authoritarian in that it believes in imposing its ideology on people, by coercion (see, e.g., cancel culture) or by force (see, e.g., lawless activity to suppress speech that is deemed inconsistent with wokeness). Wokeism obviously runs afoul of various,

longstanding principles of American life, history, and law (such as section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution), but that appears to be of no concern to wokesters and their enablers, including their many enablers in the Democratic Party.”

“The article said: “We must rebuild a community where veterans are always present to inspire those around them.” **Veterans are always present. We just don’t recognize America anymore.** I told my children to stay the hell away from military service. The progressive liberals have nearly destroyed the services with their woke nonsense. I wouldn’t recommend military service to anyone now.”

“I’m retired Navy, my grandfather served in WW1, my father was a WW2, Korea, and Vietnam Army Veteran, and my sister retired after 30 years in the Army. I would be hard pressed to recommend enlistment under this administration, given the highly politicized senior officer corps.”

“This veteran will not be encouraging anyone to go into the military until long after the woke culture is cleaned out of the leadership.”

“I am a veteran of 25 years. My entire family from grandfather to grand children have served or still serving. All have retired except for **2 grandchildren that chose to leave the military because of all the woke classes that are mandatory to attend are being threatened with less than honorable discharge if they refuse.** I will not recommend anyone going in the military until they get rid of the woke Generals and Secretary of Defense.”

“Same story as so many others, I myself served in Afghanistan, my brother two tours in Iraq, my father a Naval Academy Grad. and US Marine, his father was Navy during Korea and on and on. In our family it was always considered a DUTY to serve our nation and our people. That duty ended the day this regime was illegally installed into power and our nation stopped serving the will of the people. My sons WILL NOT be serving against the constitution and our own freedom in the lefts agenda to sell us out to be ruled by international overlords in a Global elitist controlled authoritarian socialist system. This country has become-under current leadership-**EVERYTHING** our forefathers before us fought to keep from our shores. To serve under this current

regime would be to betray everything we fought and so many died for.”

“We have served already, honorably. Not our responsibility to also recruit for the armed service of America now afterwards. Stop dishing the systemic problems back onto us servicemembers, when the management (elected politician’s and policymakers) can’t keep things in order.”

“Served 20, retired in 95, had a parent who served 22. Up until 2 years ago I would recommend at least one enlistment. But no longer would I recommend it to anyone, any more than I would recommend living in NY, CA or any “blue” state. The military has long required the top echelons to be political to achieve their goals-but now it is required throughout the ranks. This is in large part to cowardly leadership, who refuse to protect members from social whims of the ruling party. If you want an elite force-then start protecting the organization from politicians who view them as just the same as the rest of the citizens. **THEY ARE NOT JUST THE SAME.** I am proud of my service and my organization and the things we accomplished, but **am very ashamed of current military leaders who have forgotten “service before self.”**”

“I spent 23 in the military. It was broken when I retired in 2016. It’s still broken. The promotion system is biased. Leadership has no interest in taking care of service members. Lastly, I have been disrespected many times when I go on base to shop by active duty ego driven service members. It’s no longer honor, courage, & commitment. They are pushing junk ideals on a fighting military force. I stuck around for my pension. Not sure I would do it again. They’ve made it impossible to navigate fairly.”

“This military is not the military it used to be...as a retired vet, I now discourage entry into military...”

“My family and I have all served in the military. WW2, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. My grandsons expressed an interest in serving as well, but we have strongly discouraged them in following the family tradition due to the woke focus of the military and the current leadership. **Don’t want our boys led by a diversity hire rather than a well-trained warrior.”**

“I did recommend military service for many years, but now with the WOKE military attitude I refuse to do so. So many changes where men aren’t always as they seem. Amid special request for trans facilities in boot camp and other training facilities it just isn’t about national security and defense any longer. Cater to the special needs or regret it.”

“I served proudly in the military as well as members of my family. That was at a time when you believed in what you were doing, you believed in your leadership and you loved your country. Today, the way this administration and military leadership are making a mockery of our military and quite honestly our country, why bother.”

“Let’s see... liberals made a concerted effort to remove recruiters and ROTC/JROTC programs from schools and colleges. Military leadership worries more about inclusivity, diversity, and pronoun use than it does about killing enemies and winning wars. America’s position in the world declines with each Democrat administration.

As a 21+ yr veteran, I get asked all the time about service careers. I used to promote military service, but stopped back in 2009. Since 2020 I actively discourage young people from joining. If they want to serve, there are opportunities at every church, and in every community. You don’t need to join the woke, misguided military to make a difference.”

“I served 21 years in the Marines. Loved every minute of it, even after being wounded twice. But today, with the leadership in Washington there is no way I would recommend a young man or woman to join. We’ve had wars going since 91. Biden is determined to get us into another. It’s a shame how this country treats its veterans today!”

“I served thirteen years in the Army, both as an enlisted soldier and an officer. I too do not want my kids or grandkids to serve in the military. The focus on DEI seems to have taken over the military and I don’t see that changing in the near future. Why is a person with high blood pressure not qualified for service, but a person, on hormones, with gender dysphoria does qualify for service??”

“I am a Veteran, but until this corrupt administration is either charged with corruption or they are voted out, I would advise any young person to NOT enlist.”

“I’m a veteran and I talked my son OUT of joining the military. It was a sad thing for me to do b/c he really wants to serve his country, and I’m all for that. The reality though is that anyone joining our military today isn’t serving our country, they’re serving a corrupt political regime that cares NOTHING about our Republic and only about increasing their own wealth and political power. And they’d happily send American soldiers off to die in a war to, say, prop up a money laundering operation in Ukraine, fight for oil so they ‘elites’ can keep flying their private jets while forcing the rest of us into EV’s, etc.”

“I joined the US Army right before 9/11 and was set on putting in a good 30 years of service. I did 16 years, three deployments and went from private to 1st Lieutenant. As a lieutenant I was ranked 3rd out of 42 in my battalion. The army started to downsize during the Obama years and let go all those that served honorably in Iraq and Afghanistan for the smallest infractions. I was let go in 2017 right after securing a XO position. So no, I will never have any of my two sons serve and I always recommend all younger people to find another path. The military preaches loyalty, but it’s a one way street. They want your loyalty, but they will never return it in kind.”

“As a former combat veteran, I would highly recommend service in the U.S. military. Just not right now. Wait for a couple years after they get rid of the whole upper command level and get their heads and butts wired together. WOKE and DEI have no place in the military. Right now, you are better off getting training in a number of other ways to make a good living that are readily available and won’t put you in student debt for a useless degree.”

“Good luck changing the minds of young people who have spent 12+ years in our public education system being brainwashed with the left’s propaganda, lol. Why do you think there is a recruitment shortage now? Because these younger generations have been brainwashed by our education system that America is evil and they should not support their own country.”

“I served for 15+ years. I wouldn’t recommend military service to anyone under the Biden Administration or any leftist government. It’s the military and not a taxpayer funded social experiment. The left says they respect the military and veterans but it’s all lip service.”

“As a Marine veteran I recommend no one serve this administration.”

“Recruitment and Retention would go up if they just stopped with all this woke BS. Why would I, as a 22 year Veteran, want to inspire young adults to join a Military that is more interested in political correctness and gender issues than training them for combat? This Democratic push to castrate our Military’s fighting force has to first be reversed.”

“The only reason I could recommend anyone to join today’s military is if they wanted free sex change surgery.”

“The question is **why would we veterans encourage enlistment in a military that has lost the focus on those things that made our military great, those things we loved best about it?**”

“Out of EVERY VETERAN in my circle of friends, WOULD NOT RECOMMEND enlisting in the armed forces until our political stance in the world stage changes. With demanding mandatory COVID shots, 3 of my career military friends were cut for NOT TAKING THE SHOT, and 2 saw the direction the left was taking and did NOT reenlist. All decorated veterans who take GREAT PRIDE IN THE COUNTRY THEY FOUGHT FOR!!”

“12 year AF veteran. No way I would try to steer anyone to service under the current leadership.”

“I served 22-years, between my brothers and father we’ve given 85 years to this country. I loved those 22-years, but I could not in good conscience recommend the military to anyone today. I don’t trust the leadership of today’s military to do what’s best for the country versus their political desires. The military is supposed to be apolitical but today’s General officers are nothing more than politicians with stars on their shoulders.”

“After 26 years in the military, I would never recommend anyone to join this woke joke of an army.”

“We won’t do it. Woke politics has no place in the military and the Senior Leadership are a disgrace to the services they serve in and our country. They have made

our military a laughing stock and an embarrassment worldwide. **You have lost my trust and willingness to encourage others to join though I am still proud to have served my country.**”

“Veterans know what the military WAS like, and know what it has become. Why would ANY veteran recommend service in today’s woke military, to anyone ?? Our military commanders are mostly concerned about politics or feelings. Our military is soft and pathetic. God forbid we need to depend on them while Biden or any Dems are in office.”

“We could recommend the military, but we won’t. The military has become just another woke entity and puts ALL of its members in harm’s way with the “new” training and “indoctrination”. “Cultural Awareness” classes are disguised CRT and “woke”-ness. Many include the ridiculous “1619 project” and say systemic racism is prevalent today. I served in ‘Nam, but told my grandson to stay away. Today’s military, for the most part, is a disaster looking for a place to happen.”

“As a veteran and son of a veteran I would never ever recommend going into the military in today’s woke climate. Senior leadership is failing, our CIC is a joke and will get us into a war sooner than later. Our military has declined dramatically in just the last two years but started going downhill before that.”

“Combat veteran here, I absolutely refuse to recommend anyone serve in today’s Military. From what I see it has become an extremely weak woke scared group on fragile soft people lead by incompetence at the highest level. Stay away.”

“I’m a veteran. No thanks. I’ll do what I can to discourage the next generation from serving with a bunch of sodomites and cultural Marxists.”

“I am a veteran. OIF and OEF. I will never recommend for anyone to serve in the military. Its woke and broke. NAVY”

“Get the military squared away again and I’ll recommend it to the young folks again.” Navy Master Chief

“I have no doubt in my mind with the way the current illegitimate regime in charge disregards every other facet of the constitution and the disdain they have for anyone expressing patriotic ideology that it’s only a matter of time before they’re turning the military into a force utilized for domestic warfare against our own citizens and

anyone else who refuses to bow the knee to the Globalist overlords they currently serve. And the sad part is it will be the veterans and those who are most patriotic and willing to defend our nation's longstanding ideals and liberty of the people who they will target and seek to eliminate first. Serving under this regime is too much a risk of being a traitor to our nation to recommend service to anyone who actually values freedom and believes in the constitution."

"This has everything to do with the woke agenda, these sellout politicians are the reason why zoomies don't want to enlist and it's a reason why veterans like myself that will not in good conciseness talk them into military service because the politicians do not represent the values the military once stood for."

"Yes, vets "could" encourage the next generation, but the military leadership is destroying the services with their WOKE, Racial, and Gender identity politics. Our schools do not teach CIVICS, but do teach BLM, Gender, and Racial dysphoria. There is a movement going on that seems to be for one thing, DESTROY THE USA, from within."

"24 years in the military and retired, my 18 year old grandson asked for advice about the military. He loves this country but is concerned about what's happening within the ranks. I told him straight out he should wait until the country destroying democrats are out of office. Plain and simple poor leadership. Poor decisions from the top. Company Commanders that are afraid to make decisions."

"Americans want to serve. They just don't want to serve under tyranny."

"My father bought me a T t-shirt once that said on it "I am a veteran, like my father and grandfather before me." It was very common when I was in that some one's father had been to Vietnam and their grandfather WW2. In other words, we had a military lineage, many of us stretching back far beyond WW2. It is a matter of family pride that we stood and defended this nation, we were the ones who protected our people, we were the ones who would do the things many could not or would not do. **We did not do it for medals, or glamor, or even a simple thank you. We did it because it was our duty.** When I was a wee lad if someone would ask what I wanted to be when I grew up my answer was a soldier. It was not called that then but I got out because of "woke". It started before Clinton but it was his "don't ask, don't tell" that really put it into high gear. Drag shows are just

a symptom of the problem. The problem is a lowering of the standard. My reason for getting out was that as a white male I would have never made it past the rank of E-7. If I made it that high. The focus became public perception and not the ability to break things and kill the enemy. The face of the military has gone from Audie Murphy to now Rachel Levine. And with what our military has become many of us would never suggest to our sons or grandsons that they join now. And when the majority of those who serve and fight come from families that did, and those families quit sending their sons to serve and fight, you are going to have a tough time filling the ranks."

"The last ten years or so have been extremely difficult and in command jobs things are even more difficult. DIE meetings are mandatory and making space and time for Muslim airmen to pray to Mecca became a priority. I've avoided alphabet morale 5K runs and I've gritted my teeth through diversity seminars. I plan to retire in March 2024 and I'm already counting the days."

"Confidence, hell, I can't even understand or relate with them anymore, and I retired from it. **They tossed every custom and tradition out the door along with most of their sanity and morality.** Most of its a hollow force, or farce, full on dog and pony show, sad part is they don't even seem to know it."

"I'm a retired twenty year vet and although I had a great career I couldn't, and wouldn't, recommend anyone going into the military in this day and age."

"Someday we're going to look back on this time and be absolutely appalled how unbelievably ignorant/woke some people were. This is why military recruiting and even Academy entrance interest is way down, average people can't countenance this mindset. I'm from an Air Force family, we all served in the USAF and this appalls me."

"I too am from an Air Force/military family, generations deep. Only one cousin's son from the next generation. And I told my only son no way are you dying for this regime."

“Air Force veteran...1976-1982.....Never once did I witness, hear or learn of any racial discrimination. How has it gotten worse, according to military leaders, over the years? Maybe because they “look” for and “teach” people to be victims.”

“As a retired Army officer (serving both enlisted and officer ranks) I was always supportive and proud to serve. After leaving the service I taught high school students at a technical school for 25 years. I always discussed the many career opportunities the students had, and the military was always one discussed in detail (the Pros and Cons), separating truth from the Left’s deception and lies regarding the military.

However, **I can no longer recommend the military to any young person today, including any of my 20 grandchildren. The Left-wing, America-hating, Socialists have infiltrated America’s once proud military with their perverted, destructive insanity.** Void of all common sense, the top brass are self-serving, egotistical cowards, who put their careers and elitist status far ahead of Duty, Honor and Country. These ideologue’s best day wouldn’t equal the worst day of a deadbeat private briefly serving under Gen George S. Patton. Most of today’s top brass are gutless cowards and political pawns (butt lickens) of the corrupt and evil Left-wing zealots. Tragic indeed. Where have America’s true, America-loving, patriotic military leaders gone???”

“As a 20 year retired veteran **I take exception to everything this present administration is doing to destroy and degrade every man and woman that has ever served this nation in time of war or peace.** We do not have a woke military, we have military leaders who need to resign or be court-martialed. Why anyone would even consider such a thing is mind boggling, it will absolutely destroy the effectiveness of all our military, who would want to serve knowing they would be branded as a deviate, as the whole woke thing implies. We don’t need woke, we need to wake up and realize that this is leading us into a place where if forced to defend this country from attack, we won’t have anyone willing to say as they have in the past, “Here am I send me” it will be, “Hell no, I won’t go!”

“As a 26+ year US Navy Retiree, I am disgusted by what I see in our military in today’s world. I live near and access a Naval installation regularly and my blood pressure goes through the roof every time I do.”

“I am a retired military officer. At one time, I recommended military service for the young folks I thought were worthy of the title of “soldier”. Now, I discourage all young folks from even thinking about joining the WOKE military. The military is no longer an organization that deserves the cream of our youth.”

“As a retired military veteran, it breaks my heart to see what is happening to today’s military.”

“From what I understand (have a son in military), the “boots on the ground”, so far, anyway, ignore all this woke crap and carry on. Of course, that may not be true as one attempts to advance (son is younger, and “just” a Lt at this time)”

“As a retired Navy Captain, having served 37 years in a U.S. Navy which was not at all similar to this nonsensical charade imitating our U.S. Military, I will first say how relieved I am having retired before all of this came about. Yet, I am very concerned as to what our military has become, and fearful for all of us as to whom we now have as defenders of our nation and supposedly protecting our country’s allies (whom appear to be slinking away one-by-one). I would not, will not, cannot propose military service as an option for young people today. It is sad and certainly makes me wonder where these so-called senior officers now in positions to lead our military services... where in the heck they came from. I never would have realized such ilk wore the uniform of a Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Marine. These folks must’ve been hiding in the ranks until signaled to step forward, and evidently, they did indeed saunter forth and are now in charge. God, help us.”

“Here is the issue with the military. I’m 58 and served in the navy in the late 80’s. I would go back in a heartbeat. Problem is that the navy has become so PC and did away with all its traditions. If I got onto a ship I would probably be sent to Captains Mast within the first hour for hurting someone’s feelings and making them cry. Like a friend of mine who retired from the navy reserve last year. It’s a kinder, gentler navy. Not the navy we knew back it the day.”

“Yeah, no way would I go back into the military under this “woke” regime... until the military gets back to the basic job function of fighting and winning wars, I’m not interested...”

"I'm glad I'm retired, I'm glad I'm done. I could not, would not, & DO NOT want any of my (3) serving with the current animation in DC!"

"As a third-generation Army retiree, I should be encouraging young people to serve but there is no way in hell I can do that with any sincerity. On the other hand I can honestly encourage young people to not serve."

"After 21 years in the US Army, I speak with some experience; there is very little racism between soldiers. You simply cannot live, train, sleep, deploy and suffer with other soldiers and still harbor racist sentiments; unless... those individuals attained their position/rank as the result of "institutionalized racism", e.g. racial quotas and reduced performance qualifications. I have had many subordinates, peers and leaders who have earned my respect for their conduct. That said, I will also point out that "institutionalized racism" exists when racial preference is used regarding promotions, assignments and access to schools. **I was twice passed over for E7 due to "diversity quotas", once for a hispanic male and once for a black female when I was clearly, quantitatively, grossly more qualified.** Additionally, as a master instructor for several years I can point out that consistently over 80% of poor performing/remedial students and failures were african american specifically (a testament to the failure of the public school system). **Racial quotas foster lesser skill sets and weaker leadership and serve to demoralize the ranks and have no place in today's military."**

"The Washington Post stated, "For the academies, which educate and train future military officers, racial diversity is a crucial matter. Military leaders want to ensure, as much as possible, that officers reflect the diversity of the nation and enlisted forces." What does the WAPO know about being a military leader? Diversity is not nor should it be a criteria to selection to a service academy. We used to use a phrase which describes military service well..."There are no black, brown, white, or other ethnicities in the Naval service (Navy and Marine Corps)... there are only blue sailors and green Marines! *That blind eye toward an individual sailor or marine's ethnicity is what helps to make a cohesive fighting force where we fight alongside our brothers (and now sisters) regardless of the backgrounds they came from.* Once they swear the Oath and put on our nation's uniform...they become part of OUR TEAM...period!!! Admission to service acad-

emies should be based solely and completely on merit. At the Naval Academy we used to call it, "the whole man (now add woman) multiple" where each candidate received points for each part of their preparation...i.e. academics, athletics, community service, work, etc."

"Retired USN O-5, would not serve today, told my sons to skip the military."

"Wife and I are retired Air Force E-9 and E-7. Unfortunately, we would do the same if our sons were still young enough to serve. The article is about public confidence rather than recruiting goals, but the underlying root cause is the same for both. **The military is no longer focused on defense.**"

"I cannot in good conscience recommend the same path that I took for others, at least not at this time. While you will still learn discipline and teamwork which will serve you well for life, this is quite simply not the same military that it used to be. If you have the inclination to serve your country and protect our way of life, there are other ways for you to do that (and I don't mean police either unless you can find the right police department and political environment)."

"Don't do it. I'm a 20 yr vet and I never thought I would be saying that. I've always encouraged military service. Not anymore."

"My family has served in every generation since we came to the US. For the one side of my family that goes from the revolution to now and for the other side it started just after the civil war. **Not a single one of my cousin's children or mine will be serving so they will be the first generation of our family not to serve.** Until there are some radical shifts in policy I do not see that any branch of our family will be serving, which is a shame because it was once an honorable way of giving back to a country that has given us so much."

"I admit up front that I did not serve in our military. That said, there is one and only one way to restore trust in our armed forces. Clean out the 'woke' socialist poison injected into our military by the vicious voluntarily brain dead left wing. Eradicate deadly false concepts such as DEI, 'racism', etc. and replace them with unflinching dedication to the concepts of patriotism and excellence in performing one's job. **Those who rise through the ranks not because of their competence but because they are a certain gender or race or have a certain sexual preference are ticking bombs waiting to**

go off when the fighting starts and they will get somebody, perhaps many people, military and civilians alike, killed. The unease which those who have a genuine American attitude, respect for freedom and individual rights and their defense, feel for our armed forces is soundly based on the fact of the malevolent nonsense being poured into our military thinking by the left wing. The only cure is absolute rejection of that nonsense.”

“Eight grandchildren, six are grandsons. Advising to NOT join military or accept commissions. Retired Marine and followed uncles into Corp!

“Let’s see:

- Woke, and CRT is telling white recruits they are responsible for all ills for all time
- You get wounded and have to rely on VA medical centers for your treatment, assuming you can find an appointment with one
- You can get tossed out for refusing to take an injection of a substance whose long term side effects have not been studied and whose short term side effects are particularly pronounced in your age group
- You get to fight in places and for “causes” that are in no way the business of the US and are, in fact, a poorly paid mercenary
- You’re fighting to supposedly defend a country that has a policy of not defending its own borders, so why bother
- You’re fighting for a political system that actually hates you
- You have to take orders from a person (C/JCS) that has, arguably, committed treason and another person (Biden) that has also, arguably, committed both treason and embezzlement

What’s not to like?”

“Why nobody wants to join the military. Grab a coffee. Recruitment numbers are way down. Sign on bonuses are at an all-time high. The Government has no problem recklessly spending money on the military, so what’s the problem? I’ll tell you. (Veteran of Iraq wars):

1. No faith in the administrative state. Come on... Is this one really so hard to figure out. Most

combat arms troops generally come from right-wing or conservative backgrounds. You’ve been spending the last 4-6 years dragging police and military through the mud, most conservative.

2. You’ve got a weaponized DOJ, ATF, FBI, CIA, and God knows what else. It’s no mystery that they are being specifically used to target Conservatives. Do you really expect a rural Conservative to join a combat arms MOS when you’re telling them they are terrorists and extremists?
3. A woke military. I can’t believe this one even needs to be mentioned, but isn’t it obvious? Like it or not, the military is an environment of alphas who are being trained to kill human beings. The political token of the woke culture has no place in military ranks.
4. War is a deadly environment, and soldiers need to be focused on their job, not on your made up Marxist bullcrap. Don’t even mention soldiers being kicked out over the coof poke. Get out of here with that cowardly BS.
5. 20 years of lies will make you wise. Some of us have been there and bought the T-shirt. You know that the Government is willing to lie to get their way. They don’t care who they hurt, or who dies. As long as those military industrial complex checks are wet, they are good.
6. To make it even worse, we know Dick Cheney lied about WMDs. He lives a comfortable life outside of a prison cell while our troops live on the streets. Experience is the greatest teacher, so obviously why would a young person with half a brain sign up for that?
7. The people who are currently serving are treated like 2nd rate citizens. I mean...would you join the military if you knew the answer to inflation was to “go get on food stamps”. That’s not a very comforting prospect, is it?
8. Also, knowing you’re going to be subjected to woke critical race theory, inclusiveness, and not telling what leftist politically driven “training” is enough to make anyone run the other way.
9. You’re not worth dying for. Think about it. Society has spent the last 4-6 years telling us how bad America is, how bad military and law enforcement members are, and how unfair life

is in our Country. We've been told our masculinity is toxic and that we are racists.

10. Society is sitting on their butts and have zero work ethic, and there's a lot of great jobs out there that pay better than the military and don't subject you to loss of life and limb over half of society wanting you dead because of who you are and your political identity.
11. They don't want to fight Americans. Yep...I said it. The writing is on the wall. Many areas are already starting to peacefully Balkanize, if only in the logistical sense of banking, goods, and services. It's happening Geographically, too. Look at the mass exodus from CA.
12. Depression in our youth is at an all-time high. They feel defeated and downtrodden. They feel like society doesn't support them. All they have is their family and friends for support. They aren't dumb, either. Gen Zs are very well educated. They see the turmoil our Gov is causing.
13. The God honest truth is that Gen Z is more afraid of our own Government than anyone else in the World. Why should they wear your uniform when you support disarming us? Why in the world would they risk their lives for you?
14. Troops from the last 20 years of war are parents now. What do think we are telling our kids? LOL. You're INSANE if you think we are recommending our kids sign up for your endless wars.
15. We are tired of endless wars. I don't think Gen Z is comprised of cowards. I think they are smart enough to realize what they are signing up for. They would rather take their chances with the thousands of GWOT veterans in the streets of America if we are invaded.
16. Invasion is the only way you'll get a lot of them to be willing to take up arms. In which case, they will have 1,000s of capable GWOT vets to help them survive. Don't worry, we will find equipment. While y'all are playing drag, we will defend the Country.

"Very comprehensive and well stated case for the current state of why military recruitment is in the dumpster. As someone who made military service a career, I'm ashamed to say that I firmly believe the senior military

leadership cannot be trusted. There's no place for woke in war."

"As a current service member, I can wholeheartedly agree with all of the points made on this post, and it's such a tragedy to see what our military has become. It's only going to get worse from here, ladies and gentlemen."

"Excellent thread! I did serve, but now I don't encourage any young person to join."

"Yep. This is accurate. I know when I got out Dec 2020 there was a mass exodus at our unit. Large segments of enlisted E4-E6 were bailing, me included."

"Well said all around. I was 10 when we invaded Iraq. The lies were glaringly obvious. My family knew. Sometimes I regret not joining, but mostly I don't. **I'm the first person in my family line since the American Revolution not to serve. I'm not dying for THIS.**"

"Exactly why I didn't reenlist, just wasn't worth it anymore. I wanted to stay but my last straw was the vax."

"Good thread! When our son was in high school, we talked about it for as long as it took my husband, who's now retired Air Force, to say no. Hell no. Not sure he would've considered it anyway, he saw the gov't for what it was long before I did. Smart kid, he tried to tell me for years."

"If you've spoken to a recruiter lately, they'll tell you. It's the mandatory shot more than anything."

"You nailed every point. As one with over 30 years of active duty and civil service I can attest to what you're saying is right. It's disgusting."

"This is 100% accurate. My husband is ret'd Army. Our eldest was offered an ROTC scholarship, full ride. This was 20 yrs ago, but we had already seen the writing on the wall. Promotion went uber political, yes-men over those w/actual tactical abilities. My son turned it down."

RE: SecArmy says woke criticism hurt recruitment:

"No ma'am, criticisms of the woke military are not hurting recruiting. **It is the woke military that is hurting recruiting.** All this diversity and inclusion is what's making people not want to serve and needs to stop. The Army I came up in was a legitimate Army. 1995-2015"

“Who is defending the women who don’t want to be assaulted in the shower by biological men? I think that might be undermining recruiting. I ask every potential female recruit: do you want to shower with men who claim to be women? That’s not the Army they want to join.”

Marine: “Perhaps it’s not the criticism that is affecting the recruiting and retention but the actual example of wokeness that current and former soldiers pass to their family and friends causing you to lose support in one of the primary sources for manpower?”

Veteran: “In this current political climate at the DoD, I would never recommend my child join the military. I am a veteran and I warn them against it now.”

USAF: “I served 20 years and my 3 sons will never join the Military. I will disown them and exclude them from my Will if they do.”

“Blaming the weatherman for the bad weather.”

More comments: <https://starrs.us/top-army-official-blames-anti-woke-rhetoric-of-right-for-severe-recruiting-crisis/>

“I too served and retired from the military in 2003. I then went back to civil service in a HQ billet in special operations command and was unfortunate to have a front row seat to the destruction that was brought to bear against the once proud DOD.

I voluntarily took a deferred retirement and left as the absolute insane policies were being dictated down from the pentagon, and the yes men in the HQ’s were implementing them as fast as they could.

“There was a purge of anyone in leadership positions who offered an ounce of resistance. Those that were not fired, quit in disgust.

There was also a purge of warriors from our ranks. Anyone who had the testosterone and warrior mindset that it takes to brutally destroy the enemy’s will to fight were court-martialed for sexual harassment for the smallest perceived infraction or forced into indoctrination training. Those left are mealy-mouthed metrosexuals who need mental health counseling as the sight of a confederate flag. Many are not manly enough to face the horrors of war, much less being captured and tortured by our enemy.

If someone had as their sole purpose the destruction

of our ability to wage war against our enemies, they could not have been more successful than the Obama administration. I will leave the conclusions to the readers.”

“Preach! Both my wife and I are retired Army officers who advised our kid not to go into the Army. She is a serving Navy officer and based on her accounts it is as f’d up too. The bureaucrats in the Pentagon have an agenda that is at odds with the national interest.”

“Spoke to a cousin of mine who still lives in the midwest where we grew up. Almost everyone we knew had family in the military. I asked him how many guys from his son’s HS were enlisting and he said its not like when we were in HS and could only think of one. It ain’t happening.”

“My son is currently serving. Enlisted with a different president. I forbade my kids to join the Marines. I was the last generation in my family since WWII to serve in the Marines. I still love the Corps, but I don’t trust our government to value Marines lives.”

“My family has served this country going all the way back to Valley Forge. I will be the last to serve if I have any say-so.”

“Retired as a promotable O-4 in 2017. Hated to go but could see the writing on the wall. Cannot imagine trying to serve in the current environment of a corrupted culture.”

“As a gwot veteran, I also look at it this way - I’ve been told as I attended college post that most of our problems were straight white males. Fair enough. Until the ranks are filled with gays, poc and women I care not having another single white male defend anything.”

“The talented military folks are like the shop owners we see on the videos—just watching shit get stolen knowing if they step in they will get punished.”

“My daughter was thinking of joining the service. I wanted to make her aware that her leaders and the government would throw her under the bus in a heartbeat to make themselves look good in a bad situation. Also wanted to make her aware that in she were injured in the line of duty, the government would fail her. She decided to going into the medical field instead. She doesn’t have to rely on the government for anything.”

“I served a lot of years ago with pride and distinction.. you couldn’t pay me enough to join this new military.”

“You don’t know the flood of talent that is getting the hell out as soon as their hitches are up!”

Re Academic saying woke in military is overblown:

“Feaver supports the woke agenda in the military and left out the most important point. The largest number of recruits are children of former military personnel not left leaning ideologues. Almost all former military personnel are completely against the woke policies in the military and are telling their children to not join the current military. **28 years in the Air Force and I would never tell anyone to join the current military.**”

“These claims are NOT overblown. Sadly, we do have a woke military, sans the few American-loving conservatives who went into the military before Obama got his hands on it. From that point, it all went downhill. You must understand the mindset of the majority of those who choose to go into the military in the past. For the most part, they love their country and are very proud to serve. Many of them come from families with a very long lineage of military members. But once “wokeness” was thrust upon our military members, the conservatives became disgruntled and literally served through the time frame they had agreed to. Now, those going in are mostly made up of people who can’t get a job, want to get a free education, and see the world. Honestly, I don’t want a bunch of woke snowflakes leading the way in our military. Bring back REAL men, and wise women.”

“You mean telling the truth are making things worse.”

“My oldest daughter was in ROTC in high school, and now in college, she hasn’t graduated yet. A year away from graduating, she has decided not to go into military service. Many of her ROTC friends are serving already and are complaining about the Woke agenda classes they have to endure.”

“Missing the point. Those who are in that smaller pool tend to be more conservative and turned off by the “woke” policies. **They need to pull their heads out and realize it is not the far left that joins the military, it is center left and right. People who do not want to be told they are oppressors or victims.**”

“Do people really think that the leadership in the military are going to admit that their actions are the reasons enlistment is down. **I know people with 14, 15 years in who are getting out “just” because of “woke” practic-**

es. There is no “pride” in their branch of the military, no pride in service. When I was in we were proud of our branch, unit or ship. Today I see the military reaching out to people who could not have served with us and at the same time neglecting people who are perfectly capable of serving.”

“Don’t believe this for a second. Heard from too many recent “lifers” that abandoned the military because of the current liberal policies.”

“Back when I was in the Navy, personnel weren’t coddled as they are now. My son just completed 20 years in the Marines, retiring as a staff sgt and he said woke policies were beginning to affect that branch as well when he retired a couple years back. **When the Pentagon says woke hasn’t invaded the military, it’s lying.** I’d advise anyone considering the military, don’t! It’s not what it used to be.”

“Please don’t call this person an expert. He is in his ivory tower looking down saying “all is good, nothing to see here.” You want the truth? Go to the service members and their families, boots on the ground. I served. This so called “expert” is clueless and out of touch.”

“My son is in year 6 of service he says it’s wokeness killing the military.”

“I am a military retiree, my father was a military retiree, my son served in the military, both of my daughters are married to veterans and two of my grandchildren are veterans. My family has been involved in every major military conflict since WWII. **One thing we all agree upon, no one will recommend military service to anyone until our country cleans out the current political and military leadership and loyal Americans are once again running our nation.** We have total incompetence at the top and if nothing changes our country will fall to China.”

“Not surprising that there would be a study to debunk the impact that Woke is having on the military. I work with people in the military and Woke is having a negative impact. Not just on them, but their children as well, who are not being encouraged to follow in the parent’s steps.”

“Let’s pose it another way. Does Feaver think that for example the drag queens on submarines attracts more recruits than it repels? Other factors aside, is there a net

gain or loss to the branches as a result of DEI implementation?”

“Another scholar trying to explain to the masses what is wrong with our military. And like many others, he is not a former military personnel, which means he truly has no inclination as to why recruiting numbers are down. He is right that the individuals eligible are lazy, obese, and couldn't meet the standards, but that is what the military has changed, they are now extremely diverse and will not discriminate against those things. The real reason the recruitment numbers are down is because of two things, children are taught everything but national pride in school and they don't want to be housed or trained with those who claim to be transgender. Females do not want to shower with a biological male, males do not want a female within their barracks rooms/showers, and they are tired of being force fed the BS the LGBTQ community is requiring in military training. Scholars who have never served know absolutely nothing about the military, nor does politicians and their literature pieces should be used for nothing other than kindling to build a fire.”

“Sounds like he is an expert.....at being wrong. I served and can tell you woke policies ARE a huge factor.”

“The obesity and all the health issues happened, just since Biden's been President? Nothing to do with the timing of the woke policies that you guys forced on our military being the same? obvious who payed for your take on this!”

“Most young men and women who volunteer to serve in our armed forces are not radical lefties. While there are many reasons why people make the decision to be an officer or enlist, like love of country, a family tradition, a sense of duty, the thrill of adventure, limited job opportunities in their hometown, etc... you can bet that the radical left's woke ideology is not one of the top reasons. In fact, **most of the active duty guys that I've spoken with feel that the woke ideology is being shoved down their throats. The woke ideology not only drives people off of active duty, but it also acts as a deterrent to future generations choosing to serve.**”

“I was in from '84 to '04 & I used to actively encourage kids to go into the military. Not today. Now I actively discourage it.”

“The so-called experts need to look at ALL of the recruiting problems. Woke policies, failure to award

medals for those earned, failure to promote despite high scores on exams, punishing MEN for being able to do their jobs well but being too heavy yet women have different standards (not on paper but in reality they do), a culture in at least one branch of ignoring problems instead of addressing them. I spent 30 years in the military and encountered all of these. WHY would anyone want to work in a place with these sorts of things going on? And no one in the military listens and so none of these problems get addressed. Then the military wonders why it has recruiting problems.”

“I served for 34 years from 1987 to 2021. I would not enlist now and don't encourage anyone to enlist because of the woke policies and training you're forced to attend!”

“Enlisted in the U.S.M.C. in 1964, saw too many John Wayne movies, and to this day still believe in this country. Back then, the U.S. military still had a sense of pride in itself. Now we have the general's who let a POTUS, and his administration make our military look like complete idiot's, and no one to be feared, or respected! Had one administration clown that was a former Admiral in the most powerful navy in the world actually say “I didn't see any chaos from my perch” in a public news broadcast after video's of Afghani's were shown hanging off of military planes evacuating said country! General's have become nothing more than politicians in uniforms, and a real military man, or woman would've resigned rather than let this administration stain the honor of their men, and women as they did in Afghanistan!”

“I proudly served, but I advise youth today not to do it because of the misuse of power. i.e. the woke requirements, forced vaccinations, etc.”

“We're a generational military family. Our boys were not encouraged to join. It's so disappointing, but what straight, white male would want to join a racist, woke organization like the US military? There is no successful career path for them while racist, DEI policies dictate the governments' values.”

“I volunteered... served, active duty, '62-'66. No way I'd serve under the current “woke” leadership. Use the wrong pronoun, and end up with an Article 15 (or whatever the current equivalent). I use to advise young fellows to enlist, and even consider the military as a career... no more. No way, no how...!”

“When I served I entered boot camp in 1985 and the Drill instructors let me know how lucky I was they couldn’t physically punish the new recruits anymore but they made up for it by training us to the point of exhaustion to where some had to be removed by an ambulance. I was proud of the toughness and I was equally proud of my accomplishments when the drill instructors pushed me to be a candidate for Ranger school. When my son went in seven years ago, I was disappointed, he didn’t get the old barracks without A/C or even the new ones with A/C and 50 guys in a bay, he got some kind of dorm to share with a “battle buddy” who was sensitive and gay, he got time out cards for stress, he didn’t do some of the more dangerous exercises I was proud to accomplish as they had changed. I thank all who serve as it is an honor so few today will willingly commit to but I don’t think we are tough enough for an honor that should require more strength and character than what our society has now settled on. When called upon do defend our freedom, stand against tyranny of other nations or serve the interests of our country, our soldiers must be tough enough to be the few who can do the job.”

“There are potential recruits known for endurance, loyalty, and strength who will not join an organization that can’t decide what its actual goals are. As such, this Administration has disenfranchised the very people who used to be most likely to join and be willing to fight – there are no woke replacements.”

“Sadly respect for the military has been dwindling as the military has basically turned into a political tool. It’s just not the prestige it once was to have children and/or family members serving in the military.”

“I don’t buy that. The friends I have who are veterans are telling their kids not to go into the military. They are disillusioned by how Afghanistan was handled (as in why did they watch friends die, maybe lose a limb themselves) and the woke stuff. I don’t think it’s entirely the job market and fat kids, though they are a factor.”

“Historically the military ranks are filled with conservatives. Sure, you have some liberals mixed in there but let’s face it, the “defend America” and “America First” kinda go hand in hand. So when you have a horrible leftist government like we have now, you have low recruiting.”

“For me, and the families of many of my friends and several neighbors, for their sons, it was obligatory to

join our military before being allowed to study or get involved in their family’s businesses, for the past at least 4 generations. But now, nobody wants their kids to be indoctrinated against the values of our Founding Fathers and our country, let their kids have pervert superiors like men dressing as women, leave them exposed to DEI and other dividing strategies, and in case of war without adequate, well-operating weapons and vehicles, and sufficient ammunition. This makes, for this year alone, 4 non-recruits from this relatively small number of families, and I’m pretty sure, that many other families made their decisions for the same reasons.”

“I concur with some of the analysis as they are contributing factors! Yet, saying “woke” is overblown is a Dem talking point! Most who served or retired were great sales persons to younger generations or their children! That is definitely not the case now! As a retired military person, in the current environment, I don’t recommend the military! Its just the way it is!”

“Wokeness is PRECISELY the problem.”

“I live in a state with about 7% of our population are veterans... If 5 out of 7 of us are telling our kids “don’t do it” — Then there is no way to replace the numbers. Trust me I don’t want my kids learning what pronoun is appropriate when they should be learning a skill – even if that skill is self preservation,”

“As a 20+ year military veteran, trust me – it’s not drug use, obesity or health concerns. Young people don’t want to serve under a president bought and paid for by foreign countries, who can’t tell the truth, and who wants them to support insane woke policies. It really is that simple.”

“22 year vet from the Air Force. Agree totally with your assessment. I honestly can’t recommend the military right now until this woke stuff is gone.”

“I am a Gen Xer. In 2010 the Commandant of the Marine Corps did a base to base speaking tour. The SgtMaj of the Marine Corps made it clear that the USMC was going to Mirror society. December of 2010. Don’t ask, Don’t tell me as lifted. Though we all had our opinions. We all follow the Orders of the POTUS. I left 3 years later. The change may have been good or bad, There are rules and regs while in uniform and Public Displays of affection. All that went to the wayside, leader were afraid to correct because of the possible repercussions that followed for good Marines. I retired 3 years later, when my son was a senior, I made it clear that it was his decision

to serve, but the military have become a social experiment. He chose not to Join and I could not be happier. I loved the USMC, change is inevitable, but there must be good order and discipline.”

“If Feaver is one of the people the military is hiring to figure out what the issue is he is failing miserably. No one wants to join due to all the woke policies.”

“Newsflash: know your target market. Military leaders are playing politics and pandering to woke culture while abandoning their core recruiting population...not too hard to figure out.”

“Veterans as a group are one of the most important recruiters. Almost all my fellow members at my veteran’s organization (the largest in the US) feel the same. You would be hard pressed to find a member who still recommends military service today, that wasn’t the case a couple years ago.”

“I’m retired military 21 yrs. I would not join today’s military with the liberal administration and liberal officers running the military today. would not recommend joining to anyone right now. need to purge liberal influence.”

“Won’t allow my grandson to serve!! The fact that Corps saved my life but this ain’t the Marine Corps or leadership that had!!”

“My family has a long tradition of service and when my grandson began discussing enlisting it really reinforced my concerns about this administration for a number of reasons. Besides incompetence in any number of areas including leadership, national, international, economic, defense, crime and educational policies, this administration appears to be living in a bubble that lacks self awareness and consists of only those with the same extreme views.

This administration doesn’t know its audience, the American people and how disastrously those policies affect everyday Americans. Those who serve generally come from strong family backgrounds with strong values and belief in America. How can this administration support “woke” policies in every corner of American life and expect our best young people to make the sacrifices of serving when their service and sacrifices are not valued?

At schools and universities the teacher’s union and its minions daily bombard our youth with the message that America and all its institutions are bad. That the American family is bad. That race is the overarching bench-

mark through which all things must be viewed and judged. Even the current occupant of the Oval Office openly devalues the American people and Constitution saying he sees “nothing special about America” and openly disregarding the Constitution and courts when those institutions do not match the administration’s political rhetoric.

What message does this send to young people considering military service? While American policy has not always benefited those it intended to help, generally the American military has done far, far more good than any other of the world’s militaries and institutions. Americans serve because they believe they will always be doing good, defeating evil and bringing freedom to others. That is what drives young people to serve, the idea of doing good.”

“Wrong and they know it. The chain of legacy and family has been broken. Vets no longer see it as honorable to tell their children and grandchildren to enter something with policies like they have. **Honor, strength, justice, valor, they don’t seem to be the foundation anymore. the core values have literally been replaced.** The values that families joined generation by generation have been eroded....and yes by wokeness. So once those chains are broken, they will be nearly impossible to put back together. Impossible. My daughter made it to almost going to OCS for the Marines. Then she changed course. So much sticking it out through all the medical holds and information inquires she started to wonder what is she putting her life on the line for with Biden as CIC. She switched and walked away and now says it was the best choice she could have made. some members of our family were sad but they knew it wasn’t the same military they were in. As long as they continue to deny this, the problem will just grow.”

“I first enlisted when Reagan was CINC. I retired when BO was in the white house. When people in leadership believe in our nation, its history & values, recruitment increases. When leaders denigrate our heritage, criticize our history, & claim America is an evil nation, systemic racism is rampant, & we are guilty of many genocides, (as both BO & Brandon have always done) patriotism & national pride wane, & nobody is willing to join the military to defend the nation. When I retired, my retirement certificate was signed by BO, & it has no value to me. Wish I could have waited til President Trump was commander in chief.”

“These people will find any excuse other than the truth to avoid hurting their narrative. People don’t

realize the real damage being done to our military and national security because of woke policies. woke policies that include Men coming to work dressed as women. woke policies that lead to a decline in patriotism and lack of appreciation for the flag and its meaning, kids being taught that the US is a horrible post colonial racist state. This problem will get much worse and watch how the military explains away the truth with further lies and manipulation. As countries are preparing for conflicts, the US is preparing for continued fights on how to define a woman.”

“A miles long article just to cloud the obvious.you purged patriots from the military. What did you expect? You avoid recruiting patriots. You force vaxx mandates or else. You make woke cartoon recruiting commercials. You lead with Transvestites in leadership positions. And now you wonder why the military has recruiting issues. C’mon man!”

“The military doesn’t like to be called “woke”. They say it’s hurting their recruiting. Here’s an idea, DON’T BE WOKE! Instead they want to blame others for pointing out the truth. Their lying about not being woke only further adds to reasons not to trust the military.”

“Budweiser and Disney both say their policies have nothing to do with their poor performances either.”

“So having the most insane policies in the world doesn’t stop people from joining, but complaining about the most insane policies does stop people. Some kind of argument.”

“Woke has a lot to do with the decline in recruits. My son works in recruiting and the directives that he gets from up high are a joke!”

“For years, a percentage of recruiting has come from the children of veterans following in their ancestor’s tradition. I don’t think this person is taking into consideration that many of those current veterans are recommending their children NOT serve in the military. It is, without question, a contributor to declining recruiting numbers. I would not recommend my grandchildren serve while the current mindset of the military is not primarily on true readiness.”

“You know, my youngest son and I were both Army officers. He started as a Private and retired after 23 years as a Major. The Army sent him to an Ivy League college

to get his masters degree. He commanded convoys from Kandahar to brigade FOBs and COPs. He ended up in Iraq for a tour as a Federal Contracting Officer. **When I asked him why he was retiring kind of early, he replied “Dad, you wouldn’t want to be in today’s Army”.** Why do you suppose he said that?”

“I think this so called expert is wrong. Military retirees and other veterans are encouraging their kids to stay out of the service. That’s a huge source of recruits. I know that I don’t want my sons to serve under the current conditions. This expert also says that the DEI and other woke training time is low. He’s missing the point. It’s the policies that are implemented that are 24-7-365.”

“Oddly enough I find myself in that group. I never thought I’d be. Three generations of family served in both world wars, the Korean War, the first Gulf War and me in the second go around. Never thought I’d find myself not recommending the military. Watching the current direction the country is taking is not something I’d fight for nor would I’d recommend a son or daughter to do.”

“My extended family is a military family, both my parents were academy. **I would say the woke thing is very much a barrier.** Most of my cousins and I would normally have served have lost interest and looking for other ways to serve the country. I’m looking at law enforcement instead. **Two of my older cousins went in and their DEI training in fact trashes the country as irredeemably racist. One of them was told he is the oppressor of the rest of the family because we're mixed race and he turned out looking whiter. I’m not interested in going in now with that weirdness.”**

“I left the military in 2018 because I couldn’t stand how woke they had become. And it has only become much worse since then!”

“I think “going woke” and the eligible pool of recruits are two factors. I was in the USAF from 1971-75 and recently retired from DOD as a civil servant. Of all the years I spent in public service the last in 2021 was the most distasteful. **Right after Biden was inaugurated we had mandatory training on Racism. And, if you didn’t think you were racist that training was followed by Unconscious Bias, which was immediately followed by Extremism.** To give an idea on the content of the

Extremism module a young person asked if they should report a person with a Trump bumper sticker on their car. The answer Was No because it was a freedom of speech matter.”

“I also recently retired from civil service and went through the same “woke” training. The training is pure BS.”

“I am from a family with martial traditions and currently the eldest who carried that on. One daughter did a full Army career, in & out of the Afghan meatgrinder. I can tell Feaver and the others that they’re missing the boat in terms of woke policies (started during Obama, with high-heels & pregnancy bellies for men in equity appreciation training). In my dinner-table conversations with people of recruitable age (and who are among the few physically fit) the wokeness is ABSOLUTELY a big factor in not wanting to serve. They wish it wasn’t so because they’d like to explore that. But they are not blind. As someone who’d tend to encourage such service, these conversations are tough ones. To discard that aspect is simply dishonest.”

“With all due respect to Peter Feaver: you’re wrong. I’ve talked to many veteran dads out there, several of whom come from families with long lines of military service in their family tree, and they say the current state of thing in the military, particularly the woke policies and woke “leadership,” are why they’re telling their sons and daughters to NOT enlist. It’s a painful decision for many of them, but they feel they have no choice until things change.”

“Both of my daughters and several of their friends won’t join the military because of a combination of the military going woke and the previous vaccine mandates. Even they see that our military has been politicized. But this is what the Biden admin wants. they don’t want conservative or independent thinkers in the military.”

“Retired Navy submarines for twenty years. I actively discouraged my two sons who could serve from serving. **The political/social agendas being pushed into the military by activists are going to get people killed.** The military’s job is to protect the country by fighting and winning wars. Anything that takes away from that is a mistake.”

“Current confidence levels are in line with those of 1988? I was on active duty during that time, and perhaps my bias is showing, but my colleagues and I considered ourselves the Reagan military. A well-funded, well-equipped, high morale killing machine. My memory must be fading. We also had a CIC worth fighting for.”

“Your memory is just fine--that’s the military my husband served in. It’s also the one our son joined--unfortunately, he’s serving in the eggplant’s version, which is why he’s getting out. **Special Forces. Has spent 4x times as much in DEI briefings as range time. After a 100+ continuous years tradition in our family for military service, it’s ending in June.** God help us all.”

“Talk to the ones putting their papers in to get out. They can’t exit fast enough. One guy I know said he no longer thinks that the military cares about the enlisted but is more focused on the social aspects. He said that just did not work for him. He “was” a lifer.”

“My son was a NCO in the Army and there were 3 girls who wanted to be infantry (fight on frontlines) alongside the men like my son. Well once they arrived all 3 ended up pregnant!!! Now in the infantry you “shouldn’t” get pregnant but since they were they either get out with honorable discharge or stay in and you get a year off! All 3 were the first group to come out and join the infantry. That’s when my son had enough, oh yes and the instance when a trans person went crazy in the barracks and said he was Biden’s niece and demanded to speak with him. How can real men serve when this crap is allowed in the military ???”

“The type of individual that will jump out of a perfectly good airplane, or swim from a not-sinking boat to shore in the middle of the night, is not the type of person that will enjoy endless Power-Point presentations on pronouns and diversity. Naval Special Warfare Veteran, 2006-2015. I left an E6, filled with frustration and low morale.”

“I have said I will strongly urge all of my Five children to NOT join the WOKE military. Every member of my immediate family are veterans. But this is NOT the same America i grew up in. I dont even like it now.”

“As a former Ranger, I’ve been saying this for a couple years now, as I still have friends in service say that the military is becoming a bunch a cream puffs and strong

young men and women don't want to join due to how the military is ran now and look who the commander and chief is, they dont want sac of Aholes in charge of them."

"My husband and I are both army vets and we are so livid about what has happened to our military. They care more about your feelings now and what gender you are than training people to go and protect our country. I wouldn't be able to trust someone to have my 6 that doesn't know what gender they were born as. It's bs and it needs to be shut down."

"I was going to join . Then the trans recruitment video came out. and was like nope that's not what the military is meant to be."

"My children are 5th generation military. Family members in every branch. My oldest son is a veteran Army Ranger. My second son is a STAFF SGT in the Marine Corp. My uncle fought and died for our country during the Vietnam War. This isn't the America my Uncle died for. This isn't the America my sons risked, and one continues to, their lives for."

"Targeting wrong demographics who aren't fighters, and those who would be good won't serve under a weak CINC who doesn't have the nation's interests at heart. Until this administration is gone, recruiting won't improve."

"I'm a veteran and I'm telling my boys not to join this military. Did you see how they conducted themselves in Afghanistan surrender. **I don't want them in a fox hole with a command that cares more about identity politics than the mission.** Don't give me some BS response that being inclusive is the mission. That isn't the enemies mission."

"As a vet from the U.S. Navy and I proudly served in the 80' right out of High School. Now there is no way I would want to serve in any branch of the service little alone tell anyone it is the greatest privilege to serve in the U.S. What do these IDIOT politicians think is going to happen when they are ALLOWING some guy who decides to put on a dress and say call themselves female. There is NO WAY these people are going to be able to protect a fly on the wall little alone be in a possession where they are supposed to protect the U.S. The U.S. as a whole is being completely destroyed, and when there is no one left to protect the U.S.!!! To think about what society is fixing to come to is just not something

that I would ever think would happen in my lifetime, little alone the lifetime of my grandchildren. To think about all those who have died to protect what we have in the U.S., to now only seeing it all being destroyed. Just thinking about what took hundreds of years to build, has all been destroyed and turned inside out in just the last couple of years under the biden administration."

"I wonder if any of the DOD leaders ever talk about the concept of "protect and defend the United States"? Seems like that is secondary to all of the CRT, DEI, Transgender, and other left-wing philosophies that they continue to focus on these days. It is very sad for our country, it is very dangerous for our country, and it surely limits their recruiting efforts nationwide. I would suspect that the retention of the soldiers, sailors, and marines is at the lowest point ever. I would think that there is significant lack of respect for the DOD by many members of the military. With this scenario, how do our allies trust our defense capabilities?"

"Eight grandchildren, six are grandsons. Advising to NOT join military or accept commissions. Retired Marine and followed uncles into Corp!"

"Incredible!! As the son of a career Army officer, I'm ashamed of those in command that support this "woke" foolishness. They are traitors to our country and are nothing but political hacks intent of bringing our country to its knees. I applaud the Navy Seal who spoke out against the use of "proper" pronouns. What a load of BS! Our military is not well served today and is increasingly weakened by Democrat leadership, if you can call it that. I cannot! God bless those of our troops that stand and fight to uphold our long held traditions in this country, and not those idiotic ideas they're being asked to buy into today. It's time for a major house cleaning, top to bottom, including a court martial of "general" Milley, with a demotion to buck private and a loss of all military retirement benefits!"

"Every one of these examples turns my stomach!! I am a staunch military supporter, my Dad was in the military, my uncle was a Naval officer who served until he passed away and my brother, a West Point graduate, also spent his whole career serving this country. **It brings tears to my eyes seeing this willful and deliberate destruction of our military.** And make no mistake about it, this IS all done knowingly, in order to decimate our military, which was once the Gold Standard, far above any other."

“I proudly served my country as a Navy Seabee, now I am embarrassed by what they are becoming. The military had strict rules for a reason, how tough are we going to be if, God forbid, we end up in World War III.”

“The ten examples in the article can also be considered 10 reasons why the military has trouble meeting its recruiting goals. The military should stop with the woke claptrap and stick to protecting our national security and fighting our wars.”

“Washington, Grant, Lee, Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley, and MacArthur are all rolling over in their graves. They ask, ‘What happened to our military?’ What happened to duty, honor, and country? I served for 39 years, 35 of them on active duty.”

“I have said it many times throughout my career. The military is not and cannot become a social experiment for the elite politicians and American oligarchs. This has been going on for many decades but has significantly increased within the past few years. There is a direct correlation to this type of wokeism and failure to meet recruitment goals. Sickeningly, this is by design.”

“That is why I stopped my annual alumnus contribution to USAFA. I figured that when I attended, there was barely enough time to learn the basic skills needed to be a good military leader. What have they dropped to make room for these divisive lessons?”

“Ditto my USNA...”

“I walked past George Patton’s statue in front of the library at West Point the other day and I swear I saw tears forming in his eyes. I don’t expect the academies will ever again produce a great military leader and I guess that’s exactly what the Left wants.”

“Curriculum on DEI doesn’t belong anywhere but especially not at our Military Academies.”

“It wasn’t long ago a graduating cadet at West Point had a Che’ shirt on under his uniform. He is the one who showed it but there are many more like that that have infiltrated the service academies. Communism is alive and well.”

“Far and away, the vast majority of military members are masculine, conservative men. The last bastion for the woke left to attack and destroy. Masculine men are a threat to this country as the left sees it. Masculine men are the only ones that will defend this country from attack. I guarantee you Dylan Bud light and his ilk will not stand up for this country should it come under attack.”

“DEI is why there is a manpower shortage. Many people have no desire to live in a mandatory woke dictatorship.”

“This cadet and any others who openly share these views should be immediately dismissed from all of the service academies. They should realize they have one purpose - to train to defend this country. Anything else is irrelevant.”

“The fall of our military. No wonder recruiting is all time low.”

“The military academy, funded by the US taxpayers, provides our country with the future leaders of our military. If we continue the debasing, and left wing radicalization of the academies, we will all be speaking Chinese in 20 years.”

“The rot runs deep.”

“DEI has no place in military, period. Military is for training and to defend the USA.”

“This is why military can’t recruit.”

“With two sons currently in our Air Force that are seeing the firsthand destruction of morale due to DEI, this is a bad move for America.”

“My son is airborne infantry and said the new recruits they are letting through are a disaster and going to get their squad members killed. He wanted to re-up but is getting out when his term ends in December. He said it’s a disaster.”

“...He was a Gunny at Parris Island. Multiple combat tours, PH, Bronze Star. I couldn’t be prouder if he were my own son. But if he asked my advice today, I’d tell him to stay as far away as he could—the military is no longer in the service of honor.”

“Have a relative in the service. **He is a stellar human being, but has had enough of the woke BS and is getting out.** One more great warrior leaving the military so some worthless female can take the spot. Pray we don’t have war, we are not ready.”

“The Academies need to be closed. They serve no legitimate purpose that cannot be served via ROTC and OCS. They are too cloistered to understand the nation or populace they serve. They are hives of wokeness and insular officers not subject to reality. – Cadet, USAFA, Class of ‘76”

“So sad, this is why I cut ties with my service academy alma mater and won’t support them with 1 cent of my money. God help us if we have to fight another war. Our leaders and soldiers will pay dearly for their lack of toughness and training.”

“I graduated from the Naval Academy in 1979. I used to visit every now and then, attend class reunions, rowing reunions. I stopped going back in 2019. It is NOT the same place in that they stopped training midshipmen morally, mentally, and physically several years ago. And, since I’m in the last all male class, I am NOT welcome (unless I can give them a big donation, of course).”

“I served 22 yrs & live on a military post. The military is unrecognizable. When you start telling people they are evil because of skin color & force them to listen to briefs on it. They will no longer want to serve.”

“Trust in the military is strong? Until recently, I never questioned the military. I thought it was immune from the forces that have corrupted our political system. I have been proven wrong. The left destroys everything and that includes our military. It’s one thing to recognize that a corrupt government will misuse our military, as it often has, but that doesn’t compromise the honor of our military. What has happened to our military today is very different. There is no honor in our military leadership. They are political hacks who have turned our military into state police who serve DC elites against the people rather than serve and protect the people. I have zero trust in our military today.”

“Very few good, normal people are going to join the military knowing they will be force-fed a constant load of perverse garbage and that their chances for advancement will suffer if they don’t play along with the perverts. Liberals ruin everything they touch.”

“Anyone who thinks Trust in the military is “Very Very” Strong has not sat down at the local VFW hall and had

a beer with vets lately. I myself spent over 22 years in the Army, Went to war and spent 51 months in active combat zones. I come from a long line of Veterans from every service. So I am a Very strong supporter of the military. That being said I think our current military is Weak and I am afraid that if we go to war with a strong foe we could have our butts handed to us. The problem is our current leadership that is more worried about Being woke then they are about winning wars. Then we have a commander in chief who has spent decades in bed with our enemies. **I am not alone in thinking this way. In fact most vets I know think exactly like I do.** And if people think the military is so strong then please tell me why we are struggling to recruit young people to join up? The government is offering huge benefits and brought down the standards of who can join and still can’t get enough recruits. I told my own kids to do something else with their life. Though I loved being in the military and made a good life at it I did not encourage my own children to join. I could see the direction the military was headed and it saddened me. **Vets used to talk up military service and we were one of the military greatest recruiting tool and now most the vets I know are telling young people to do something else with their life.”**

“Trust in the military? Hmmm...as a veteran having serviced 30-years I do not trust the military as they are now protectors not of the state but, of the politicians. They do not hold to their oaths of office or enlistment oaths. I advise young people not to join.”

“The generational military families no longer encourage their sons to enlist in this clown show.”

“Sending a child into the military was always a risk, but parents did it in hopes the child would grow up, learn something valuable, and get some life experience. **Nowadays, who wants to send a child into an organization that is more about radical indoctrination than it is about national defense?** About expanding one’s sexual horizons and tolerance of deviance than about war fighting? **When the parent veterans no longer support the military and do not encourage their kids to join, the nation has a big, big, problem.** The most dependable pool of recruits has always been the children and siblings of veterans. My family has a long history of military service, from WWII, to Vietnam, to Desert Storm, to GWOT. I retired after 20. I would not encourage my

children to join today. Think about that, Millie, Biden and company. You have lost the veteran parents... and it is your fault. It is going to take a huge effort to regain the trust of this important population; this group of political activists is not the group that will do that."

"I proudly served four years in the Army back in the 80's. If anyone asked my opinion about joining the current military, I would STRONGLY discourage them from doing so. The current military is not the same one I was a part of. Duty, honor, country are a thing of the past. Diversity, equality and inclusion are the new buzzwords. Because of it, we are a much weaker nation today."

"If trust has dropped 20 points, then it's not 'still very, very strong'. Stop constantly lying to us. We're sick of it."

"If the military was trusted, there would be plenty of recruits. We all saw what you did to the Marine who spoke up after the disastrous Afghanistan withdrawal. We see you pushing men claiming to be trans into the woman's barracks and showers. We see you promoting unqualified box checkers over qualified people who have worked hard for the promotion they were denied."

"You're turning the Army in a miserable woke pit of despair, but absolutely, it's Gen Z and their unreasonable trust of "institutions" that has recruiting and retention numbers down in the blue water of the nearest porta pottie."

"When I was in the military there was a saying about officers O-6 and up. "SELF BEFORE SERVICE". As a 23 year combat vet. let me say this, "I have no faith in today's Military Leadership. Officers in the rank of O-6 and up are more worried about the next promotion and whose butt do I kiss then they are about the needs of their troops or this country. FJB and all the woke officers."

"It may be strong according to the woke leadership and new woke recruits, but I doubt any patriotic veterans before all the dumbing down and sissifying of the military think it's strong."

"I served from 82-93 and witnessed the beginning of the end with Clinton's don't ask don't tell policy. He and his policy were the reason why I chose not to reenlist and not make a career of my service. I have no regrets. Allowing women in combat was the next step to further degrade our warfighting capability. Lastly, allowing the mentally ill gender confused to serve openly while we pay for their meds and reassignment surgeries as well as

openly promoting drag queens, is the straw that breaks the military's back. Unfortunately, our military has become a laughing stock. Embarrassing."

"I stuck it out a couple more years than you but you hit the nail square on the head. I got out because as a white male in a combat arms MOS I would have never made it past the rank of E-7."

"The heart of the military, since the beginning of America has been Conservatives. With DEI and using tax dollars to pay for gender surgery while our soldier's barracks fall apart, it's no wonder they aren't joining."

"While I was in, women were afforded special treatment by having their fitness standards lowered compared to men. All to show how politically correct (replaced by woke) the military could be. Also they were given special preferences when it came to promotions so the military could show that women were as capable as men. **I'm sure our enemies will make sure to lower the standards of warfighting to accommodate the females and their physiological differences.**"

"Let's see.... mandatory racial indoctrination and experimental vaccines....Yup. We do NOT trust the military."

"So long as promoting leftist "woke" culture is the government's priority, trust will not be restored. Nor should it."

"Recruiting is in the toilet because traditional military families like mine are not going anywhere near a woke military. We would never even consider saluting some dude wearing a dress."

"My dear Army Secretary Wormuth, I think you are delusional. Public confidence in the military and the Army is declining, not increasing. That likely pertains to the entire armed forces. My assessment from a family that has served in every War since the Civil War. Have you read the recent article in MILCOM which is your own propaganda media: "Our Generals Cannot Think and Do Not Win" is a sound summary. The stupidity of the Afghanistan withdrawal does not require repeating here. You are too fat (not you personally), undereducated, poorly trained, strained for resources, almost out of ammunition and spare parts. **You are reducing Army Special Forces, your very best soldiers, by ten percent while unable to rebuild your Army by the 30 percent needed.** You increase your REenlistment bonus for three months with tremendous results saving 16,000 highly

trained technicians and then you cancel the program. Brilliant! Most of your recruits are too fat, too weak, too uneducated, and your leaders too woke. If you need this Army to fight, you best begin mandatory prayer services. BTW, read about the condition of the Army after WW II and before and during Korea. That is where you are now. No disrespect intended as the First Sergeant use to say.”

“You can tell, she even knows no one is believing her lies.”

“And, like eligibility, propensity to serve has been declining for years now. But, certainly, part of it, I think, is Generation Z’s distrust in institutions, sort of skepticism about authority.” This is BS! The distrust in institutions has absolutely nothing to do with “skepticism of authority.” **The citizens can see the open corruption, wokism, and lowered standards the military leadership has instituted, and that is what is driving people out of the service and retarding recruitment.** The Defense Department is in the social justice business now and there is no denying it.”

“It is tradition for men in my family to serve goes back many generations, I will tell my son in 17 years to not if the current mess is still in place.”

“I am a proud vet but the military would have to go a LONG way at this point get to where I would want one of my children to join. They have become a cesspool of woke! The degradation of the military will get many of them killed when conflict breaks out.”

“Nope, your core demographic - Mid-western Christians of families with generational service - is done with the Woke BS and won’t serve a corrupt government. Their skills will be needed sooner than a six year enlistment.”

“What military aged white male would want to enlist when politicians made it clear to promote Blacks and women over more experienced white men? I smell a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion quota system being used in the liberal social engineering degeneration of our military.”

“I’m a retired veteran. I don’t trust the military one bit.”

“By the second, and last, sacking of Rome in 476, few in the legions were actually Roman, **being conscripts from the provinces whose loyalties lay elsewhere, and**

volunteers for whom it was just a paycheck. Except for the officers. Weak, inept sons of the elite with no military experience. No longer feared, the force was ripe to fall.”

“The Navy of my day was anything but inclusive and equitable. We were exclusive and elite, and we could ruin your day! Our mission was not our top priority, it was our only priority.”

“Yep...the USAF of my day (and wasn’t that long ago), discriminated, promoted those who were best and ran out those who couldn’t cut it.”

“As a retired 23 Army veteran I can say with certainty that the US military is no longer a superior fighting force and even our equipment is no longer superior to that of our enemies. While our military worries about proper use of pronouns our enemies train for war. Our military has been deteriorating since Obama took office and it has not recovered, but rather steadily declined ever since!”

“My son-in-law had 8 years in and refused to reup. ‘Too Woke’ is all he says about it. His Dad did several tours in Nam, and fully retired as a warrant officer. So everyone thought he would retire too. Nobody wants to play the woke game but wokesters.”

“Americans gain strength through Unity. Unity is the OPPOSITE of diversity.”

“When it comes to the military, diversity the way it is defined today, is not a welcomed trait because it doesn’t help the mission of the military. I served from 1986-2016 and I never had to attend a DEI class. We were more concerned about our enemies TTP’s, not so much today.”

“The military is NOT supposed to be about “diversity”. It is supposed to be about being totally combat ready to prevail in any situation. **You don’t care what color or party the person who has your six is, as long as they are competent and help you accomplish the mission.** Unfortunately, it has become MORE important that the person has a different color or likes to do different things with their bits and pieces than being combat ready.”

“Teams don’t celebrate diversity. They promote unity. That’s the difference. Everyone one color. Everyone one team.”

“As a 23 year Army Veteran my mission was to kill people and break things! Sure, there were plenty of minor missions, and plenty of support troops with sub missions. It truly breaks my heart to now observe, from the very top down, more concern for pronouns than protecting our country!”

“Those who speak so loudly of tolerance, aren’t tolerant of a difference of opinion. Those who so loudly of inclusion, can’t seem to include those with whom they disagree. Those who speak so loudly of diversity can’t seem to tolerate diversity of thought.”

“The DOD is the ultimate arena for “Merit Based” advancement. I have 40 years in uniform and Zero confidence in the Biden administration’s ability to lead America in conflict evidenced by the massive failure of our Afghan withdrawal. The Department of Defense is currently run by uniformed politicians, vice real warriors. Vote for leaders who develop teams and demonstrate positive results for. This administration is an insult to our warriors who in my experience judge other warriors by ability, merit, and proven results; nothing else.”

“Diversity is condoned racism and discrimination plain and simple. Diversity is evil and threatens the lives of our troops, it forces our military members to be racist and to discriminate. it needs to be stopped.”

“Having been exposed to Ft. Benning in the late 1950s I can attest that it was inclusive....you do your job and you are included. Not up to standards...you are NOT included.”

“As a 21-year army veteran and some of that in combat I can tell you that our troops today are nowhere near ready. They need to get away from wokism and DEI and concentrate on lethality. When we trained in the late seventies and early ‘80s, we trained to take out our adversaries and keep them away from any intrusion on our Constitution and Bill of rights. Now the upper echelon is out to destroy our Constitution and Bill of rights. We need to get back to the basics and forget about all of this hand holding and giving hugs.”

“Retired military. Actively discouraged my three boys from serving. When woke politics, diversity, and inclusion top being properly prepared to fight and win people are going to die.”

“And then we wonder why the military has recruitment problems. It’s not because a bunch of bigots don’t want to serve alongside people different than them. It’s because a bunch of people don’t want to serve alongside others who aren’t the best qualified because their lives may literally depend on it.”

“Only thing I cared about was whether or not I could depend on the person next to me to do their job with no questions. Don’t really care what race or gender they are or how they like to have sex. I would have a problem being in the field with a critter that “chooses” to be another gender. What else will it choose to be or not to be at the moment of truth?”

“I served 22 years in the Army. I’m very proud of my service to this country but there’s NO WAY I’d serve in today’s military. **As a female soldier I had much to overcome and hardship beyond belief but I’d rather go through all that over again than serve in today’s Army.** We all bled green and served as a unit. Now they have to worry if people feel safe and included?!? I wouldn’t serve for every penny on earth under this Command, and would probably rather go AWOL than serve under Joe Bidumb as my Commander in Chief. Our military is a sad shadow of itself.”

“Spot On Joe. Let the woke Army fail. My children will not get my approval to join.”

“Milley and the rest of the leaders have destroyed our own military. The main pool we have always recruited from has been the children of veterans. Now, I don’t know a single veteran suggesting that their kids join. But the leaders want to blame the recruiting crisis on the lack of diversity. Picture being in the infantry and then looking at your roommate who just decided to start to transition now never being able to deploy, having a new MOS that they don’t go to the field to train and you see the military spending tens of thousands on their medical care. But you will be spending next week in a cold front, with rain, training. Watch how fast they tell the re-enlistment officer “NO” when it comes time to make the decision to stay or get out.”

“Being an Army brat, having 2 aunts serve in WW2, and having a brother that was lifer in Air Force with his son following in his footsteps, it disturbs me that I no longer have the affinity and admiration for our military. To me, they are now just another facet of the culture war we are

fighting and I used to think they would be there should we ever have to face a tyrannical government...Now, not so much."

"The "woke" ideology has a narcissistic core. It's a victimhood ideology, which is not conducive to a successful military structure."

"And the military wonders why they are missing recruiting goals so badly. My son will be the first male in our family not to serve his generation going back to the founding of our country. With Dementia Joe and DEI initiatives, I am actively encouraging him not to. How sad!"

"The military always has been inclusive and respectful. We don't need to push that. What we need to push is excellence, whatever the color of their skin."

"Joe Rogan in my opinion is 1000% correct, this coming from a combat and Military veteran of 24 years. I completely understand that every Military generation goes through changes, however, this having to accept "Wokeness," diversity, equity, transgenders and LBGTQ+ is NOT preparing anyone for leadership in leading troops in defeating the enemy!"

"Yep I served 22 years in the USAF; I am ashamed of what the military has become."

"Diversity is a strength? Ask anyone in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, that army spoke 14 different languages."

"I'm a 24.5 year Air Force veteran and I would not recommend anyone join the military. Why join an operation that states right up front you're a racist bad person. It makes me very sad that I feel this way about my country."

"23 years in ARMY and I watched its decline in values and resolve. Logic and honor have been replaced by feelings and group think of popularity."

"I'm an Army Veteran, female and we didn't have a focus on race or gender. Now over the last year my son was in Basic and he stated how awfully discriminative it was, especially if you're white. It's very sad."

"Every male in my family since the Dawn of our nation has served, including myself. I would never serve with

today's military and today's government. None of my sons have any desire to serve this crooked government or it's weak and woke military."

"This is no longer the America I would have fought and died for during my 20 years in the USAF. I definitely would not encourage any of my family members to join today's military."

--"Which is the exact advice thousands of Americans are giving their children. Recruitment quotas fall short and the idiots in charge look for reasons. THEY are the reason."

"I got off the bus at balmy Parris Island in August 1967. However, I would not even consider enlisting today. If you're a straight white male, you gotta be a raving idiot to willingly join The New Fully Woke Gay And Transgendered U.S. Military....period."

"I totally agree that "any straight, white male" would have to be a raving idiot to enlist in today's military!! I have actually talked to a couple of current generation young men in my family, and told them to say not just no, but HELL NO! to joining the maniac military of today! I hope they listened well!"

"As a military family for life, we as a family have decided 'not one more.' The military is only there to protect elites and their wallets. Therefore we won't be sacrificing for a country that trashes us, our history and our skin pigment. We have served all the way back to the civil war. Let this fake general, fight his own battles."

"The United States military is no longer a good place for young people to be."--Army Veteran

"I am now officially embarrassed to having served in the USAF. And this comes from a female white airman who married a non-white airman who once whined to my mother that he wasn't getting promoted because of his color, but the truth is he was lazy and had no ambition. I'm just glad I was only married to him for 5 years. My ex would fit in with today's Air Force. Oh, and he served for 23 years. That's why I call it the Ar Farce."

"This is absolute liberal/woke gobbledygook. I would never encourage my child to even think about enlisting in an organization like this. It's a death sentence for these young hearts and minds to even try to adhere to this poisonous policy while having to constantly and primarily thrust themselves into life-threatening situations almost daily. Why would anyone want their child to go

into something like this. Hell, I wouldn't do it for myself either."

"That oughta fix the recruiting and retention disaster! My former unit bought into this nonsense. Went from one of the most accomplished in our branch of Service to the bottom. Cannot recruit anyone. Long time employees are leaving like never before."

"When I was in the military it was said there was only one people, green. Unity through focusing the commonality instead of differences."

"Both my brothers and I and my brother-in-law are ex-military we refuse to let any of our children enter the military because of what's Happening."

"The military has gone completely WOKE today. I served 28 years as a fighter pilot, 181 mission in Vietnam in the F-4E Phantom and retired as a Bird Colonel. The "BEST of the BEST" were promoted in my days and none of that CRT / DEI stuff was used, period. Note: I would not serve or have anything to do with the USAF / military today if I was 22 again....!"

"In 1966 I was a member of the first Air Force OTS class to have female cadets. Between uniforms and green fatigues that wouldn't fit, we all got along great. There were no special safe spaces, no separate parade fields, tracks or classrooms, no gender pronouns and no diversity library. There certainly was no privilege because we all ended up scrubbing toilets with a toothbrush if we failed inspection. And we graduated and went on to war. Many did not return home. One classmate became an Olympic champion and others became true warriors and combat heroes. But what we all shared and treasured was becoming officers in our nation's Air Force. **Today it seems that military service is all about self, culture and ethnicity when "drag queens" and "influencers" are celebrated on military bases while actual warriors are dismissed as privileged or nationalist.** Is it any wonder then that there is a recruiting crisis today in all services and that morale is at historic lows? It is time for some serious introspection into Officer leadership training priorities as they relate to readiness and mission accomplishment."

"The military is an all volunteer service, not a proving ground for diversity woke experiments. The military is a captive audience as we cannot complain and are there-

fore guinea pigs for these types of change. This HAS TO STOP and if not, it will destroy the military and as goes the military, so goes the country."

"USAFA just this week began briefings for the new juniors, called Sex Education. They are told they cannot take pictures or videos or record anything. There were enlisted walking through the group to make sure no phones are seen. They were told they didn't want the same thing to happen as it did from last year. They were told that sex is determined at birth but gender is how you see yourself. They were all told that as upcoming officers, they are going to be expected to respect those who report to them including their gender choices. There is currently a calculus teacher (male) who wears female AF uniforms to class. This makes many of the cadets very uncomfortable. Their motto is that they do not tolerate liars but this fixes them to buy into the DEI lie."

"I am a proud veteran, and for most of my life I would recommend the military to anyone that asked my opinion. However, for the last few years, I can honestly say that is no longer true. When we have a change at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, the very first thing that needs to happen is reversing this garbage out of our military. The emphasis needs to be on kicking butt in a fight, not social experimentation."

"Couldn't agree more with the drop in recruits from military families. We have three people where I work, who were recent military retirees, who will not let their kids go in the military. The woke crap that requires someone be a certain sexual orientation, a certain race, or a certain sex to promote is BS. The most talented should be promoted. Another point that hasn't helped was the military was forcing Covid 19 vaccines on the healthiest part of our society."

"We have four sons. Since they were young, we encouraged them to someday consider military service, especially the Marines. Now, we're telling them if they want to serve, the Coast Guard is an excellent and honorable way to serve."

“I served in the USAF during the Korean War (1951-55). The people most at home were those from the American South, which had a rich tradition of military service. I can't think of a better way to alienate this potential recruiting pool than renaming bases that have un-woke names and histories. Let's hear it for cognitive dissonance!”

“Many if not most young people like to think of themselves of having potential, at least, to be tough and brave. By accepting gays and transgenders, the military has softened it's tough guy image. Reality may not have changed much, but perception of it has, and perception counts. Potential recruits look elsewhere.”

“Not surprising the military can't reach its recruitment goals. Insidious woke ideology that teaches the US is systemically racist, including the Constitution, capitalism and even math, is pervasive in our education system. Why would you want to risk your life to defend a country you despise? **Generational military families who produce many recruits are alienated by this woke culture being forced on the institution.** Who wants to serve in a military more dedicated to promoting gender nihilism than protecting the nation?”

“The actual problem may well be that a lot of potential recruits are looking at the ways we have used our military forces for the last half century, and asked themselves why they should volunteer for the kind of misunderstood, fruitless, and misguided military adventures in which we've involved ourselves, sometimes finding out afterwards that the government had lied to us about what they knew or suspected about these adventures. I speak as one who spent four years active duty in the US Army between 1967 and 1971, and so I can speak at first hand. No rational nation should ask its young men and women to spend their courage, to die, or to be wounded in mind and/or body in such morasses as we have.”

“The progressive left is successfully engineering a fundamental transformation of America into a country that no one would defend.”

“I know that since this administration came into power, I'd do anything to keep my children out of the military.”

“No one is saying a person of color cannot be the best, most qualified candidate. But, unless you are living in a “progressive” cult bubble, you cannot deny that many lesser qualified people are promoted BECAUSE of their race, or gender, or whatever, and not for their qualifications. For example, some people call it a “targeted” hire, meaning that skin hue is the priority. Calling someone “racist” because they understand this fact is the last resort of the “liberal” whose argument simply does not fly. Stop smearing and try thinking.”

“Yes, promoting people because of their race, is racist. And it does lead to legitimate doubt about any group who is promoted to fill a quota. That's not racism, it's logic.”

“Every promotion “given” to someone BECAUSE of something other than merit is a stab in the back to America. These *^\$%%# have taken what could arguably have been the most successfully color blind institution in the nation and made it into a farce.”

“No one I have heard is against racial integration in the armed forces or anywhere else. The pushback is when race and gender are the sole criteria for advancement. Meritocracy counts on the battlefield. We demand the ablest to lead our protectors.”

“At Biden's order about 9 months ago they made decision preference to make race/sex based promotion an open criteria..... no longer hidden or implied. They also changed the promotion path in several branches of the service to make it easier for officers with ZERO combat experience to make it to the highest echelons of command.”

“I personally do not want to put my life at risk under the command of someone who got the position because they were “stylish” vs competent. **And sadly now, EVERY POC will be seen as a “social” promotion, even those who achieved their position through merit.**”

“My older brother was career Navy who, in the later years warned about “wonkiness” going on “upstairs”. All children, nieces, nephews, and grand-babies were regularly talked out of thinking about “military service” because of what he saw coming.”

“Husband and I are both retired vets and our four kids always said they wanted to serve, however fast forward

to today as young adults (21-26) they are definitely never joining.”

“I asked my zoomer kids if they would ever consider joining the military? Hard NO from both. I guess they’ll have to look elsewhere.”

“I returned from Iraq to be ordered to the Extremist Stand Down. I resigned my commission immediately after. The Army is filled with ‘yes men’ who exist only to protect their careers and no longer take care of Soldiers.”

“Air Force veteran here, wife of retired AF officer, sister of veterans, daughter and niece of men who fought for their country in WW2. I would counsel anyone to forgo military service. I no longer trust our government or the military leadership. Who would want to join the ‘Dark Forces?’

“I loved and called the Navy Nurse Corps home for 22 years...but today, I would discourage anyone from entering the military (or nursing for that matter) For ALL the reasons listed in this article I am angry and saddened beyond belief. My now deceased father and father in law who were in the Navy during WW2 would be appalled at the state of our military. As I’ve heard recently...We will never win another conflict because we’re too busy fighting over pronouns.”

“As a ‘70s 8-year Army Infantry veteran who is 71 I no longer encourage the young ones to enter the present military services. Despite spending a boatload of money for the defense of this country the so-called “leadership” is more concerned about that which degrades readiness from the top down. Pray for our country.”

“Army National Guard veteran here. My father fought in Korea and Vietnam, father-in-law in WWII. Three of my sons served, one in Afghanistan in the Army, two in the USMC. Many other family members—stretching all the way back to the Civil War—have served in uniform. But now, **I tell ALL young people to avoid military service at all costs.** The Army in particular has become nothing but a hotbed of homosexual predation, transgender lunacy, and political correctness. Why serve a nation and a military that hates Christians, and especially Catholics?”

“Retired Navy here—23 years. I no longer recognize my beloved US Navy any longer. It seems to be run by The Village People. Emphasis on pronouns and having

an enlisted sailor, who dresses up in drag, as an “influencer” to help recruiting. Basic seamanship and navigation skills have been tossed out the window. No way would I recommend, or encourage, any young person to join the military. The rot is throughout the top of leadership. God help us.”

“My father was in the Navy and retired in the Naval Reserve. I received an appointment to Annapolis and spent two years there before leaving in a dispute over my major. I then joined the Army and spent 21 years in service. I, like many others who have served previously, am being true to my oath of service to actively dissuade all high school graduates that I come into contact with, along with young service-industry workers, to NOT enlist in any of the military services as they are currently officered.”

“I spent 6 years in the Corps, 3 in combat, and I tell anyone who will listen to not join the armed forces either.”

“It’s why we as a family have made it our personal mission to discourage all those in our family (military age) to not serve. We’ve served since the civil war, we won’t do it again. The only people they provide protection to are elites who don’t waste a second to disparage us. So next time, let them send their, daughters, sons, brothers and sisters, it won’t come from this family, we washed our hands of you.”

“Ditto our family. Both my husband and I served in Iraq and Afghanistan. We have discouraged our kids from doing the same BECAUSE and the woke military leadership considers them “unfit to serve” due to our conservative Christian, constitution-supporting beliefs. BTW, they are both college educated, scored in the top 10% of the population on the SATs, and one has a degree in computer science.”

“Who ever thought the radical Marxist homosexual agenda would succeed in destroying the Pentagon from within?”

“You could’ve seen this coming down the pipe a mile away with this woke crap. Do you really think I want to soldier with someone next to me on the battlefield whose a transgender? No, **I want the very best and the strongest, not a diversity, or equity hire.** You should also have soldiers that believe in the mission. The United States has used our military for nonsense wars and they (soldiers) know it, so they’re not motivated, but their

heart is not in it, they go because they're ordered to do so. I cannot be motivated to fight my heart out with a Commander and Chief like BIDEN, whom I have no faith in and feel no patriotic support from, or pride in the United States."

"This is what happens when the commander in chief is a brain dead puppet whose strings are being pulled by left wing radicals. **I am a former Army officer and I tell people to steer clear of the Army today. Some day it will get back on course but it will take years and probably a lot of casualties before that shift happens.**"

RE Air Force Base message warning attendance at conservative rally could jeopardize their career:

"Any warning not to attend BLM or Hamas rallies? The military pushing airmen not to attend a political/pro USA event? The long tentacles of the DNC has infiltrated the military. I love our servicemen but unfortunately, military leadership has become very questionable. **As my son who served 12 years said... "I didn't separate with the Air Force, the Air Force separated with me"**. They wonder why recruitment is at an all-time low."

"My son, a dedicated Air Force pilot was in that disastrous Afghan pullout. He quit the Air Force directly after that. Four years of Obama and three of Biden is too much to take for a dedicated American pilot."

"In recent years, we've seen the ranks combed through seeking Trump supporters. At about the same time, **our wing received a message stating it was okay and acceptable to attend a BLM rally in the host city of our base.** We have capable individuals in all branches, but our military is compromised and degraded. Somebody better wake up."

"As ex-military myself, I would never voluntarily serve now. It's not just because of the obnoxious "woke" agenda. Even if that didn't exist—and it is here to stay—I would not serve because of today's incompetent and indifferent military leadership, corrupt and dysfunctional political class, and divided populace. This country threw away 50,000 lives in Vietnam, and countless other lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, for what? Now, the leaders want to send our people to Ukraine, Israel, Iraq, or Taiwan? For what? My advice to the Army: take your LGBTQ+ troops and go fight with what you have, or if you don't

have enough, enlist more LGBTQ+ troops. Good luck and godspeed, fools."

"Military trying to brainwash members to thinking conservatives are bad no wonder enrollment numbers are way down."

"This is exactly why I and many other of my Senior Field Grade Officers decided to leave while we were still in good standing. Many of us saw the writing on the wall. The mandatory CRT training was the final straw. While messages like this are not uncommon and fall under "protecting the force", this one steps over the line by making a characterization of the group as "alt-right" and then threatens, not so subtly, your career. It appears the Great Purge is continuing to accelerate in the military. So sad to see."

"My son is a Captain in the AF. When he graduated officer school, Trump was president. I was so proud of him, and glad he had a commander-in-chief who would have his back. Since then, Bidet was installed as PINO, and the AF has become as woke as any college campus. My son was put through a re-education/indoctrination program in order to keep his commission. He has been completely brainwashed now, totally avoids his parents, has rejected his faith, and is 100% in line with the Dem agenda. I'm still proud of his service; but I'll never forgive them for what they've done to him."

"Once again, the US military in which I had once proudly served is demonstrating its commitment to ultra liberal woke ideology, destroying the trust and confidence that Americans used to have in it. It will take a serious house cleaning and dismissal of every officer who participated in this type of unconstitutional intimidation against service members to get it back on track."

"I refuse to promote military service for our family members. We're 3rd generation service members. Too woke, too corrupt, and the way they handled the shots was deplorable. They cannot be trusted!"

"As a retired USAF colonel, I'm appalled at this whole situation. Military members should be encouraged to participate in political activity, but not in uniform or representing themselves as a military member to advance

a political cause. Next they'll be telling our airmen to be careful who they vote for."

"Not a good look by Air Force to be politically partisan like this. Especially when they're desperate for recruits, and especially when a vast majority of the would be recruits are in fact patriots who believe in American idea, America first, and Trump."

"Retired Navy commander here. Sounds like someone in senior leadership needs a good retraining. As long as they're not in uniform or representing the USAF, they can go, participate, or even run for office."

"That's EXACTLY what this sounded like when the message said participation with this group could jeopardize their careers. I'm a retired Army vet of 24yrs and I agree 100% with you. Service leadership has NO BUSINESS trying to influence or dissuade service members from these types of events."

"Captain, US Army, Medical Discharge. If my CO had handed me that memo for distribution, I would have marched it straight over his head. It's a disgrace from a commissioned officer that is abusing his authority and violating his oath. Distributing it would have been following an illegal order. That's a court martial offense."

"As a retired First Sergeant, I agree with you 100%. This was an intentional act designed to intimidate Airmen on their personal political beliefs. It's absolutely disgraceful and can only divide people."

"As a retired USAF MSgt I fully agree with you colonel. Unfortunately if it was a Pride protest they would likely have been told they had to attend. I can see why recruiting is so low."

"Spot on Colonel, as a retired Army SGM I always encouraged my charges to be involved, be informed. Hinting that careers could be jeopardized is leadership by intimidation!"

"Retired MSgt here Sir. This is the new woke AF we are talking about. I still have many friends still serving that have told me about the DEI training that has become mandatory. Only reason I can see to deter anyone from going to a pro-Trump event!!"

"Then the military wonders why patriotic young people are not joining the military. Does anyone at the top have a brain?"

"Parents should do all they can to steer their teens away from military service until it regains its sanity, if ever. That's what I did. I told my kid not to join and why, so he didn't. It's sure not the military I served in. If your kids sign up for the service you can be sure they're not going to be the same when they return. That's common and to be expected. You just don't want them to be exposed to the bad influence that's there now."

"My husband and I both retired from the AF many years ago. We were proud to serve our country but now, I wouldn't enlist for anything. The military has become far too political."

"I proudly served during the Gulf War. I would not serve today. Like so many other organizations, the military has lost its way and strayed from its mission by allowing politics to seep in and destroy their integrity and credibility."

"I'm a retired USAF Vet with 24 years of active service. I guess things have changed in the 31 years since I retired because the standing military law WRT public events was this: military members may attend public events while off duty and in civilian clothes. You could not attend in uniform as that may be construed as official endorsement of the event by the branch of service the member belonged to. For military authorities to threaten members' careers if they participated in a Trump rally shows just how deeply the Biden administration has corrupted the military leadership. The military should NEVER support one party over another. That's third world stuff and who ever authored that message at Minot AFB needs to be held accountable."

"I proudly served in the Air Force for 15 years, 1978-93. That Air Force is GONE. Current leadership sees patriotism and 1st Amendment speech as dangerous. The US government under this administration equates patriotism with terrorism, knowing that a true patriot doesn't concur with the "reimagining" of America."

"Is there any doubt that this misguided liberalism has infiltrated our military? As a retiree I am so appalled at how politicized our military has become. God help us all if we find ourselves in an all-out war. We might have

good service members who can fight but they won't be led by the best."

"As a veteran, myself. I am thoroughly disgusted by how our military is playing politics and favorites with the political process."

"My dad is a retired AF Brigadier General (pilot), and retired in 1994. My brother-in-law is a retired AF Colonel (pilot), and his dad is also a retired AF Brig. General (pilot). They are all so glad they retired long before any of this non-sense started."

"My dad is a retired Army Master Sargent, and I'm a navy vet. We both feel the same way, and we're both glad that my service-age sons have no interest in joining."

"Retired USAF Lt Col here. The politicized military by government bureaucrats is not the Air Force I served in. Military members must always beware, in or out of uniform, not to bring discredit upon the service. However, off-duty political affiliation is 100% protected by the 1st Amendment of the Constitution. You don't give that up, just by serving. To the extent that military leaders have succumbed to letting the services be politicized, those leaders need to re-read our Constitution. If they can't uphold it, as written, they should resign."

"I was once a proud veteran of the USAF but since 2021 and the woke agenda. I am ashamed of the USAF"

"This is exactly why no one should join the military. The leaders are all entirely Woke, with no actual war fighting capabilities. You could get killed working under such poor leadership."

"I spent my life in the service. I've always helped people interested in joining. About a year ago I began telling anyone who asks, not to join the US military. Very sad."

"I served in the Army at a time when being a Patriot was encouraged and honored. I do not want any of my children enlisting nor any future grand kids. This country is going full on communist"

"As a combat veteran during the Viet Nam era I have encouraged many young people that had no vision for their own future to join the service. There isn't a chance I would suggest that now, and I don't believe I'm the only vet out here that thinks the way I do. If you consider the number of vets we have in society, if even half of them no longer recommend young people join the military,

that alone would or could account for a large drop in the numbers of enlistments."

"I think of my uncle, dead at 20, buried in North Africa since 1942. He died to preserve the republic and we all have honored his memory, respecting his sacrifice, my grandmother always remembering her brother. Now, I have 5 sons and I will not let them serve nor would I cooperate with them being drafted to go die for these criminals that have stolen this country."

See #We the People Pulse on the STARRS website for posts with more collected comments on what military-related people are thinking:

<https://starrs.us/tag/we-the-people-pulse/>

Such as:

- <https://starrs.us/now-the-army-wants-white-males/>
 - <https://starrs.us/not-the-82nd/>
 - <https://starrs.us/air-force-gets-ratiod-by-pride-tweet-angry-vets-comment/>
 - <https://starrs.us/gen-dunford-doesnt-get-it/>
 - <https://starrs.us/army-special-operations-command-posts-intersex-inclusive-progress-pride-flag-on-social-media/>
 - <https://starrs.us/army-secretary-trust-in-the-military-is-declining/>
 - <https://starrs.us/social-media-erupts-as-bidens-dept-of-defense-says-trans-soldier-inspires-us-all/>
 - <https://starrs.us/us-navy-used-drag-queen-influencer-to-attract-a-wide-range-of-new-troops-as-recruitment-plummets/>
 - <https://starrs.us/army-soldier-tells-world-the-military-paid-for-his-transgender-surgery/>
 - And many more
-

MILITARY COVID VAX MANDATE

“My son was in the ROTC program at his college and was on track for a contract with the Air Force to serve when the US govt mandated the vax. He is studying to be a constitutional lawyer and left the ROTC program because if he didn’t stand up for himself how can he stand for others.”

“I don’t think I wish to give any more of my children to the military, after my daughter in the Coast Guard was forced into vaccination.”

“My daughter got chapter out for “refusing a command” to get vaccinated, her response to the BAR and notice she was being chaptered out was to explain that she could not have refused a command given her command and DOD never supplied her with a vaccine fully approved by the FDA, but only EUA approved vaccines which require informed consent even for military servicemen. They chapter her out with the same status as a drug dealer or rapist. I am thoroughly disgusted with military leadership. **My daughter went from being a very patriotic serviceman to being pessimistic about any military branch and our government, and who can blame her after the treatment she was given.**”

“Forced vaccinations and forced experimental medicines (i.e. Covid “vaccine”) are having the most impact on deterring younger people from signing up. NOBODY wants to have their medical right to choose taken away... especially by a government agency—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard. And the idea that you can be dishonorably discharged for saying NO to them putting highly experimental drugs into your body is a DEAL BREAKER for many.”

“My sister in law was a marine corps officer until a couple of months ago. Refused the shot but was so completely disgusted by the pathetic leadership that she was happy for the opportunity to get out.”

“The Jab is what kept most of the young men that I know who were considering serving from going in ... that and that it’s turned into a pervert-fest. There’s no way I could recommend them going into the service and potential combat next to some defective who doesn’t

know what it is. On top of that, why would you encourage a white kid to join a service that hates him?”

“The Navy treated us well as a family all the way up until the forced jabs and drag shows. Now it’s just demoralizing. I can’t wait for my husband to retire and to get back to civilian life once again. I would not recommend it for my children unless some major changes happen.”

“My son and wife in the Navy were both bullied and received consequences for filing a religious exemption and appeal was denied as well. It took them over a year to separate and had to endure testing and masking while those vaccinated (and those still got sick) did not. The navy states they had FDA approval, however, that particular vaccine was never issued and they continued the EUA batches. **So many young men were found dead on carriers and in base housing dying suddenly ruled not suicide, no foul play and under investigation, yet somehow, never releasing what really happened. The government knows what they did.** Very similar to asbestos containing insulation products back in the 60s.”

“Retired Army, first military then civilian. I was forced to retire 4-5 years earlier than planned, because I would not be coerced into taking the shot. **I asked the Army person who was processing my retirement paperwork if there had been an increase in retirements and she told me yes, retirements increased 28% in 2021. I guess I wasn’t alone in choosing to walk away.** One of the sad things here is that a lot of accumulated knowledge and experience, throughout the Army, walked out the door on short notice at the end of 2021, which did nothing to improve our national security.”

“The vaccine mandate is why I refused to reenlist in the US Army. I will never again serve this country via the military as a result of our flawed leaders showing that we were wrong to put our faith in them.”

“I’m currently in the US Navy. I refused the covid vaccine and got told I would get kicked out for it over a year ago. Fortunately, I was never kicked out despite going through a shit show. Decided to stand up for what I believe in and I was removed from my ship and started working on shore. Greatest decision I have made in the military.”

“My brother-in-law was forced, by the military, to take the jab or be dishonorably discharged after 20+ years of service and 4 tours. He didn’t want to take it but ended up doing so. He now has heart problems. This is real and it’s happening.”

“My husband and I just got out and we have been experiencing similar health issues since. We were also gaslighted anytime we tried to get medical help where we were stationed. We were mandated to get them. Do not let anyone lie and say otherwise. To say we are angry is an understatement.”

“My daughter is in the army, she fought against taking the jab all the way up until they were going to start giving dishonorable discharges to anyone that resisted. Luckily bc she did give some push back, she’s only had one jab, THANK GOD! We have been blessed with her having good health, and she hasn’t faced any complications so far. I am still praying for God to continue to protect her. She tried to get a religious exemption, but they denied everyone that was applying for the religious exemption too. She was in a group of soldiers from every ranking you can think of getting bullied and threatened their careers and they were all yelled at and forced to take the jab. She’ll be gone for deployment next year, and I would not be surprised that they’ll make her get a booster when she gets her international vaccines for travel.”

“My family member was discharged from the Navy because he refused. He still hasn’t heard if he can get any benefits at all after nearly 11 years of exemplary service.”

“I’m military and was forced to get J&J and I’ve had weird issues ever since. All are mild thankfully. The worst part was watching everyone attack the ones strong enough to stand up to this. I always defended them.”

“The forced Covid shots didn’t help. My son stuck it out and somehow managed to stay in the guard, but he’s lost respect for the man in the office. If they had contested him another time he was about to give up, not the honor he was seeking by joining in the first place.”

“I got my injection while serving in the navy March 8 and for two years I experienced severe nerve pain in my whole upper left side. It was so debilitating, and I still deal with sporadic aches. It started right after getting the shot but the cause was completely disregarded. After rounds of tests and no anatomical physical evidence of what could be the cause they just threw different medications at me. The reality is more testing should have been done before making anything mandatory, and service members should not be treated like Guinea pigs. What also sucked was still having swollen lymph nodes from the shot too that are calcified, I remember my doctor just saying, “come back in 6 months if you still have these, I’ve been noticing them a lot with people who have been vaccinated.” I was a 22 year old young healthy woman. None of what I have gone through makes sense. It was the first available round of the Pfizer shot. Anyways, I used to think people were being dramatic but the proof is in the pudding”

“My husband serves active duty Air Force, forced to take the jab August 2021, 2nd jab September 2021, by November 2021 had a mini stroke (TIA) and a new developed heart arrhythmia, by December 2021 full blown stroke which required brain surgery and now the military is in the process of medically retiring him. It’s been a crazy process for our family.”

“My son was discharged (along with 13,000 others) from the Air Force for refusing to be injected with something that does harm. He was an aviation technician on combat aircraft. I served in the Marine Corps in the 1980’s. We never had to deal with this kind of evil.”

“My father is now terminally ill from the anthrax vaccine that was forced on him as part of his service. Many of his fellow servicemen and women were also negatively affected. Fortunately this allowed my family to make our own judgement and decide we did not want to take the experimental vaccine. We are all perfectly fine, and proud we stood our ground based off our own moral convictions.”

“You forced experimental vaccines on servicemen and women. You ignored your own regulations and told them it was experimentation or their livelihoods. You ignored their right to religious freedom. No one wants to subject themselves to that. You made your bed.”

“When you force out over 8000 troops because they won’t take an experimental useless injection.....then you wonder why people distrust the military?”

“He is not wrong. I am a Green Beret like him, and I was flat out told get the shot, or lose my retirement. Accept the CRT and my whiteness. For the senior SOF members, it is widely known that the first thing they threaten you with is your retirement and benefits. **It’s a horrible place to be to have to compromise your own values, at the pressure of toxic leaders, for the love of providing for your family after 23 years.** Because that is the leverage, they hold the future of you family hostage. the retirement and benefits are just the means (the weapon) the know will work.”

“A friend’s young adult grandson lost his planned Navy career after developing a cardiac arrhythmia shortly after his mandatory vaccination. Not Afib, it was a rare, difficult to pin down abnormality. He remains disappointed about his medical discharge.”

“I refused to take the vaccine while I was still in despite all the threats of dishonorable discharge and disciplinary action, but I stood my ground, and I was able to finish my contract just fine with honorable status.”

“I was a hair’s breadth away from joining the Navy in 2020 at the ripe age of 24. I would’ve shipped that June. Papers were signed, and I was in DEP. Then COVID came around, and I backed out, trusting my gut instinct about what was on the horizon. I later relented around December of 2020 because, well, I’m broke with a degree, and I wanted *some* kind of job security in this failing economy... so I hit up the Air Force. I asked the Air Force recruiter about whether or not forced vaccinations would likely be a thing. He told me, “Never. Not a chance.” I knew right then and there my former instincts were correct, and I never entered into a recruiting office again. The government doesn’t care about you, whether you’re a citizen or a serviceman. We are all just mouths to feed and minds to mold. Nothing more than animals with pesky “beliefs” to them. It’s positively Satanic, and I thank God that I never joined.”

“The whole thing with the COVID shot or out was nothing but a pure power play and a culling method. I was in during the anthrax shot controversy, and people who didn’t take it weren’t kicked out, just placed in a non-deployable status.”

“You’ve lost the trust of the American people and many veterans. I served for 19 years and resigned because of your unlawful mandate and intentionally destructive policies. You’ve become the enemy of the Constitution you’ve sworn to defend.”

“Join the military and be forced to be injected with poison. No thanks.”

“Y’all kicked me out over an ineffective vaccine series for the sniffles. You think y’all have a recruiting issue now? Wait till this generation’s sons aren’t encouraged to join like we were. **This family’s 150 year tradition of service ends with me.**”

“I was an assistant first sergeant during the mando shot time. Big Air Force came down and basically said the ppl who refused the shot were gonna get admin actions and booted. Why? Because they would become non-deployable/lack readiness. Our squadron had 8 people on the chopping block and kicked one out just before the Ohio lawsuit. And the funny thing about the readiness part... the people in the military who wanna do the weird trans stuff get a non-deploy status due to medications/ continual mental health care and surgeries. With that, they are able to stay in the service vs a person who doesn’t want the covid shot. It's BS.”

“My husband almost under penalty of jail time with less than a year to go before our 20 year retirement had to be forced to get it. He either got it or he would be jailed and we would lose all of our retirement.”

“My husband is National Guard and was told he had to get the jab or lose his job. He said, “I know it isn’t ok, however I at least got the same one that was given to all the major higher ups.” **It is just sad that our service members were forced into this.**”

“I will say from personal experience I know people who aren’t joining because of vax and woke crap. I think for a lot of young guys on the fence about joining, this has pushed ‘em off.”

“And let’s not forget about mandatory “vaccine” jabs for what (at least used to be) were the healthiest group of young adults in the country. The government and senior

military leadership couldn't care less about the health and well-being of the military.”

“My daughter was top of the class in high school ROTC. It was her favorite class. She met with multiple military recruiters and spent a significant amount of time training with military personnel. She took four years of Chinese and often talked about her determination to defend Taiwan. As her parents we had not served in the military, however we were both raised in military families and were supportive. My line of work included assignments at homeland and overseas military bases and I greatly respected the service personnel I worked with. However, **at one physical training my daughter attended, the officer mocked her mercilessly because she had not been vaccinated yet. She felt so belittled that after the training she called her recruiter canceled her appointment and has not spoken of serving in the military since.**”

“I have two great nephews who recently ETS because of the crap the army is requiring them to do. So many were forced out for not taking the shot. Low grade officers have been indoctrinated by the university system. It has changed a lot since we were in. It changed fast.”

“As soon as my husband, retired 25 years Naval Special Forces, (and me, his wife, both with Bachelors and Master's Degrees) were denied entry and medical care in both military and civilian clinics over refusing a medieval notion to wear a paper/cloth face mask by overweight office staff with rainbow badges saying, “all welcome here” (but wear a mask), we knew our country was in trouble.”

“Not since Stalin's purge and mass murder of the officer staff has a nation done more to destroy its fighting force than the clot shot attack on our military.”

DOD Letter asking those they kicked out because of the vax to come back

<https://starrs.us/army-sent-letters-to-soldiers-separated-for-vaccine-refusal-asking-them-to-come-back/>

<https://starrs.us/army-recruiters-now-boldly-advertising-that-no-covid-vaccination-is-required-to-join-military/>

“It is a sign of growth to admit one's mistakes. They might have to offer a little more to sweeten the deal though. Keep in mind, most of these guys have moved on and have jobs, and **those are the type of guys the Army wants.**”

“This lame attempt to get soldiers to return is akin to a cheating husband telling his abused wife that he forgives her and wants her back. If she has any sense, she'll run. Trust is not easily restored.”

“As the saying goes hindsight is 20-20, but when I look in the rearview mirror what I see is an abject failure of leadership. I mean how could anyone who let this happen to their Joes without uttering a peep still call themselves leaders?”

“Our (true) Marine was informed of the opportunity to return, but one of the stipulations was that he had to get three letters of recommendation!!! So his absolutely perfect record prior to his unlawful discharge means nothing! **He would rather keep his “general under honorable” discharge and lose his career than subject himself to their woke tyranny.** Until they punish and replace the current woke leadership, they aren't going to have access to real American men without a draft.”

“Not happening. I have one grandson and two nephews who won't be going back. COVID was only part of it. The stance that the military is taking on promoting based on “equity” rather than based on skills and experience is enough to keep them away.”

“The headhunters call me at least three times a week to beg me to come back to Aviation Should have thought about the big picture two years ago. I am doing just fine off the official payroll. I keep more of MY money also.”

“I loved my service, they forced me to retire over the death jab. My son is a marine.”

“Any man who signs up again, back under the thumb of those very same generals who were so eager to vaxx them before, and who have not changed now.”

“This corporate-owned “government” has shown nothing but contempt to those brave men and women who have willingly pledged their lives, if necessary, to

defend our country. **The DoD uses our soldiers, sailors, airmen, “spacemen”, and marines as their very own playground for experimentation in left-wing social justice and gender confusing policies. I strongly warn anybody considering military service under current conditions and policies to look elsewhere.”**

“Thanks, but no thanks. Between the Pentagon’s cowardice during the Afghanistan pullout, the brass’s embrace of Marxism and bigotry through CRT and DEI, this illegal vax mandate, and the fact there have been dozens of attacks on US installations with no response. In fact the administration is trying to give \$10B USD to the Iran on top of the \$6B they just gave two months ago. It is very obvious neither the disgraceful military leaders and its civilian administrators have any interest in taking care of their service members. Glad I got out when I did.”

“I am glad I retired when I did also. Twenty-four years active duty in the Army. Retired a few months before Biden took over and received my flag and letter from Trump. I come from a military family from all branches. Men in my family are encouraged to serve. But honestly right now nobody in my family is pushing for my cousins or nieces and nephews to join. They are being encouraged to stay away and go into the trades and learn some skills.”

“It really is tragic is has come to this. We have had someone in the family serve in every war since the Mexican American war. Not so much a history of career service, but definitely volunteering when the balloon went up. Have a couple of nieces and nephews in ROTC programs in college. I tell them it’s their choice, but it won’t be the same, and **you have to watch your back these days, you’re on your own in many ways we were not.** Like yourself, I certainly can’t encourage it like I used to.”

“Why would a white guy want to enlist in an organization that blames every ill in the world on them? That spits in the eye of all those white guys that came before and calls them filthy names? This veteran will encourage our youth to stay away from the military until the military stops with the “We hate white people” nonsense.”

“I would get my DD 214 corrected, but I would not re-enlist. You can’t trust a military who has acted as

badly as ours did during this trumped up pandemic with a fake vaccine. There is nothing to stop the brass from doing it again. I would not recommend a military career to anyone today. It’s too woke and more concerned with pronouns than they are with combat training.”

“These service members who left because of the vax mandate were the intelligent and the free who left. They made the right decision. They will not return to where they were humiliated by those who don’t love freedom and embrace socialism like today’s army.”

“The overwhelming majority of those soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen are NOT putting those uniforms back on. They were screwed over and know it would just be a matter of time until the current leftist administration did it to them again. And I don’t blame them one bit. I’m a military “retiree” who completed 21 years of honorable service, and am thankful that I was able to retire before all that madness took place. If the US Army needs folks so bad, why don’t they get their precious DEI Gen-Zs to join up?”

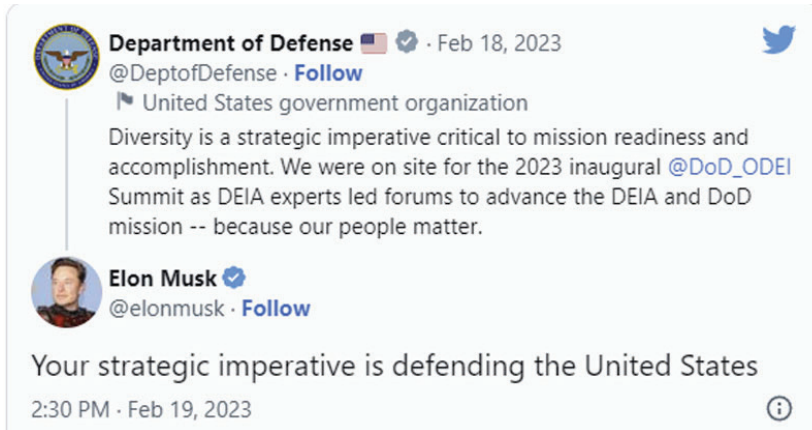
“I served twenty-seven years, retiring in 2012. This country is not the same now as when I enlisted, and neither is the military. Unfortunately.”

“The scary thing about this is the people who were booted out, were probably the very kind of soldiers we need. With this world in turmoil, we have a bunch of weak, woke leaders.....and our enemies know it.”

“At this point people who had the brains to leave due to mandates are likely smart enough to see the military and our government can no longer be trusted.”

“This is part of why, despite my ten years, I actively advocate against people joining the military now.”

“As a retired Army officer, I can say that let’s hope we don’t have to be involved in another major military operation like Iraq or Afghanistan. Their lack of leadership and moral courage is on display for the entire world to see what they did to our soldiers. If I were in these soldiers’ shoes, I’d tell them in no uncertain terms I have lost complete faith in Army leadership.”



DOD DEI

Re DOD tweet saying DEI is a strategic imperative:

“Your entire mission is to deter an attack on the US homeland, and if there is a war, to effectively and efficiently destroy the enemies of the United States. That’s it.”

“The DOD is a total woke clown show now. The military was always diverse. We all worked together as a team. Now you are dividing the forces by race and equity. It is a receipt for disaster.”

“DE&I have zero to do with defending the homeland. You are wasting taxpayer funds.”

“My husband fought and died for this crap??? I’m a military GoldStar widow. You people made me fight for his EARNED benefits, and you dishonor his memory with this? I’M BLACK. This is a waste of my time and tax money.”

“Incredible that you’re bragging about this when recruitment is in the toilet. Any connection, do you think?”

“‘Diversity is a strategic imperative critical to mission readiness’. This is completely untrue and it’s quite concerning that this theater is permitted in the DoD.”

“It’s probably just a coincidence that our historically low confidence in the DoD began when the DoD’s strategic imperative changed from defending our country to diversity, equity and inclusion.”

“Diversity actually means destruction of diversity and enrollment into a cult of woke ideologues who you keep

away from your children. It’s a societal bone cancer.”

“Entirely irrelevant to your mission. Defend America. That’s it.”

“Hire the most competent and best people for the job you f—ing ’s” — *Hodgetwins*

“Do you seriously think Russia or China will be more deterred by the US military if our military promotes ‘diversity’ as a strategic priority? Really? Seriously?”

“Absolutely ridiculous and totally unrelated to the quite significant national security threats we face. China and Russia are laughing at you/us and when we encounter big ticket problems, people will look at this moment and posts like this to see where our priorities went wrong.”

“Diversity of thought and backgrounds are important, but it has nothing to do with skin color or what you do in the bedroom.”

“The Pentagon is being run by an HR department for a Silicon Valley corporation.”

“This is embarrassing. The only diversity we need in the military is Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. That’s it. None of them should identify as anything else other than their rank and their MOS. This is a ridiculous and dangerous road y’all are taking. I bet it’s why you are having recruitment issues.”

“Apparently, you lost the mission.”

“Our country is failing in catastrophic ways at every level on every metric & this is what they have chosen to make a top priority?”

“What a disgrace your department is. How about you select the best people and not worry about what they look like. China is sitting back and laughing while we destroy ourselves.”

“We are more at risk than ever because you have lost sight of your mission. Employ the BEST – period.”

“This should NOT be the priority of anyone, let alone the US military. Our military—once something to be proud of—has turned into an SNL skit thanks to woke leadership.”

“Diversity has nothing to do with force readiness. You are destroying the best fighting force intentionally. Why? Who’s pulling the strings to weaken the US Military?”

“America is going to lose a major war because of the focus of advancing racism and bigotry through DEI programs.”

“You make us the laughing stock of the world. If we are attacked... We will hold you woke Generals accountable.”

“I don’t care who’s in the DOD, they better just be the best of the best and not selected because of their skin color or gender.”

“Exceptional competence is a strategic imperative to mission readiness and accomplishment. Comes before all else.”

“The only strategic strategy is to ensure he readiness and defense of our great nation. That’s it! Diversity weakens, not strengthens. Do your job!”

“If I were in charge of the greatest military on earth, I would focus on competency and capability instead of sexual and gender diversity. Just my opinion.”

“How about hire on merit and actually defend the United States.”

“I become more and more ashamed of our military every day and I’m a veteran. Do your JOB and cut out this woke bull crap!!”

“I really hope this is some Sun Tzu “Appear Weak When You Are Strong” thing, otherwise we are well and truly forked.”

Boots On The Ground Perspectives

<https://starrs.us/boots-on-the-ground-perspectives/>

Collection of perspectives from cadets on what is happening at America’s military service academies regarding the intrusion of Marxist and Woke ideology

“USAFA just this week began briefings for the new juniors, called Sex Education. They are told they cannot take pictures or videos or record anything. There are enlisted walking through the group to make sure no phones are seen. They were told they didn’t want the same thing to happen as it did from last year. (STARRS NOTE: See [Air Force Academy diversity training tells cadets to use words that ‘include all genders,’ drop ‘mom and dad’](#))

They were told that sex is determined at birth but gender is how you see yourself. They were all told that as upcoming officers, they are going to be expected to respect those who report to them including their gender choices.

There is currently a calculus teacher (male) who wears female AF uniforms to class. This makes many of the cadets very uncomfortable. Their motto is that they do not tolerate liars but this fixes them to buy into the DEI lie.”

A cadet said about this training: “I have not seen it, however my friend who did see it said it was the worst, most radical briefing he’s seen during his time here.”

—

Read two essays by Air Force Academy cadets published in the Washington Examiner:

[How DEI is destroying trust and unity within the ranks](#) includes:

“Coming from a military family, including Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Silver Star recipients, I have always valued meritocracy. I worked extremely hard to ensure I was qualified, based on merit, for acceptance into the academy. **It would be both demeaning and a disservice to my nation to only be at the Academy because I am a minority female.**”

“Many times during our DEI briefs, even if 90% agree that what we’re being taught is wrong, cadets will hold back and politely nod their heads for fear that what they have to say might offend even one person.

Leadership erroneously believes these meetings unite us as a team, but in fact, cadets walk out whispering and shaking their heads, feeling more divided than ever.”

[Inside the ‘woke’ takeover of the US Air Force Academy](#) includes:

“One of these training modules was DEI training. I had never seen something more divisive in my life. As a white man, I felt that I was being generalized because the training always made white people look like oppressors and minorities as victims.”

“Throughout my freshman year, I was exposed to countless sessions of DEI training that were fundamentally flawed and divisive. Most cadets kept their heads down and just let the information pass in one ear and out the other, sitting through these briefings just to avoid negative paperwork for failing to attend a mandatory event.”

“I would love to say more about the continued teachings of the Air Force Academy’s DEI program, but after media exposure, all DEI training is being presented as controlled unclassified information. We have been told that if we disseminate these trainings to outside sources, we could face prison time.”

“The majority of cadets do not like this training and see it as divisive and bad for morale. But the academy continues to elevate the voices of cadets who agree with the training and want to spread leftist ideology further.”

A minority cadet wrote to STARRS and said: “I see so many bright young Cadets here who know what is going on is wrong but at the same time are too scared to speak up. The fear we feel, not being able to address our concerns only makes the lack of courage issue worse.” (That is not a “one off” comment.) Why would this cadet say this if the extent of DEI training (indoctrination really) is only 16 out of 2400 hours?

After a student was not selected to attend USAFA, a retired senior officer was told by a registrar that the Academy is only allowed to accept 60% of white applicants.

USAFA CRT/DEI briefings for cadets are now labeled “CUI”—“Controlled Unclassified Information.” What is being hidden from the public?

Other aspects of the indoctrination and divisive actions taking place at the Air Force Academy: from the daily “reminder” in every squadron of [cadets wearing purple ropes](#) (aka [Political Commissars](#)), to the embracing of the transgender movement with free lunches for cadets attending, to the selection of books for the One Book, One USAFA initiative, to [invitations for scholarship where “cisgender white males” are told not to apply](#), to BCT where two cadets told us “If I heard ‘we need leaders of diversity one more time’ I was going to throw up,” to the [Diversity and Inclusion Reading Room](#), to the invitation of leftist/progressive guest speakers to address cadets, to cadets being taught not to be “colorblind”—but “color conscious”, to the daily classroom indoctrination taking place, etc, etc, etc.

Female Econ instructor called an AFA male 3rd classman “White Boy 2,” stated that a second white male was “White Boy 1” and said she was labeling them that because all the white people (or cadets) look the same to her. This occurred after identifying other cadets by their names on their name tags, during the first day of the Econ class in January. For more details, see [Has DEI Become More Important Than Academics At The Air Force Academy?](#)

“My grades are great, but the one thing I am most surprised at is, even though Gen Bishop warned me how “woke” US-AFA now had become—it is even worse that he indicated.”—USAFA Cadet

A series of texts sent by USMA West Point cadets to parents has been shared with STARRS members:

In-Class Accusations of Being a Racist

“In Geography class we had a class on Racism. It references Ibram X. Kendi, a Marxist, definition of racism. And they talked about “how to be an antiracist.” They went on to say if you do not actively fight against racism that you may be a racist too. And then they referred to color blind racism and they said that it uses victim blaming as its approach.”

Woke Indoctrinations In Class

“In American Politics Class they talked about how CRT and the 1619 Project is not implemented because we are forced to agree, but because it is supposed to give us another perspective on American history. He said some Americans agree with this and it’s important for officers to know all sides. It is not because they are indoctrinating us; it’s because they are trying to show us different ways of thinking. The thing is though CRT and 1619 Project are both lies and are divisive. It’s not based off fact.”

Politicizing in the Classroom

“A teacher in class was talking to us about equity vs equality. She said, “...equality is not enough and not fair.” She talked about how Kamala Harris “box model” is what we should go for because that is the only way equality can be met. She also pointed to how the poor should be given everything to become equal with the rich.”

“A student in class asked, “Is Liz Cheney a moderate Republican because she isn’t like Trump, who is an extremist Republican?” The teacher then said, “I don’t necessarily want to call a former president an extremist.” He later came back to the subject and he said, “This person is not an Extremist Republican like President Trump’ I think he realized what he said so he quickly said, ‘as **** alluded to earlier...”

“Today in Physical Geography class, better known as DIRT, we did a lesson on cultural geography. A big portion of the class was dedicated to cultural changes. We talked about statues being taken down. We watched a 15 minute long video on a statue of Teddy Roosevelt getting taken down. This is the video we watched: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eL2CW8bZ0to>. I know many of you don’t have time to watch a 15 minute video so here are some things that stood out. The national park system is racist because it drove out Indians. Teddy Roosevelt was a racist. Roosevelt was an imperialist in Africa and a white supremacist [sic]. And they even switched to a BLM chant that was calling out democracy.”

USMA cadets have a nickname for their American History class. They call it their “I hate America class.”

Cadet tells sponsor, “I wanted to come to the USAFA my entire life, now I am telling my friends still in high school “to not even consider coming to USAFA.”

“Numerous USAFA Cadets express discontent regarding the SECDEF-directed Extremist down day examples that were all about white supremacy as if 2020 and all the leftist inspired extremist activities didn’t exist.”

A West Point cadet said his freshman English class was “totally Woke.” He added that the “History of the US Army” class he is now taking is “totally CRT.”

USAFA Cadet writes his father complaining about test questions in an “Economic Inequality” course. For answers to be “correct,” they would have to be grounded in “the principles of CRT.”

USMA cadets complain about “Living Honorably Down Days.” During training on one of these days, cadets were required to watch 2 movies produced by governor Newsom’s wife which were full of “leftists politicians”, “leftist Hollywood personalities”, and “leftist media”. No conservative thought included.

Cadets (multiple) have told us “I hear diversity, equity and inclusion so often I feel like I am continually being indoctrinated.”

Cadets tell us “inclusion” just means—“either you go along with what we are telling you or you won’t be included.” “I just keep my head down and wait for this training to end.”

Lt Gen Bishop described a conversation with a USAFA fourth class cadet: “**The thing that has surprised him the most in his first five months is just how Woke the academy is.**” One of many examples he gave me (outside of the Diversity and Inclusion [D&I]-specific

training) was his leadership class. He said “it is nothing about leadership, it is all about bias.” He spoke about his male, Lt Col instructor labeling how STARRS exposed USAFA’s D&I Sep training session “a scandal.” Good news: the cadet went on to say how many of his classmates were disappointed in that assessment and do not agree with the indoctrination—**“even my black friends are fed up with this—think it is overkill.”**

—

Lt Gen Bishop recently sat next to a sailor who had just finished basic training. Gen Bishop related, “It was too woke’ he told me....and then added “and I think it makes us weaker.”

—

Cadet tells sponsor “worse place in the world to be as a white male Christian is the USAFA”

—

Lt Col, SQ Commander, tells STARRS president, the Services are going to experience retention issues if this social justice preaching doesn’t stop.

—

West Point cadets were required to attend diversity events that denounced masculinity. Cadets were obliged to watch two left-wing documentaries by the wife of Gov. Newsom and featured, among others left-wing people, Jane Fonda.

“I’m being taught how not to be a man,” said one cadet.

“I’m going to quit West Point. It’s no longer teaching me to be a leader of men. It’s teaching me how to be a victim,” said another cadet.

“The real bias we need to talk about is why it’s scandalous to be conservative in a professional environment but ‘brave’ to follow the crowd and be liberal,” a third cadet wrote.

A fourth cadet said, “The guest speaker had us all make a black power sign a yell, ‘Fight the power!’”

—

From Lt Col Lohmeier’s book “Irresistible Revolution, Marxism’s Goal of Conquest & The Unmaking of the American Military”: Page 133-4: “A well-respected senior enlisted leader, a non-white female whose career potential appears unlimited, explained to me that she plans on separating after this assignment because **she no longer feels valued in the military based on her work ethic and the quality of her work. Instead, the thought is ever looming in her mind that she is being given opportunities because of her ethnicity and sex.**

She admits that she does not know if that is the case but cannot be sure. She cannot shake the thought because it is what the services are constantly talking about. She also admits she is tired of all the talk about racism

Read more: <https://starrs.us/boots-on-the-ground-perspectives/>.

Also read: [Nickaylah Sampson’s Experience at West Point was the Racism of Low Expectations](#)

... When we arrived at West Point, we were only paired with black plebes because they said “your experience at West Point is more likely to be similar to those of other black kids”. Again I was shocked.

I didn’t realize it then because I was so caught up in my desire to attend the Academy, but I realize that it was purely segregation on the basis of race. They didn’t care about my abilities, they cared more about my color than about mission readiness.

Now, I can firmly say that the only “systemic racism” I have ever experienced was perpetuated by people of my own race. The whole agenda has taken over, inside and out.”

For over 1,000 pages of news, articles and resources regarding the CRT/DEI/Woke agenda in DoD and the vax mandate, go to:

STARRS.US

So many are sick of this CRT/DEI/Woke ideology being forced on them, even those who are being manipulated and used by this agenda to their own detriment:

- During pride month when military services were promoting the agenda with rainbow flags on social media, even gay people were telling the military to stop the constant pandering as it was making them look bad and turning more people away.
- A female officer was promoted into a new command and DOD tried to make a big deal that she was the first woman to lead this command. She said at her speech she wants the day to come when it's not "the first woman this or first woman that" but just a military officer being assigned a new position.
- A senior black military officer wants the DEI agenda gone because then he will know for certain that he was promoted for his qualifications, expertise and experience, not because of the color of his skin. And others around him would know he did not get his position because of quotas.
- A senior female NCO said that DEI is making things tougher for women because sometime they get put in positions just because offices have to "fill the checkbox" with a woman, and if that woman happens to be underqualified for the position, it tends to make all women appear less competent. Also, the fact that the women have to question why they were selected is hard—is it only because of their gender?

Listen to the People.

"My son, who wanted to be a Marine his entire youth, left after 5 years, disgusted with the new 'woke' Marines."

"My daughter is calling it quits after 6 years. The Army's values no longer align with mine, Dad. I can't do it anymore."

"Currently in the military as O-3 and let me tell you, it is an absolute joke. Integrity and honor are not rewarded but diversity and sexuality is."

"They spent more time in classes that taught political correctness than they did in flight briefs. Within a three month period, his squadron lost almost 60% of their pilots and crew."

"Every one of my former soliders who got out did so because of this woke nonsense that harms morale and readiness."

"A high-ranking friend recently told me the increasing pressure to be politically correct was a burden and distraction he hated."

"I almost got the boot after 16 years of service because I refused to use pronouns. That's when I knew, the military was over."

"I know of model Marine, 6'1, 230 lbs of monster muscle did not re-up because of wokeness."

"Wokeness has killed the moral of the enlisted men."

"After 20 years of commissioned service, I tell folks all the time—no matter how woke you think the armed forces are, it is much worse."

"My transgender Station commander is personally responsible for at least 4 people deciding to get out and over 20 recruits not getting in because they weren't woke enough."

"Got out of the Navy in 2020. The last 4-5 yrs the significant changes being made by top leadership made it clear things were going off the rails."

"Come from a long line of people who served in the military. I did 20 years myself. My daughter has 16 years in, and my other two sons have served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan but not one of them wants their children to serve in today's military when they grow up."

"I left because of how fast and far our standards slid."

"When DEI started to become a thing, when they started ramming down our throats how we didn't have to just tolerate people but celebrate depravity and lunacy, that's where they lost me."

"I could not recommend anyone join today. Our oath was to the Constitution, not to ideology. USAFA '90"

"It's no longer the apolitical military the American people can count on."

"This army is way more concerned with social issues and equity than warfighting."

"I was the Equal Opportunity Adviser for an Army installation in 2009. We removed all references to "unity" and replaced them with "diversity."

"My nephew was on a nuke submarine for 3 years. I thought he was going to reenlist. He's said no f—n way he wanted any part of what the Navy is pushing."

"The morale is the worst he has ever seen. They are getting overwhelmed with training and propaganda on LGBTQ indoctrination. He is getting out of the Air Force."

"Recruits are leaving immediately after enlistments expire. They are sick and tired of all the seminars, reading materials, and strange impromptu "interviews" probing attitudes toward race, gender, and sexual preference. Retention is an even bigger problem than recruitment. The military has turned into a social experiment laboratory."

"The substance and morale of the US military has been intentionally gutted."

"As a third generation career military officer [retired] I would not recommend a military enlistment to any of my family."





May 20, 2023

Flag Officers 4 America

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the House
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515-0520

The Honorable Hakeem S. Jeffries
House Minority Leader
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515-3208

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
2205 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2469 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515-0103

Speaker McCarthy, House Minority Leader Jeffries, Chairman Rogers and Chairman Calvert

We respectfully request that Congress, pursuant to its constitutional powers "...to raise and support Armies..." and "... to provide and maintain a Navy..." take legislative action to remove all diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs from the Department of Defense (DoD). Additionally, we ask that you ensure no DEI related policies, programs, and funding are included in the 2024 NDAA.

As our Nation faces looming threats from "foreign" adversaries/enemies, our military is under assault from a culture war stemming from "domestic" ideologically inspired political policies and practices. If not stopped now, they will forever change the military's warrior ethos essential to performing its mission of deterring aggression and failing that, to fight and win our Nation's wars. Our military must be laser focused on one mission—readiness, undiminished by the culture war engulfing our country.

For generations, our military was a meritocracy, which simply defined means selection and advancement based solely on merit and ability. Service Members (SMs) were judged not by the color of their skin but by their character, duty performance, and potential. Meritocracy, coupled with equal opportunity, created conditions for all to advance and excel, which stimulates healthy competition, thereby raising standards. Historically, our military has been one of, if not the most, diverse and inclusive institution in America.

The domestic cultural threat has an innocuous name: "diversity, equity, and inclusion" (DEI). But, in reality DEI is dividing, not uniting, our military and society. DEI's principles derive from critical race theory, which is rooted in cultural Marxism, where people are grouped into identity classes (typically by race), labeled as "oppressed" or "oppressors," and pitted against each other. Under the guise of DEI, some people are selected for career enhancing opportunities and advancement based on preferences given to identity groups based on race, gender, ethnic

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background, sexual orientation, etc. For example, the DoD twice admitted to using race in service academy admissions in its 2022 amicus brief in the pending Supreme Court college admissions cases.

Our military has practiced “equality” by giving equal opportunities for all to achieve. The equality approach ignores skin color, gender, or ethnicity seeing all SMs as equal, with a common set of values and mission. This does not diminish their individuality, but rather celebrates their dedication to duty and a higher noble calling of selfless service to our Nation.

DEI’s “Equity” sounds benign, but in practice it lowers standards. While equality provides equal opportunities, equity’s goal is equal outcomes. To achieve equal outcomes using identity group characteristics, standards must be lowered to accommodate the desired equity outcomes. Lower standards reduce performance where even slight differences in capability impact readiness and can determine war fighting mission success or failure.

Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) practices use identity-based preferences in selections for career schools and promotions. As with equity, D&I lowers standards by not always selecting the best qualified to become pilots, academy cadets, leaders at all ranks, etc. Identity based preferences create friction and distrust in the ranks, damaging unit cohesion, teamwork and unity of effort, further degrading readiness.

The “One Team, One Fight” battle motto describes a meritocracy-based military characterized by:

- a common mission and purpose;
- unqualified loyalty to the team and not to an individual’s identity group;
- total trust and confidence in each other for their very lives from the foxhole to the highest level;
- teamwork/camaraderie resulting in the unit cohesion essential for warfighting readiness.

Meritocracy is essential for winning. In professional sports - where the mission is to win games - the best players are fielded to win, no matter their skin color. If meritocracy is used in sports where the consequence of losing a game is minor, why is it not essential in the military where the worst-case consequences of losing a major war are unimaginable losses of life, destruction, and perhaps our Nation? To win, the best qualified SMs must be selected to lead America’s sons and daughters into life and death situations. Meritocracy wins games and it wins wars!

We have fought for our Nation and are sounding the alarm that DEI poses a grave danger to our military warfighting ethos and is degrading warfighting readiness. Social engineering, commonly called “wokeism,” has no place in our military. China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea are not distracted by DEI programs; no doubt they are watching us. Equal opportunity and merit-based performance have been battle tested for generations and proven essential for success. DEI policies and practices must be eliminated from the DoD to protect our critical warfighting readiness.

Respectfully submitted,

MG Anders B. Aadland, USA (ret)
BG Dale F. Andres, USA (ret)
RADM Philip Anselmo, USN, (ret)
MG Joe Arbuckle, USA (ret)
BG Edwin J. Arnold, Jr. USA (ret)

BG John C. Arick, USMC (ret)
BG Ernest C. Audino, USA (ret)
RADM Jon Bayless, USN (ret)
RDML James Best, USN (ret)
LTG Rod Bishop, USAF (ret)
BG Stephen M. Bliss, USA (ret)
BG William Bloomer, USMC (ret)
BG Don Bolduc, USA (ret)
MG William Bowdon, USMC (ret)
LTG William G. Boykin, USA (ret)
MG Edward Bracken, USAF (ret)
MG Pat Brady, USA MOH (ret)
RADM Bruce Bremer, USN (ret)
RADM Peter J. Brown, USCG (ret)
LTG Richard "Tex" Brown III, USAF (ret)
BG Frank Bruno, USAF (ret)
VADM Toney Michael Bucchi, USN (ret)
MG David P. Burford, USA (ret)
MG Bobby Butcher, USMC (ret)
RADM John T. Byrd, USN (ret)
MG Henry Canterbury, USAF (ret)
RADM James J. Carey, USN (ret)
BG Jim Cash, USAF (ret)
LTG Dennis Cavin, USA (ret)
LTG James E. Chambers, USAF (ret)
MG Carroll D. Childers, USA (ret)
BG Lawrence L. Christensen, USAF (ret)
RDML Ronald Christenson, USN (ret)
RADM Arthur Clark, USN (ret)
MG Peter Clegg, USA (ret)
MG Jay Closner, USAF (ret)
MG Tom Cole, USA (ret)
MG Richard L. Comer, USAF (ret)
MG David Commons, USAF (ret)
BG Keith B. Connolly, USAF (ret)
BG James N. Coombes, USAF (ret)
Gen. Terrance R. Dake, USMC (ret)
BG Duane Deal, USAF (ret)
BG Howard DeWolf, USAF (ret)

MG Robert Dickerson, USMC (ret)
BG James Dienst, USAF (ret)
MG James L. Dozier, USA (ret)
BG Philip M. Drew, USAF (ret)
General Michael Dugan, USAF (ret)
MG Felix Dupre, USAF (ret)
MG Neil L. Eddins, USAF (ret)
RADM Ernest Elliot, SC, USN (ret)
VADM George w. Emery, USN (ret)
MG Wade Farris, USAF (ret)
BG Steven J. Feldmann, USA (ret)
RADM James H. flately III, USN (ret)
LTG Michael Flynn, USA (ret)
BG Rufus Forrest, USAF (ret)
MG Larry D. Fortner, USAF (ret)
BG Jerome Foust, USA (ret)
BG Jimmy E. Fowler, USA (ret)
BG C. William Fox, Jr. M.D., USA (ret)
RADM J. Cameron Fraser, USN (ret)
MG John T. Furlow, USA (ret)
MG Brian I. Geehan, USA (ret)
MG Francis C. Gideon, Jr. USAF (ret)
MG Lee V. Greer, USAF (ret)
MG Thomas Griffith, USAF (ret)
RDML M.R. Groothousen, Sr, USN (ret)
BG John H. Grueser, USAF (ret)
MG Otto K. Habedank, USAF (ret)
MG Kenneth Hagemann, USAF (ret)
RADM D.M. Hagen, USN (ret)
Gen. Alfred Hansen, USAF (ret)
BG Murray A. Hansen, USAF (ret)
RDML John g. Hekman, USN (ret)
VADM Peter M. Hekman, USN (ret)
RADM Larry L. Hereth, USCG (ret)
MG Harald G. Hermes, USAF (ret)
BG James M. Hesson, USA (ret)
MG William b. Hobgood, USA (ret)
)BG Stanislaus J. Hoey, USA (ret)
MG Bob Hollingsworth, USMC (ret)
BG Thomas W. Honeywill, USAF (ret)
BG Francis A. Hughes, USA (ret)
MG Jim Hunt, USAF (ret)
MG Dewitt T. Irby, Jr., USA (ret)
MG Donald L. Jacka, USA (ret)
MG Alan Johnson, USA (ret)

LTG James H. Johnson, Jr. USA (ret)
BG James M. Johnston III, USAF (ret)
BG Charles Jones, USAF (ret)
BG Robert R. Jordan, USA (ret)
RDML Herbert C. Kaler, USN (ret)
MG Anthony R. Kropp, USA (ret)
RADM Chuck Kubic, CEC, USN (ret)
BG Jerry L. Laws, USA (ret)
RDML Bobby C. Lee, USN (ret)
VADM Dean Lee, USCG (ret)
MG James E. Livingston, USMC, MOH
MG John D. Logeman, USAF (ret)
MG Donald Logeais, USAF (ret)
BG John Lotz, USAF (ret)
BG Robert W. Lovell, USAF (ret)
RDML John T. Lyons III, USN (ret)
MG James C. McCombs, USAF (ret)
LTG Fred McCorkle, USMC (ret)
LTG Thomas McInerney, USAF (ret)
RADM John H. McKinley, USN (ret)
MG Tim McMahan, USAF (ret)
BG Michael P. McRaney, USAF (ret)
BG Ronald Scott Mangum, USA (ret)
BG Jeffrey Marshall, USA (ret)
BG Joe Mensching, USAF (ret)
RADM William F. Merlin, USCG (ret)
MG John F. Miller, Jr, USAF (ret)
RDML James Alan Morgart, USN (ret)
RADM John A. Moriarty, USN (ret)
RADM David R. Morris, USN (ret)
BG Benton Murdock, USA (ret)
RADM William E. Newman, USN (ret)
RADM Phillip R. Olson. USN (ret)
MG Ray O'Mara, USAF (ret)
MG Joe Owens, USA (ret)
VADM Jimmy Pappas, USN (ret)
RADM Russ Penniman, USN (ret)
MG Richard Perraut, USAF (ret)
BG Christopher J. Petty, ARNG (ret)
RADM William W. Pickavance, Jr. USN (ret)
RADM Leonard Picotte, USN (ret)
VADM John Poindexter, USN (ret)
MG David S. Post, USAF (ret)
RDML J.J. Quinn, USN (ret)
MG Bentley B. Rayburn, USAF (ret)
LTG Clifford Rees, Jr., USAF (ret)

MG Ron Richard, USMC (ret)
LTG James C. Riley, USA (ret)
BG Teddy Rinebarger, USAF (ret)
MG H. Douglas Robertson, USA (ret)
RDML William D. Rodriguez, USN (ret)
MG Edward Sauley, USAF (ret)
RADM Norman T. Saunders, USCG (ret)
BG Mark Scheid, USA (ret)
MG John P. Schoeppner, Jr. USAF (ret)
LTG Richard M. Scofield, USAF (ret)
RADM Paul S. Semko, USN (ret)
LTG E.G. "Buck" Shuler, Jr. USAF (ret)
MG Paul M. Van Sickle, USAF (ret)
BG Tracey Siems, USAF (ret)
MG Darwin H. Simpson, USA (ret)
BG Donald Smith, USAF (ret)
LTG Hubert G. Smith, USA (ret)
BG Ralph Smith, Jr. USAF (ret)
MG Ronald C. Spivey, USAF (ret)
LTG Tom Spoehr, USA (ret)
BG Mark Stearns, USAF (ret)
MG James N. Stewart, USAF (ret)
MG Gerald Still, USAF (ret)
BG Joseph Stringham, USA (ret)
MG Kevin J. Sullivan, USAF (ret)
RADM Jeremy D. Taylor, USN (ret)
LT Gen. David Teal, USAF (ret)
VADM Howard B. Thorsen, USCG (ret)
LTG William Thurman, USAF (ret)
LTG Garry Trexler, USAF (ret)
BG Richard J. Valente, USA (ret)
MG Paul Vallely, USA (ret)
RADM Larry G. Vogt, USN (ret)
BG David B. Warner, USAF (ret)
LTG Ronald L. Watts, USA (ret)
MG Kenneth W. Weir, USMCR (ret)
BG Bill Welch, USAF (ret)
BG David L. Weeks, USA (ret)
MG John M. White, USAF (ret)
BG Robert E. Windham, USA (ret)
RADM H. Denny Wisely, USN (ret)
LTG John Woodmansee, JR. USA (ret)
BG Robert V. Woods, USAF (ret)
LTG John L. Woodward, Jr. USAF (ret)
RADM Robert O. Wray, Jr., USN (ret)

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITY: 10 United States Code, Section 8013, Secretary of the Air Force; AFI 36-2110, Assignments, and Executive Order 9397 (SSN), as amended.
PURPOSE: Effectiveness/duty performance history, promotion, and other appropriate personnel actions.
ROUTINE USES: The "Blanket Routine Uses" published in the Air Force system of records notices apply to this system.
DISCLOSURE: May specifically be disclosed outside the DoD as a routine use pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552s(b)(3).
SORN(s): F036 AF PC A, Effectiveness/Performance Reporting Systems

I. RATEE IDENTIFICATION DATA (Read AFI 36-2406, Officer and Enlisted Evaluation Systems, carefully before filling in any item)

1. NAME <small>(Last, First, Middle Initial)</small> LOHMEIER, MATTHEW L.	2. SSN [REDACTED]	3. RANK Maj	4. DAFSC 88A0
5. ORGANIZATION, COMMAND, LOCATION Office of the Commander Air Force Space Command (AFSPC), Peterson AFB CO			6. PAS CODE EPISFVGB

II. UNIT MISSION DESCRIPTION

Acquires, operates and maintains space & cyberspace systems to provide combat power from, through and in space and ensure access to cyberspace. Mission areas include strategic and tactical missile warning, satellite operations, spacelift, space control, combat comm, cyberspace attack/defense & airfield operations. Operates as both Air Force major command & component command to United States Strategic Command & United States Cyber Command.

III. JOB DESCRIPTION

1. DUTY TITLE:
Aide-de-Camp to the Commander, AFSPC
2. KEY DUTIES, TASKS, RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Personal assistant & advisor to AFSPC/CC; manages travel schedule; acts as on-site executive officer while TDY
 - Supports the CC's official speaking engagements, ceremonies and social functions; authors formal correspondence
 - Coordinates activities w/HHQ staffs & exec agencies; interacts w/Sr US, foreign government and industry officials
 - Manages CC's travel expenses; organizes special projects; advises security detail & personal staff at CC residence

IV. PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

Here is your 10! #1 strat from Sq/Gp/Wg/MAJCOM/CC; a true multi-domain warfighter--ops cred in F-15C & Space
 4x DG: SOS, IFF, F-15 IQT, UST; "Academic Achievement" at UST; ASBC's Top Performer; Top 2% of SOS class!
 #1/3 Lts (Sq/CC), "#1/4 IPs"; Sq CGOQ (#1/23); key to UCI: perfect scheduling of 1.5K events--Sq earn'd 'Excellent'
 #1/4 Flt/CCs (Sq/CC); integrated \$27M SBIRS Std Space Trainers; oversaw 3.7K trng hrs/led 15 instrs--Sq CGOQ!
 #1/27 Flt/CCs (OG/CC); aced trng prgm for largest SBIRS upgrade ever, brf'd nat'l ldrs--coined by STRATCOM/CC
 #1/55 Capts (Wg/CC); led across 2x MAJCOMs: trng overhaul; 3.5K hrs/160 lessons--AETC/AFSPC txfer complete!
 #1/34 non-CC Maj's (Wg/CC); stellar Wg Exec: 200 HHQ taskers, 179 OPRs--100% wg on-time rate/50 HHQ awds!
 #1/5 Aide de Camps I've had! Shap'd engagements w/nat'l ldrs (VPOTUS/SECDEF/NSA)--mng'd 4-star travel w/ease
 #1/753 O-4s under my command! En route IDE now, #1 pick for SAASS, definitely promote, then space ops Sq/CC!

V. PROMOTION ZONE BPZ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IAPZ <input type="checkbox"/>	VI. GROUP SIZE N/A	VII. BOARD P0518B	VIII. SENIOR RATER ID 1S1CC
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IX. OVERALL RECOMMENDATION DEFINITELY PROMOTE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROMOTE <input type="checkbox"/> DO NOT PROMOTE THIS BOARD <input type="checkbox"/>	X. SENIOR RATER NAME, RANK, BR OF SVC, ORGN, COMD & LOCATION JOHN W. RAYMOND, General, USAF Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) Peterson AFB CO DUTY TITLE Commander SSN [REDACTED] SIGNATURE
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Instructions

Senior Rater: Review previous OERs, OPRs, Education/Training Reports, and Supplemental Evaluation Sheets. May consider other reliable information that is not contained in the record of performance when completing the PRF. Evaluate the officer's performance and assess his or her potential. Write Promotion Recommendation (Section IV) in concise "bullet" format. Provide an accurate unbiased assessment free from consideration of race, sex, ethnic origin, age, religion, or marital status. Provide the officer a copy of this report approximately 30 days prior to the board for which this report is prepared.

Officer: Review record of performance, Officer Pre-Selection Brief, and PRF for accuracy. Prior to your board convening date, you must contact your senior rater to discuss if your PRF is not accurate, omits pertinent information or has an error. If your senior rater concurs, there are procedures to correct prior to the board (reference 36-2406, chapter 8). Per DOD Directive 1320.11, Special Selection Boards, paragraph 4.3., a supplemental promotion board "shall not consider any officer who might, by maintaining reasonably careful records, have discovered and taken steps to correct that error or omission on which the original board based its decision against promotion."

MATTHEW LOHMEIER



PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Leader, teacher, and author with extensive experience in the military as an operator, executive, advisor, and commander, and later in the civilian and nonprofit worlds as a public speaker, director, and fundraiser.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Fighter pilot and instructor pilot with over 1,200 hours of combined flight time in the F-15C and T-38. Served as a first-assignment instructor pilot in the T-38.
- Commander in the US Space Force in charge of the nation's space-based missile warning enterprise (Space-based Infrared System). Provided decisive first assessment of worldwide missile launches to combatant commanders, the Secretary of Defense, and the President.
- Author of the bestselling book *Irresistible Revolution: Marxism's Goal of Conquest & the Unmaking of American Military*. Expert in the history of Marxist ideology and revolutions and highly sought public speaker about the ways in which Marxist thought is actively shaping American society and the military.
- Director of Operations for the veteran-led educational nonprofit STARRS, Inc. STARRS educates fellow Americans about the dangers of Marxist ideology, including Marxist critical race theory, and seeks to eliminate partisan politics from the military workplace.
- Master of Philosophy in military strategy from what is considered the Defense Department's premier strategy school, the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies (SAASS). At SAASS, a small group of top leaders are hand-selected from the United States military to join with top leaders from allied nation air forces to study classics in history, international relations, military theory and strategy, and space and cyber warfare. Students read a book each day and then engage in two hours of rigorous dialogue in small-group settings.
- Four-time distinguished graduate winner from the Defense Department's top education and training programs; Squadron Officer School (SOS), Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals (IFF), F-15C Initial Qualification Training (IQT), and Officer Undergraduate Space Training (UST).
- Personal traveling executive assistant (aide-de-camp) to the four-star general in charge of the Space Force, General Jay Raymond. Traveled to Washington, D.C. 27 times to coordinate the stand-up of the new Space Force at the Pentagon and White House. Shaped interactions with national leaders including the Vice President, the Secretary of Defense, and National Security Advisor.
- Ranked the #1 officer in the US Space Force and promoted two-years early to lieutenant colonel ahead of peers.

EDUCATION

- Master of Philosophy in Military Strategy, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies (SAASS), Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama
- Master of Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College (ACSC), Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama
- Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences, United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), Colorado
- Officer Undergraduate Space Training, Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB), California (*Distinguished Graduate*)
- Exchange student at People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) Academy, Chang Chun, China
- F-15C Initial Qualification Training (IQT), Kingsley Field Air National Guard, Oregon (*Distinguished Graduate*)

- Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals (IFF), Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas (*Distinguished Graduate*)
- Squadron Officer School (SOS), Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama (*Distinguished Graduate*)
- Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape (SERE) School, Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington
- Pilot Instructor Training (PIT) Course, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas
- Active Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information (TS/SCI) Security clearance
- Honorably discharged at separation
- Foreign language skills: Mandarin

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director of Operations for the Educational Nonprofit STARRS, Inc. (2022-2023)

Led fundraising and marketing efforts and directed an operations team of veterans who were responsible for public outreach, government relations, digital media and recruiting.

- Orchestrated 114 media appearances and published 136 articles
- Collaborated with 28 value-aligned organizations
- Participated in a Heritage Foundation working group to solve readiness, recruitment, and retention issues in the US military

Public Speaker (2021-present)

Spoke to thousands of Americans in dozens of audiences in states across the country, including at political rallies, conferences, colleges, and to homeschool groups. Developed a vast network of influential supporters in the business, political, and educational arenas.

Newsmax TV Contributor and Media Commentator (2021-present)

Addressed various national security issues, the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Russia-Ukraine war, and other political and policy-related conversations directly impacting military servicemembers and veterans. In addition to Newsmax, also appeared with Fox News, The Epoch Times, The Huckabee Show, American Thought Leaders, and with other personalities including Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity, and Laura Ingraham.

Space Force Commander (2020-2021)

Led the nation's space-based missile warning efforts in defense of the United States and its allies while in command of over 100 active duty, reserve, and multi-national warfighters from 4 countries.

- Responsible for operating the \$17.6B Space-based Infrared System (SBIRS)
- Provided first assessment of worldwide missile launches and other high-interest threats to US and allied leaders
- Integrated two new \$27M space training suites and oversaw 3,700 training hours enabling the certification of more than 120 space-based missile warning experts
- Served as an executive officer and aide-de-camp for senior military leaders

Air Force Fighter Pilot, Instructor Pilot, and Executive Officer (2006-2020)

Flew over 1,200 hours in the T-6, T-38, and F-15C as both an instructor pilot and fighter pilot, stationed in Oklahoma, Texas, Oregon, and Japan.

- Consistently ranked the #1 officer throughout career; top graduate in multiple training courses
- Fighter squadron awarded the Raytheon Trophy as top fighter squadron in the Air Force
- Top instructor pilot; instructed and evaluated students in aerobatics, instruments, four-ship formation, and two-ship low-level flying
- Safely recovered and saved a \$54M aircraft following a bleed air malfunction

INSPECTOR GENERAL COMPLAINT FORM

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITY: 10 U.S.C. 8013 Secretary of the Air Force, 10 U.S.C. 8020 Inspector General, 44 U.S.C. 3101 Records Management, Air Force Instruction 90-301, Inspector General Complaints Resolution and EO 9397.

PRINCIPAL PURPOSE(S): To register a personal complaint relating to individual injustices or suspected Fraud, Waste, and/or Abuse.

ROUTINE USE(S): Data provided are furnished to supervisors, commanders or inspectors in response to queries for resolution of complaints and to eliminate conditions considered detrimental to the efficiency or reputation of the Air Force.

DISCLOSURE: Voluntary; However, failure to provide the information will not adversely affect the resolution of your complaint but may delay the IG or investigating officer in resolving the issue.

1. NAME (Last, First, Middle, Suffix) or Anonymous Lohmeier, Matthew L.		GRADE/RANK Lt Col/O-5	STATUS (Active, Reserve, Guard, Civilian) Active
		ORGANIZATION 11th Space Warning Squadron	
2. DATE YOU BECAME AWARE OF THE ISSUE(S) June-November 2020	3. Home Telephone: [REDACTED] Cell Telephone: [REDACTED] Work Telephone (DSN/Comm): [REDACTED]		
4. ADDRESS (Where response to complaint will be sent) N/A E-mail Address: <u>matthew.lohmeier@spaceforce.mil</u>	5. Y / N - Have you asked your immediate supervisor or commander for assistance with this issue? N Y/N - Have you filed this complaint with Congress or another IG? N		
6. DESCRIPTION OF ALLEGATIONS/ISSUES: To assist in describing the issue(s), please answer the following questions. (Continue on the back or attach pages as necessary.) a. When did the issue occur? See attached memorandum b. Where did the issue occur? See attached memorandum c. Who took the action in question a. (e.g., Maj John A. Smith, XXSQ/CC)? See attached memorandum d. What did the person (or people) in question c. do (e.g., gave a letter of reprimand, wasted resources)? See attached memorandum e. To whom did the action in question d. happen (e.g., complainant, Sgt Smith, etc.)? See attached memorandum f. What law or regulation was violated (e.g., AFI 36-2803, 10 U.S.C. etc)? g. What remedy is being sought? Investigation		7. NAMES AND/OR POSITIONS OF WITNESSES (Or others who have knowledge of your allegations.) Col Devin Pepper (BGAR/CC) Mr. Rob Myhre (BGAR/DS) Lt Col Mike Hall (BGAR/IG) Mr. Art Engelbrecht (BGAR/IGQ) Col Richard Bourquin (DEL4/CC) Lt Col Jason McCandless (DEL4/CD) Lt Col Matt Lohmeier (11 SWS/CC) Lt Col Brandon Davenport (2 SWS/CC) Lt Col Travis Prater (former 460 CS/CC) Mrs. Christina Grooms (BGAR/CVB) Mrs. Victoria Landing (BGAR/CCS) Maj Amanda Manship (11 SWS/DO) Maj Ryan Griggs (2 SWS/DO) Capt Derrick Burnett (11 SWS/ADO) Capt Tasia Reed (2 SWS) Capt (Ch) Travis Barrino (HC) SSgt Jerome Cobb (HC) Lt Sydney Hauver (11 SWS/CCE) SrA Kelsey Statham (11 SWS/CSS) SrA Shelethia Statham (2 SWS) MSgt Kevin Carpenter (11 SWS Ops Supt) MSgt Ryan Kane (11 SWS/CCF) SMSgt Julia Valenzuela (11 SWS Supt) SMSgt Kevin Ryan (former 11 SWS Supt)	
8. I DO <input type="checkbox"/> or DO NOT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> consent to release of my name to agencies outside the IG system under a For Official Use Only policy to facilitate resolution of my complaint. I understand failure to authorize release may preclude timely resolution of my issues.			
<i>I certify that all of the statements made in this complaint (including any continuation pages) are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that a false statement or concealment of a material fact is a criminal offense punishable under Article 107 of the UCMJ or 18 U.S.C. § 1001 by a fine of up to \$250,000, imprisonment for up to five years, or both.</i>			
SIGNATURE OF COMPLAINANT <small>LOHMEIER MATTHEW LEE. 1240770292</small>		DATE 18 Nov 2020	

AF FORM 102, 20181219

FOUO (when filled in)

COMPLAINANT PROVIDED

Previous editions are obsolete.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE
HEADQUARTERS SPACE OPERATIONS COMMAND

18 November 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: 11 SWS/CC

SUBJECT: Fair and Equal Treatment of Individuals at Buckley Air Force Base Colorado

1. Colonel Devin Pepper, Garrison Commander at Buckley Air Force Base Colorado, has unethically used his position to promote anti-American propaganda to the military personnel at his base. The ideologically-driven narrative he espouses, which is rooted in critical race theory (CRT), is engendering division and resentment within the ranks, undermining good order and discipline, and eroding the confidence military professionals place in their oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States.
2. Under the banner of "Diversity & Inclusion," this divisive agenda has continued at Buckley Garrison despite the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Memorandums (dated 4 September 2020 and 28 September 2020; Attachment 1), the President's Executive Order (EO) (dated 22 September 2020; Attachment 2, e.g. Sections 2 & 3), and the Defense Department's Memorandum on implementation of the EO (dated 16 October 2020; Attachment 3) otherwise banning such trainings. Some of the trainings at Buckley Garrison are racist and hostile, and undermine our obligation to ensure the fair and equal treatment of all individuals before the law. The present memorandum summarizes only some of what I have witnessed since arriving at Buckley in June 2020, and is not an effort to be exhaustive. Further, it details occurrences both preceding and succeeding the aforementioned EO and memorandums. I point out that my experience is not unique, and that other leaders and military personnel have discussed with me their concerns over the climate at the base but that they are unsure how to address the problem.
3. On 24 June 2020, shortly after I moved to Buckley, the base commander sent an email containing anti-American, progressive political propaganda to the members of his base (Attachment 4). He requested that members—comprised of both Air and Space Force personnel—view two propaganda videos prior to the upcoming "Buckley Connects Virtual Wingman Day." The two videos were "The Uncomfortable Truth (Amazon Prime, 2017), by Loki Mulholland, and "13th" (Netflix, 2016). They contain at least the following inappropriate and concerning elements:
 - a. "The Uncomfortable Truth" portrays American history as fraught with racism from 1619 till the present. It teaches that a racist social order was codified by the US Constitution to allow whites to remain in power and subjugate and oppress blacks,

SEMPER SUPRA

and that we have never escaped from that foundation of racism; that *upon ratification of the constitution* "white supremacy was now the official policy of the United States of America."

b. "13th" portrays Republican politicians as racist (claiming, for example, that George Bush won his election by causing Americans to fear black people, and also showing clips of Donald Trump before the 2016 election that cast him in a negative light, insinuating that he has fueled systemic racism in America), portrays Democrats as aiding the black community (for example, favorable clips of Barack Obama, and Bill and Hillary Clinton), and interviews a famous Marxist activist (Melina Abdullah, Black Live's Matter LA chapter organizer and activist) in order to build a suitably unfavorable narrative about American history in order to justify and demonstrate sympathy for violent riots specifically. The United States is referred to as a "system of oppression" throughout the film. The President of the United States is cast in a terrible light (and out of context) at 1:20:15 to imply he enjoys oppressing blacks and keeping minorities in an inferior status.

As a commander of young military professionals, all of whom have taken the oath to support and defend the constitution, I am very concerned that group identity politics and anti-American propaganda is eroding the trust and confidence these young people have in their country and in the constitution. This same ideology has, in various forums, continued to be promulgated throughout my time at the base.

4. On Friday, 26 June 2020, the base hosted the "Buckley Connects Virtual Wingman Day," during which conversations on "Race, Respect, and Healing" took place. The stated goal of the event was to "create safe spaces" to discuss race and seek "racial healing" (Attachment 5). Statements were read at the beginning of small group discussions to generate conversation. It was suggested to facilitators of these group discussions to read the following statements: "Police in America are more suspicious of certain people based on their race," and "I believe racism is prevalent in our country (...in the Air Force)." Participants were asked to write whether they agreed with the statements and share their responses with the group. Once participants were "more comfortable," they were directed to "get serious, and deepen the conversation" using at least three of the following: "How often do you think about your racial or ethnic identity?" "What aspect of your racial or ethnic identity makes you the proudest?" "In what ways does being your specific race or ethnicity impact your personal and/or professional life?" "Does racial or ethnic identity enter in your process of making important or daily decisions?" "Have you ever felt 'different' in a group setting because of your race/ethnicity? How did this affect you? How often/deeply do you interact with people of a different racial/ethnic identity other than your own?" "Have you ever witnessed someone being treated unfairly because of their racial or ethnic identity? In the Air Force? If so, how did you respond? How did it make you feel?" "What do you think needs to happen before our country can achieve healing and forgiveness? What can we do locally? In the Air Force?" It was hoped that these discussions would "provide opportunities to acknowledge the tremendous damage inflicted by individual and systemic racism," and lead

participants to become “oriented toward equity.” These statements and questions imply that certain ideas are a foregone conclusion, thereby subtly coercing participants into acquiescence or simply shaming them into silence. The climate created by these discussions leads participants to feel that if they disagree they are likely to be viewed as “racist,” or “part of the problem,” or as “getting political.”

5. Around the same time, other guidance (in the form of emails, town halls, Facebook Live events, discussion guidelines, and talking points) was disseminated to help leaders on the base facilitate ongoing conversation about racial injustice and inequity in the country and in the service. Once such tool that was sent to leaders, titled “Difficult Conversations: Racial & Ethnic Diversity” (Attachment 6), discussed the importance in “establishing a safe and courageous environment within your workplace” in order to minimize discomfort in discussions about race. Leaders were also cautioned, however, that “for some Airmen and Space Professionals—particularly members of marginalized, non-majority or targeted identity groups—you may not be able to provide complete safety.” The implication, of course, was that the military workplace is not already a safe environment for minorities and that “identity groups” play a fundamental role in military organizational culture and identity.

6. Emails about race and racism from various base agencies, including from the base commander, continued to go to base personnel during the months of June and July 2020. In one such email from Col Pepper, he asked leaders to read an article written by Daisy Auger-Dominguez (the Chief People Officer at VICE Media Group, and Vice-Chair of the board of directors of Planned Parenthood Federation) titled, “Getting Over Your Fear of Talking About Diversity,” which he attached to his email (Attachment 7). The article suggests leaders read certain books to educate themselves about “issues of women, people of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+, religious minorities, and other marginalized groups.” The books recommended included Ijeoma Oluo’s *So You Want to Talk About Race* (see Paragraph 11), Minda Harts’ *The Memo: What Women of Color Need to Know to Secure a Seat at the Table*, Jodi Patterson’s *The Bold World*, and Dolly Chugh’s *The Person You Mean to Be: How Good People Fight Bias*. The article further instructs leaders to “apologize and admit your mistakes,” and to take up the work “as an ally in a position of power” to launch “team conversations about white fragility, holding all-hands meetings calling out racially charged incidents when they happen, or introducing yourself with your pronouns.”

7. In July 2020, Col Pepper suggested that the base Community Support Coordinator compile a list of Diversity & Inclusion initiatives (i.e. book clubs, small group discussions, etc.) that had been implemented by the various units on base so that such initiatives might be “shared with everyone” (Attachment 8). In a 10 July email solicitation of those initiatives, it was advertised that the Buckley Chapel team was developing its own discussion groups. The first topic to be discussed was “valuing people.” The chapel explained that “we will do so by watching a video on racism that documents generational and political racism followed by a facilitated discussion on racism.” I later came to learn from young enlisted space professionals in my own unit

as well as from Chaplain Travis Barrino, that the chapel had also established minority small group discussions, and classes titled "Race in America" that were available to everyone. Twelve days later, a follow-up email was sent by the Community Support Coordinator to base leaders containing a consolidated list of Diversity & Inclusion initiatives. Among them, the base Force Support Squadron shared that they were giving their enlisted members "homework" to research issues related to race in America, and that they would be discussing their homework bi-weekly at enlisted calls to "keep the discussion on Race and Respect *a constant topic* in the squadron." These are merely a couple of examples of initiatives among others being organized at Buckley Garrison.

8. In July 2020, shortly after I took command, Chaplain Barrino and SSgt Jerome Cobb stopped by my office to introduce themselves. Then squadron superintendent, SMSgt Kevin Ryan, was in my office at the time of the brief introduction. Chaplain Barrino explained that it was no longer the Chapel's practice to give office space to their chaplains over in the chapel, that that was how the chapel used to do things, but that the chaplains were now expected to live amongst and be imbedded in the units they served. He explained that Lt Col Ray Brushier had already provided him an office space within the cyber squadron, and that he (the chaplain) was also interested in finding office space within my unit, the 11th Space Warning Squadron (11 SWS) (the chaplain clarified during the conversation that he was not looking for his own office, per se). He also explained his intent to share the "Race in America" classes or lectures with the members of my unit. I explained to him that I was on my way out the door, kindly expressed hesitation at his proposal, and said that I would like to sit down with him at some point soon to meet him and learn more about the classes. The chaplain seemed surprised at my hesitation and pursued the issue further. Surprised by his insistence, I respectfully explained that this was an operations squadron, that we have a mission to accomplish, that there was no greater advocate of the important role of the chaplaincy than me, but that there was also a proper balance between operations and chaplain support that I was interested in finding. At that, he said, "I have heard about commanders like you, but I've never met one." While I cannot know for sure what was meant by the chaplain's statement, I considered it a jab. The comment seemed intended to convey the chaplain's dismay at my reluctance to readily welcome his classes (about which I knew very little at the time) into my squadron. The chaplain has a friendly demeanor, and though his statement was not said with an angry tone, I could not help but perceive he viewed me as an opponent to what he was pursuing, and it left me concerned about our interaction. I do not know if our initial conversation was shared with others. SMSgt Ryan was present for the entirety of our brief visit.

9. On Wednesday, 12 August 2020, at 1400, Chaplain Barrino sat down with me and my superintendent, SMSgt Ryan, in my office to discuss the contents of the "Race in America" classes. The conversation lasted for about an hour and fifteen minutes. The chaplain explained that the classes were intended to facilitate dialogue on how we can heal as a nation and as a service, and overcome systemic racism. I asked him what he meant by systemic racism. He replied with an unclear vignette, skirting the

issue somewhat, and then replied, after brief hesitation, “basically, whites are racist.” I told him I did not believe such a problem existed in our country or within our service, and explained to him why I thought such a message not only had no healing power, but that I was concerned it would create division and unhealthy tension between members of my unit. We had much dialogue over these issues, which for the most part was professional and respectful despite our opposite views. The chaplain shared many views which gave me cause for concern. Among the most alarming to me were his views that the United States was founded by racists, that American history was written by a white oppressor class that was racist, and that “history must be re-written.” I again expressed concern over his views. I explained to him that to impugn guilt to members of my unit solely based on the color of their skin was the very definition of racism. I also expressed my concern that the narrative he had chosen to adopt about American history was fueled by a divisive political ideology that was dangerous. He of course disagreed. I also explained to him that his narrative on race and American history undermined the trust our service members place in their oath to support and defend the constitution. He disagreed.

10. In September 2020, an active duty, black female enlisted member of my unit came to my office to discuss a concern she had with regards to another male member of the unit. My First Sergeant, MSgt Ryan Kane, was present for the conversation. We had a long conversation with the member, and took very seriously and investigated her concerns about a statement she overheard another member of the unit make to his friends, to which she took offense and considered racist. That particular complaint was adjudicated appropriately and to the satisfaction of myself, my First Sergeant, and the complainant, and is not the issue I would like to address. During the course of conversation with this female member, she explained “I never knew before that I was an outsider; not just in my country, but in my own service. I never knew about that until I attended the classes at the Chapel with the chaplain.” We asked her about the classes, and she explained that she had been attending a minority group discussion hosted by the chaplain at which they were discussing issues of race in America. It was clear to the First Sergeant and me that this member was being trained to view the motives, statements, and behaviors of others as racist. The fact that the member said she “never knew before” that she was an outsider, gave us greater cause for concern over the classes that were being hosted by the chaplain. The First Sergeant and I are aware of at least one other member of our unit (also a black enlisted member) attending the classes. The classes in question, which plant this divisive, fear-filled and hate-fueled ideology into the hearts of our active duty members, is not only known about by the Garrison Commander (the “base commander” became the “garrison commander” on 24 July 2020), but has his ongoing support and advocacy, as is evidenced in his emails to the base, his base resiliency days, his town halls in which he makes occasional mention of these initiatives, and his Team Buckley bi-weekly tag-up during which he and the Chaplain invite others to attend these discussions.

11. The Garrison Commander and the base chapel are sponsoring a “Discussions on Race Book Club” at which critical race theory (CRT) is taught. The first such

discussion took place on Thursday, 29 October 2020, which I attended via live-stream. It is noted that these discussions are being facilitated long after the Executive Order was issued (reference Paragraph 2 and Attachment 2, e.g. Sections 2 & 3) directing government officials to cease "training" government workers to believe divisive, anti-American propaganda, specifically critical race theory. The book discussed at the first event was *So You Want to Talk About Race*, by Ijeoma Oluo (see Paragraph 6), and the discussion was facilitated by an active duty, black female officer member of the 2d Space Warning Squadron. The book teaches that the United States is "a white supremacist society" that must be "dismantled piece by piece." It teaches that speech that makes "people of color feel unsafe" is "an act of violence," but that if whites are uncomfortable, "do not allow [them] to be treated as if harm has been done to them." The book suggests ways a reader might want to consider facilitating discussions about the contents of the book, saying "the comfort of white attendees should be very, very far down on the priority list." In its suggestions regarding creating safe spaces, the book advocates reintroducing a form of segregation into American society: If whites "feel strongly that they need to center their feelings and experiences in the discussion, set up a space away from the group where they can talk with other white people. Do not let it take over the group discussion or become a burden that people of color in the group have to bear." Further, it emphatically touches upon the many other aspects comprising critical race theory, topics such as: privilege, intersectionality, police brutality, cultural appropriation, and microaggressions. The book proposes organizations to which concerned readers should be donating their money, such as the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, and the NAACP. It instructs readers that they should vote for politicians who support raising the minimum wage, and who favor police reform. One participant in the group, who mentioned he was currently also reading Robin DiAngelo's *White Fragility*, expressed how glad he was that "Colonel Pepper was able to use his bully pulpit" to push these discussions on race.

12. Since arriving at Buckley, I have heard rumors from at least several unrelated sources that Colonel Pepper is hosting minority only, small group mentorship gatherings at his on-base residence. I have not sought to verify the truthfulness of those rumors, but mention it here because it is related to the other items discussed in the present memorandum, and because the rumors alone have fueled a perception of unfairness for some active duty members at the base.

13. As the President's Executive Order states, "These types of 'trainings' not only run counter to the fundamental beliefs for which our Nation has stood since its inception, but they also engender division and resentment within the Federal workforce." They do not engender inclusion, but prevent it. As a commander, I am seeing this play out in real-time in the military at a break-neck pace. Military members who take an oath to support and defend the constitution are being "trained" to hate America's founding, history, and current standing of privilege in the world. Books such as Oluo's, and other videos and training materials that have been disseminated and discussed on the base, which are rooted in CRT, should have no place in the United States military, yet these trainings and materials were sponsored by the Garrison Commander and the

chaplaincy. The ideology I have described dismisses individuality outright and demonizes entire groups of people (e.g. whites). Further, it pits groups and classes of people against one another creating a polarized political and social environment, cancels fraternal ties, imagined or real, and undermines our obligation to ensure the fair and equal treatment of all individuals before the law.



MATTHEW L. LOHMEIER, Lt Col, USSF
Commander

8 Attachments:

1. OMB Memorandum M-20-34, "Training in the Federal Government," 4 September 2020; OMB Memorandum M-20-37, "Ending Employee Trainings that Use Divisive Propaganda to Undermine the Principle of Fair and Equal Treatment for All," 28 September 2020
2. Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping, 22 September 2020
3. Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Implementation of Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping," 16 October 2020
4. Email dated 24 June 2020
5. Attachment to email dated 19 June 2020
6. Handout titled "Difficult Conversations: Racial & Ethnic Diversity"
7. Attachment to email dated 22 July 2020
8. Emails dated 10 July 2020 and 22 July 2020



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE
HEADQUARTERS SPACE OPERATIONS COMMAND


MEMORANDUM FOR LT COL MATTHEW LOHMEIER

4 Jan 21

FROM: SpOC/CC
150 Vandenberg Street, Suite 1105
Peterson AFB CO 80914-4020

SUBJECT: Complaint Response

1. Your complaint of 18 November 2020, originally presented to SpOC/IG, was referred to me for review. I have carefully reviewed your allegations and the various matters you offered in support. As discussed in Executive Order 13950, fostering an inclusive workplace in the armed forces, premised on the recognition that all individuals are created equal and should be allowed equal opportunity under the law to pursue happiness and prosper based on individual merit, is a fundamental responsibility of all DoD leaders.
2. This Executive Order and its implementing guidance limit the use of certain themes and messages in formal workplace training. You may be aware that on 29 October 2020, DoD/IG initiated a review of DoD's implementation of Executive Order 13950, Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping. The Diversity and Inclusion programs of all SpOC installations are within the scope of this review, and implementation of the Executive Order at each SpOC installation - to include Buckley AFB - has actually been reviewed by DoD/IG. That DoD/IG review remains underway.
3. After considering all the facts in light of DoD/IG's ongoing review, I have taken appropriate action.


STEPHEN N. WHITING
Lieutenant General, USSF
Commander

Executive Summary

“As currently postured, the U.S. military is at growing risk of not being able to meet the demands of defending America’s vital national interests. It is rated as weak relative to the force needed to defend national interests on a global stage against actual challenges in the world as it is rather than as we wish it were. This is the logical consequence of years of sustained use, underfunding, poorly defined priorities, wildly shifting security policies, exceedingly poor discipline in program execution, and a profound lack of seriousness across the national security establishment even as threats to U.S. interests have surged.”

The United States maintains a military force to protect the homeland from attack and to protect its interests abroad. There are other uses, of course—for example, to assist civil authorities in times of emergency or to deter enemies—but this force’s primary purpose historically has been to make it possible for the U.S. to physically impose its will on an enemy when necessary.

It is therefore critical that the American people understand the condition of the United States military with respect to America’s vital national security interests, threats to those interests, and the context within which the U.S. might have to use “hard power” to protect those interests. Because changes can have substantial implications for defense policies and investment, knowing how these three areas change over time is likewise important. Of the three, the condition of the military is the most important to understand because it is the only one over which the U.S. has complete control, and it underwrites the ability of all other aspects of national power to flourish or fail.

Each year, The Heritage Foundation’s *Index of U.S. Military Strength* employs a standardized, consistent set of criteria, accessible both to government

officials and to the American public, to gauge the U.S. military’s ability to perform its missions in today’s world. The inaugural 2015 edition established a baseline assessment on which each annual edition builds, one that both assesses the state of affairs for its respective year and measures how key factors have changed during the preceding year.

The *Index* is not an assessment of what *might* be, although the trends that it captures may well imply both concerns and opportunities that can guide decisions that are germane to America’s security. Rather, the *Index* should be seen as a report card for how well or poorly conditions, countries, and the U.S. military have evolved during the assessed year. The past cannot be changed, but it can inform, just as the future cannot be predicted but can be shaped.

What the *Index* Assesses

The *Index of U.S. Military Strength* assesses the ease or difficulty of operating in key regions based on existing alliances, regional political stability, the presence of U.S. military forces, and the condition of key infrastructure. Threats are assessed based on the behavior and physical capabilities of actors that pose challenges to vital U.S. national interests. The condition of America’s military power is measured in terms of its capability or modernity, capacity for operations, and readiness to handle assigned missions. This framework provides a single-source reference for policymakers and other Americans who seek to know whether our military is up to the task of defending our national interests.

Any discussion of the aggregate capacity and breadth of the military power needed to protect U.S. security interests requires a clear understanding of precisely what interests must be defended. Three vital interests have been specified consistently (albeit in varying language) by a string of Administrations over the past few decades:

- **Defense** of the homeland;
- **Successful conclusion** of a major war that has the potential to destabilize a region of critical interest to the U.S.; and
- **Preservation** of freedom of movement within the global commons (the sea, air, outer space, and cyberspace domains) through which the world conducts its business.

To defend these interests effectively on a global scale, the United States needs a military force of sufficient size: what is known in the Pentagon as capacity. The many factors involved make determining how big the military should be a complex exercise, but successive Administrations, Congresses, Department of Defense staffs, and independent commissions have managed to arrive at a surprisingly consistent force-sizing rationale: an ability to handle two major conflicts simultaneously or in closely overlapping time frames.

At its root, the current National Defense Strategy (NDS) implies the same force requirement.¹ Its emphasis on a return to long-term competition with major powers, explicitly naming Russia and China as primary competitors,² reemphasizes the need for the United States to have:

- Sufficient military capacity to deter or win against large conventional powers in geographically distant regions,
- The ability to conduct sustained operations against lesser threats, and
- The ability to work with allies and maintain a U.S. presence in regions of key importance that is sufficient to deter behavior that threatens U.S. interests.

No matter how much America desires that the world be a simpler, less threatening place that is more inclined to beneficial economic interactions than violence-laden friction, the patterns of history show that competing powers consistently emerge and that the U.S. must be able to defend its interests in more than one region at a time. Russia's invasion of Ukraine, China's dramatic expansion of its military and its provocative behavior far beyond the

Indo-Pacific region, North Korea's intransigence with respect to even discussing its nuclear capabilities, and Iran's dogged pursuit of a nuclear weapon capability and sustained support for terrorist groups illustrate this point. Consequently, this *Index* embraces the two-war or two-contingency requirement.

Since its founding, the U.S. has been involved in a major "hot" war every 15–20 years. Since World War II, the U.S. has also maintained substantial combat forces in Europe and other regions while simultaneously fighting major wars as circumstances demanded. The size of the total force roughly approximated the two-contingency model, which has the inherent ability to meet multiple security obligations to which the U.S. has committed itself while also modernizing, training, educating, and maintaining the force. Accordingly, our assessment of the adequacy of today's U.S. military is based on the ability of America's armed forces to engage and defeat two major competitors at roughly the same time.

We acknowledge that without a dramatic change in circumstances such as the onset of a major conflict, a multitude of competing interests that evolve during extended periods of peace and prosperity will cause Administrations and Congresses to favor spending on domestic programs rather than investing in defense. Extended peace leads to complacency, which can lead to distraction and less willingness to invest in defense. The result: a weakened military, competitors that are emboldened, and a nation at risk. Consequently, winning the support needed to increase defense spending to the level that a force with a two-war capacity requires is admittedly difficult politically. But this does not change the patterns of history, the behavior of competitors, or the reality of what it takes to defend America's interests in an actual war.

This *Index's* benchmark for a two-war force is derived from a review of the forces used for each major war that the U.S. has undertaken since World War II and the major defense studies completed by the federal government over the past 30 years. We concluded that a standing (Active Component) two-war-capable force would consist of:

- **Army:** 50 brigade combat teams (BCTs);
- **Navy:** 400 battle force ships and 624 strike aircraft;
- **Air Force:** 1,200 fighter/ground-attack aircraft;

- **Marine Corps:** 30 battalions; and
- **Space Force:** metric not yet established.

This recommended force does not account for homeland defense missions that would accompany a period of major conflict and are generally handled by Reserve and National Guard forces. Nor does it constitute the totality of the Joint Force, which includes the array of supporting and combat-enabling functions that are essential to the conduct of any military operation: logistics; transportation (land, sea, and air); health services; communications and data handling; and force generation (recruiting, training, and education) to name only a few. Rather, these are combat forces that are the most recognizable elements of America’s hard power but that also can be viewed as surrogate measures for the size and capability of the larger Joint Force.

The Global Operating Environment

The United States is a global power with global security interests, and its military must be able to protect those interests anywhere they are threatened. While this may occur in any region, three regions—Europe, the Middle East, and Asia—stand apart because of the scale and scope of U.S. interests associated with them and the significance of competitors that are able to pose commensurately large threats. Aggregating the three regional scores provides a global operating environment score of **FAVORABLE** in the *2023 Index*.

Europe. Overall, the European region remains stable, mature, and friendly to U.S. military operational requirements. Russia remains the preeminent military threat to the region, both conventionally and unconventionally, and its invasion of Ukraine marks a serious escalation in its efforts to exert influence on its periphery. China continues to have a significant presence in Europe and, by mitigating sanctions, has been a key enabler of the Russian government’s ability to conduct the war in Ukraine.

The past year saw continued U.S. reengagement with the continent along with increases in European allies’ defense budgets and capability investment spurred by alarm over Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and related threats to countries that are supporting Ukraine’s defense.

It is difficult to predict whether NATO’s renewed emphasis on collective defense and its reinvigorated

defense spending will continue in the long term or whether this is a short-term response to Russia’s invasion. We hope for the former but must plan against the latter.

For Europe, scores this year remained steady, as they did in 2021 (assessed in the *2022 Index*), with no substantial changes in any individual categories or average scores. The *2023 Index* again assesses the European operating environment as “favorable.”

The Middle East. The Middle East region is now highly unstable, both because its authoritarian regimes have eroded and because it continues to serve as a breeding ground for terrorism. Overall, regional security has continued to deteriorate. Although Iraq has restored its territorial integrity since the defeat of ISIS, the political situation and future relations between Baghdad and the United States will remain difficult as long as a government that is sympathetic to Iran is in power. U.S. relations in the region will remain complex, but this has not stopped the U.S. military from operating as needed.

The region’s primary challenges—continued meddling by Iran and surging transnational terrorism—are made more difficult by Sunni–Shia sectarian divides, the more aggressive nature of Iran’s Islamist revolutionary nationalism and its open pursuit of nuclear weapon capabilities, and the proliferation of Sunni Islamist revolutionary groups.

In the Middle East, the U.S. benefits from operationally proven procedures that leverage bases, infrastructure, and the logistical processes needed to maintain a large force forward deployed thousands of miles away from the homeland. The personal links between allied armed forces are also present, and joint training exercises improve interoperability and give the U.S. an opportunity to influence some of the region’s future leaders.

America’s relationships in the region are pragmatic, based on shared security and economic concerns. As long as these issues remain relevant to both sides, the U.S. is likely to have an open door to operate in the Middle East when its national interests require that it do so.

Although circumstances in all measured areas vary throughout the year, in general terms, the *2023 Index* assesses the Middle East operating environment as “moderate,” but the region’s political stability continues to be “unfavorable” and will remain a dark cloud over everything else.

Global Operating Environment: Summary

VERY POOR	UNFAVORABLE	MODERATE	FAVORABLE	EXCELLENT
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Operating Environment: Europe

	VERY POOR	UNFAVORABLE	MODERATE	FAVORABLE	EXCELLENT
Alliances					✓
Political Stability				✓	
U.S. Military Posture				✓	
Infrastructure				✓	
OVERALL				✓	

Operating Environment: Middle East

	VERY POOR	UNFAVORABLE	MODERATE	FAVORABLE	EXCELLENT
Alliances			✓		
Political Stability		✓			
U.S. Military Posture			✓		
Infrastructure			✓		
OVERALL			✓		

Operating Environment: Asia

	VERY POOR	UNFAVORABLE	MODERATE	FAVORABLE	EXCELLENT
Alliances				✓	
Political Stability			✓		
U.S. Military Posture				✓	
Infrastructure				✓	
OVERALL				✓	

Global Operating Environment

	VERY POOR	UNFAVORABLE	MODERATE	FAVORABLE	EXCELLENT
Europe				✓	
Middle East			✓		
Asia				✓	
OVERALL				✓	

Asia. The Asian strategic environment includes half of the globe and is characterized by a variety of political relationships among states with wildly varying capabilities. This makes Asia far different from Europe, which in turn makes America's relations with the region different from its relations with Europe. American conceptions of Asia must recognize the physical limitations imposed by the tyranny of distance and the need to move forces as necessary to respond to challenges from China and North Korea.

The complicated nature of intra-Asian relations and the lack of an integrated, regional security architecture along the lines of NATO make defense of U.S. security interests more challenging than many Americans appreciate. However, the U.S. has strong relations with allies in the region, and their willingness to host bases helps to offset the vast distances that must be covered.

The militaries of Japan and the Republic of Korea are larger and more capable than European militaries, and both countries are becoming more interested in developing missile defense capabilities that will be essential in combatting the regional threat posed by North Korea. In Japan, the growing public awareness of the need to adopt a more "normal" posture militarily in response to China's increasingly aggressive actions indicates a break with the pacifist tradition among the Japanese since the end of World War II. This could lead to improved military capabilities and the prospect of joining the U.S. in defense measures beyond the immediate vicinity of Japan.

We continue to assess the Asia region as "favorable" to U.S. interests in terms of alliances, overall political stability, militarily relevant infrastructure, and the presence of U.S. military forces.

Summarizing the condition of each region enables us to get a sense of how they compare in terms of the difficulty that would be involved in projecting U.S. military power and sustaining combat operations in each one. As a whole, the global operating environment maintains a score of "favorable," which means that the United States should be able to project military power anywhere in the world to defend its interests without substantial opposition or high levels of risk other than those imposed by a capable enemy.

Threats to U.S. Interests

America faces challenges to its security at home and interests abroad from countries and organizations that have:

- Interests that conflict with those of the United States;
- Sometimes hostile intentions toward the U.S.; and
- In some cases, growing military capabilities that are leveraged to impose an adversary's will by coercion or intimidation of neighboring countries, thereby creating regional instabilities.

The government of the United States constantly faces the challenge of employing the right mix of diplomatic, economic, public information, intelligence, and military capabilities to protect and advance its interests. Because this *Index* focuses on the military component of national power, its assessment of threats is correspondingly an assessment of the military or physical threat posed by each entity addressed in this section.

Russia remains the primary threat to American interests in Europe as well as the most pressing threat to the United States. Its invasion of Ukraine reintroduced conventional war to Europe. It also is the largest conflict on that continent since the end of the Second World War, and its many economic and security repercussions are felt across the globe. Moscow also remains committed to massive pro-Russia propaganda campaigns in other Eastern European countries as well as disruptive activities around its periphery and across the Middle East.

The *2023 Index* again assesses the threat emanating from Russia as "aggressive" in its behavior and "formidable" (the highest category on the scale) in its growing capabilities. Though Russia is consuming its inventory of munitions, supplies, equipment, and even military personnel in its war against Ukraine, it is also replacing those items and people. Unlike Ukraine's, Russia's industrial capacity remains untouched by the war, and will allow Moscow to replace older equipment lost in the conflict with newly manufactured items. Russia's military is also gaining valuable combat experience. Consequently, the war may actually serve to increase the challenge that Russia poses to U.S. interests on the continent.

China, the most comprehensive threat the U.S. faces, remained "aggressive" in the scope of its provocative behavior and earns the score of

Threats to U.S. Vital Interests: Summary



Behavior of Threats

	HOSTILE	AGGRESSIVE	TESTING	ASSERTIVE	BENIGN
China		✓			
Russia		✓			
Iran		✓			
North Korea			✓		
Non-State Actors		✓			
OVERALL		✓			

Capability of Threats

	FORMIDABLE	GATHERING	CAPABLE	ASPIRATIONAL	MARGINAL
China	✓				
Russia	✓				
Iran		✓			
North Korea		✓			
Non-State Actors			✓		
OVERALL		✓			

Threats to U.S. Vital Interests

	SEVERE	HIGH	ELEVATED	GUARDED	LOW
China		✓			
Russia		✓			
Iran		✓			
North Korea		✓			
Non-State Actors		✓			
OVERALL		✓			

“formidable” for its capability because of its continued investment in the modernization and expansion of its military and the particular attention it has paid to its space, cyber, and artificial intelligence capabilities. The People’s Liberation Army continues

to extend its reach and military activity beyond its immediate region and engages in larger and more comprehensive exercises, including live-fire exercises in the East China Sea near Taiwan and aggressive naval and air patrols in the South China Sea.

China also continues to conduct probes of the South Korean and Japanese air defense identification zones, drawing rebukes from both Seoul and Tokyo, and its statements about Taiwan and exercise of military capabilities in the air and sea around the island have been increasingly belligerent. China is taking note of the war in Ukraine and U.S. military developments and has been adjusting its own posture, training, and investments accordingly.

Iran represents by far the most significant security challenge to the United States, its allies, and its interests in the greater Middle East. Its open hostility to the United States and Israel, sponsorship of terrorist groups like Hezbollah, and history of threatening the commons underscore the problem it could pose. Today, Iran's provocations are of primary concern to the region and America's allies, friends, and assets there. Iran relies heavily on irregular (to include political) warfare against others in the region and fields more ballistic missiles than any of its neighbors.

Iran's development of ballistic missiles and its potential nuclear capability also make it a long-term threat to the security of the U.S. homeland. In addition, Iran has continued its aggressive efforts to shape the domestic political landscape in Iraq, adding to the region's general instability. The *2023 Index* extends the *2022 Index's* assessment of Iran's behavior as "aggressive" and its capability as "gathering."

North Korea's military poses a security challenge for American allies South Korea and Japan, as well as for U.S. bases in those countries and on the island territory of Guam. North Korean officials are belligerent toward the United States, often issuing military and diplomatic threats. Pyongyang also has engaged in a range of provocative behavior that includes nuclear and missile tests and tactical-level attacks on South Korea. It has used its missile and nuclear tests to enhance its prestige and importance domestically, regionally, and globally and to extract various concessions from the U.S. in negotiations on its nuclear program and various aid packages.

Such developments also improve North Korea's military posture. U.S. and allied intelligence agencies assess that Pyongyang has already achieved nuclear warhead miniaturization, the ability to place nuclear weapons on its medium-range missiles, and the ability to reach the continental United States with a missile. North Korea also uses cyber warfare as a means of guerilla warfare against its adversaries

and international financial institutions. This *Index* therefore assesses the overall threat from North Korea, considering the range of contingencies, as "testing" for level of provocation of behavior and "gathering" for level of capability.

A broad array of terrorist groups remain the most hostile of any of the threats to America examined in the *Index*. The primary terrorist groups of concern to the U.S. homeland and to Americans abroad are the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) and al-Qaeda. Al-Qaeda and its branches remain active and effective in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, and the Sahel of Northern Africa. Though no longer a territory-holding entity, ISIS also remains a serious presence in the Middle East, in South and Southeast Asia, and throughout Africa, threatening stability as it seeks to overthrow governments and impose an extreme form of Islamic law. Its ideology continues to inspire attacks against Americans and U.S. interests. Fortunately, Middle East terrorist groups remain the least capable threats facing the U.S., but they cannot be dismissed.

Just as there are American interests that are not covered by this *Index*, there may be additional threats to American interests that are not identified here. This *Index* focuses on the more apparent sources of risk and those that appear to pose the greatest threat.

Compiling the assessments of these threat sources, the *2023 Index* again rates the overall global threat environment as "aggressive" and "gathering" in the areas of threat actor behavior and material ability to harm U.S. security interests, respectively, leading to an aggregated threat score of "high."

The Status of U.S. Military Power

Finally, we assessed the military power of the United States in three areas: capability, capacity, and readiness. We approached this assessment service by service as the clearest way to link military force size; modernization programs; unit readiness; and (in general terms) the functional combat power (land, sea, air, and space) that each service represents.

We treated the United States' nuclear capability as a separate entity because of its truly unique characteristics and constituent elements, from the weapons themselves to the supporting infrastructure that is fundamentally different from the infrastructure that supports conventional capabilities. While not fully assessing cyber as we do the Army, Navy, Air

Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force, we acknowledge the importance of new tools and organizations that have become essential to deterring hostile behavior and winning wars.

These three areas of assessment (capability, capacity, and readiness) are central to the overarching questions of whether the U.S. has a sufficient quantity of appropriately modern military power and whether military units are able to conduct military operations on demand and effectively.

As reported in all previous editions of the *Index*, the common theme across the services and the U.S. nuclear enterprise is one of force degradation caused by many years of underinvestment, poor execution of modernization programs, and the negative effects of budget sequestration (cuts in funding) on readiness and capacity in spite of repeated efforts by Congress to provide relief from low budget ceilings imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011. The services have undertaken efforts to reorient from irregular warfare to large-scale combat against a peer adversary, but such shifts take time and even more resources.

Because of the rising costs of fuel, munitions, and repair parts and the lack of qualified maintainers and maintenance facilities, much of the progress in regaining readiness that had been made in 2020 and 2021 has been lost in 2022. The forecast for 2023 is likewise gloomy given a proposed defense budget for FY 2023 that will not be sufficient to keep pace with ongoing and dramatic increases in inflation.

Experience in warfare is ephemeral and context-sensitive. Valuable combat experience is lost as servicemembers who individually gained experience leave the force, and it retains direct relevance only for future operations of a similar type: Counterinsurgency and adviser support operations in Iraq, for example, gained over the past two decades are fundamentally different from major conventional operations against a state like Iran or China.

Although portions of the current Joint Force are experienced in some types of operations, the force as a whole lacks experience with high-end, major combat operations of the sort being seen in Ukraine and toward which the U.S. military services have only recently begun to redirect their training and planning. Additionally, the force is still aged and shrinking in its capacity for operations even if limited quantities of new equipment like the F-35 Lightning II fighter are being introduced.

We characterized the services and the nuclear enterprise on a five-category scale ranging from “very weak” to “very strong,” benchmarked against criteria elaborated in the full report. These characterizations should not be construed as reflecting either the competence of individual servicemembers or the professionalism of the services or Joint Force as a whole; nor do they speak to the U.S. military’s strength relative to the strength of other militaries around the world in direct comparison. Rather, they are assessments of the institutional, programmatic, and material health or viability of America’s hard military power benchmarked against historical instances of use in large-scale, conventional operations and current assessments of force levels likely needed to defend U.S. interests against major enemies in contemporary or near-future combat operations.

Our analysis concluded with these assessments:

- **Army as “Marginal.”** The Army’s score remains “marginal” in the *2023 Index*, and significant challenges that have arisen during the year call into question whether it will improve its status in the year ahead. Though the Army has sustained its commitment to modernizing its forces for great-power competition, its modernization programs are still in their development phase, and it will be a few years before they are ready for acquisition and fielding. In other words, the Army is aging faster than it is modernizing. It remains “weak” in capacity with only 62 percent of the force it should have. However, 25 of its 31 Regular Army BCTs are at the highest state of readiness, thus earning a readiness score of “very strong” and conveying the sense that the service knows what it needs to do to prepare for the next major conflict. Nevertheless, the Army’s internal assessment must be balanced against its own statements that unit training is focused on company-level operations rather than battalion or brigade operations. Consequently, how these “ready” brigade combat teams would actually perform in combat is an open question.
- **Navy as “Weak.”** This worrisome score, a drop from “marginal” assessed in the *2022 Index*, is driven by problems in capacity (“very weak”) and readiness (“weak”). This *Index*

assesses that the Navy needs a battle force of 400 manned ships to do what is expected of it today. The Navy's current battle force fleet of 298 ships and intensified operational tempo combine to reveal a service that is much too small relative to its tasks. Contributing to a lower assessment is the Navy's persistent inability to arrest and reverse the continued diminution of its fleet as adversary forces grow in number and capability. If its current trajectory is maintained, the Navy will shrink further to 280 ships by 2037. Current and forecasted levels of funding will prevent the Navy from altering its decline unless Congress undertakes extraordinary efforts to increase assured funding for several years.

- **Air Force as “Very Weak.”** The Air Force has been downgraded once again, the second, time in the past two years. The Air Force was assessed as “marginal” in the *2021 Index* but, with public reporting of the mission readiness and physical location of combat aircraft implying that it would have a difficult time responding rapidly to a crisis, fell to a score of “weak” in the *2022 Index*. During FY 2022, the year assessed for this *Index*, problems with pilot production and retention, an extraordinarily small amount of time in the cockpit for pilots, and a fleet of aircraft that continues to age compounded challenges even more, leading to the current score of “very weak,” the lowest on our scale. The USAF currently is at 86 percent of the capacity required to meet a two-MRC benchmark, it is short 650 pilots, the average age of its fighter aircraft fleet is 32 years old, and pilots are flying barely more than once per week across all types of aircraft. New aircraft like the F-35 and KC-46 are being introduced, but the pace is too slow. Although there is a chance the Air Force might win a single MRC in any theater, there is little doubt that it would struggle in war with a peer competitor. Both the time required to win such a conflict and the attendant rates of attrition would be much higher than they would be if the service had moved aggressively to increase high-end training and acquire the fifth-generation weapon systems required to dominate such a fight.
- **Marine Corps as “Strong.”** The score for the Marine Corps was raised to “strong” from “marginal” in the *2022 Index* and remains “strong” in this edition for two reasons: (1) because the *2021 Index* changed the threshold for capacity, lowering it from 36 infantry battalions to 30 battalions in acknowledgment of the Corps' argument that it is a one-war force that also stands ready for a broad range of smaller crisis-response tasks, and (2) because of the Corps' extraordinary, sustained efforts to modernize (which improves capability) and enhance its readiness during the assessed year. Of the five services, the Corps is the only one that has a compelling story for change, has a credible and practical plan for change, and is effectively implementing its plan to change. However, in the absence of additional funding that would enable the Corps to maintain higher end strength while also pursuing its modernization and reorientation efforts, the Corps will reduce the number of its battalions even further to just 21, and this reduction will limit the extent to which it can conduct distributed operations as envisioned and replace combat losses (thus limiting its ability to sustain operations). Though the service remains hampered by old equipment in some areas, it has nearly completed modernization of its entire aviation component, is making good progress in fielding a new amphibious combat vehicle, and is fast-tracking the acquisition of new anti-ship and anti-air weapons. Full realization of its redesign plan will require the acquisition of a new class of amphibious ships, for which the Corps needs support from the Navy.
- **Space Force as “Weak.”** The mission sets, space assets, and personnel that have transitioned to the Space Force from the other services since its establishment in December 2019 and that have been added over the past two years have enabled the service to sustain its support to the Joint Force. However, there is little evidence that the USSF has *improved* its readiness to provide nearly real-time support to operational and tactical levels of force operations or that it is ready in any way to execute defensive and offensive counterspace operations to the degree envisioned by Congress when it

U.S. Military Power: Army

	VERY WEAK	WEAK	MARGINAL	STRONG	VERY STRONG
Capacity		✓			
Capability			✓		
Readiness					✓
OVERALL			✓		

U.S. Military Power: Navy

	VERY WEAK	WEAK	MARGINAL	STRONG	VERY STRONG
Capacity	✓				
Capability			✓		
Readiness		✓			
OVERALL		✓			

U.S. Military Power: Air Force

	VERY WEAK	WEAK	MARGINAL	STRONG	VERY STRONG
Capacity			✓		
Capability			✓		
Readiness	✓				
OVERALL	✓				

U.S. Military Power: Marine Corps

	VERY WEAK	WEAK	MARGINAL	STRONG	VERY STRONG
Capacity		✓			
Capability				✓	
Readiness				✓	
OVERALL				✓	

U.S. Military Power: Space

	VERY WEAK	WEAK	MARGINAL	STRONG	VERY STRONG
Capacity		✓			
Capability		✓			
Readiness		✓			
OVERALL		✓			

U.S. Military Power: Nuclear

	VERY WEAK	WEAK	MARGINAL	STRONG	VERY STRONG
Nuclear Stockpile				✓	
Delivery Platform Reliability				✓	
Warhead Modernization			✓		
Delivery Systems Modernization				✓	
Nuclear Weapons Complex			✓		
National Labs Talent			✓		
Allied Assurance				✓	
OVERALL				✓	

U.S. Military Power

	VERY WEAK	WEAK	MARGINAL	STRONG	VERY STRONG
Army			✓		
Navy		✓			
Air Force	✓				
Marine Corps				✓	
Space		✓			
Nuclear				✓	
OVERALL		✓			

authorized the creation of the Space Force. The majority of its platforms have exceeded their life span, and modernization efforts to replace them are slow and incremental. The service’s two counterspace weapons systems (Meadowlands and Bounty Hunter) cover only a fraction of the offensive and defensive capabilities required to win a conflict in space. Other counterspace systems are likely being developed or, like cyber, are already in play without public announcement. Nevertheless, the USSF’s current visible capacity is not sufficient to support, fight, or weather a war with a peer competitor.

- **Nuclear Capabilities as “Strong” but Trending Toward “Marginal” or Even “Weak.”** This conclusion is sustained from

the *2022 Index*. The scoring for U.S. nuclear weapons must be considered in the context of a threat environment that is significantly more dangerous than it was in previous years. Until recently, U.S. nuclear forces needed to address one nuclear peer rather than two. Given senior leaders’ reassurances with respect to the readiness and reliability of U.S. nuclear forces, as well as the strong bipartisan commitment to modernization of the entire nuclear enterprise, this year’s *Index* retains its grade of “strong,” but only for now. U.S. nuclear forces face many risks that, without a continued commitment to a strong deterrent, could warrant a decline to an overall score of “marginal” or “weak.” The reliability of current U.S. delivery systems and warheads is at risk as they continue to age and

the threat continues to advance. Iran, for example, has announced an ability to enrich uranium to 60 percent (90 percent is needed for a weapon), and Russia and China are aggressively expanding the types and quantities of nuclear weapons in their inventories. Nearly all components of the nuclear enterprise are at a tipping point with respect to replacement or modernization and have no margin left for delays in schedule. Future assessments will need to consider plans to adjust America's nuclear forces to account for the doubling of peer nuclear threats. While capacity was not assessed this year, it is clear that the change in threat warrants a reexamination of U.S. force posture and the adequacy of current modernization plans. Failure to keep modernization programs on track while planning for a three-party nuclear peer dynamic could lead inevitably to a decline in the strength of U.S. nuclear deterrence.

Endnotes

1. Though issued during President Donald J. Trump's Administration, the 2018 NDS has not yet been superseded by a similar document, focused on the military, from the Administration of President Joseph R. Biden. However, the Biden Administration has released interim guidance in which it sets out the broad outlines and priorities of its national security agenda. In particular, President Biden's *Interim National Security Strategic Guidance* reiterates the same core national security interests and the same set of major competitor countries posing challenges to U.S. interests that the preceding Administration identified and places them in a global context wherein the U.S. military must be ready to handle several problems in geographically separated locations. See President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., *Interim National Security Strategic Guidance*, The White House, March 2021, pp. 8–9, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/NSC-1v2.pdf> (accessed August 1, 2022).
2. James Mattis, Secretary of Defense, *Summary of the 2018 National Defense Strategy of the United States of America: Sharpening the American Military's Competitive Edge*, p. 2. <https://dod.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/2018-National-Defense-Strategy-Summary.pdf> (accessed August 1, 2022).

In the aggregate, the United States' military posture can only be rated as "weak." The Air Force is rated "very weak," the Navy and Space Force are "weak," and the U.S. Army is "marginal." The Marine Corps and nuclear forces are "strong," but the Corps is a one-war force, and its overall strength is therefore not sufficient to compensate for the shortfalls of its larger fellow services. And if the United States should need to employ nuclear weapons, the escalation into nuclear conflict would seem to imply that handling such a crisis would challenge even a fully ready Joint Force at its current size and equipped with modern weapons. Additionally, the war in Ukraine, which threatens to destabilize not just Europe but the economic and political stability of other regions, shows that some actors (in this case Russia) will not necessarily be deterred from conventional action even though the U.S. maintains a strong nuclear capability. Thus, strong conventional forces of necessary size are essential to the ability of the U.S. to respond to emergent crises in areas of special interest.

The 2023 Index concludes that the current U.S. military force is at significant risk of not being able to meet the demands of a single major regional conflict while also attending to various presence and engagement activities. The force would probably not be able to do more and is certainly ill-equipped to handle two nearly simultaneous MRCs—a situation that is made more difficult by the generally weak condition of key military allies.

In general, the military services continue to prioritize readiness and have seen some improvement over the past few years, but modernization programs, especially in shipbuilding, continue to suffer as resources are committed to preparing for the future, recovering from 20 years of operations, and offsetting the effects of inflation. In the case of the Air Force, some of its limited acquisition funds are being spent on aircraft of questionable utility in high-threat scenarios while R&D receives a larger share of funding than efforts meant to replace quite aged aircraft are receiving. As observed in both the 2021 and 2022 editions of the *Index*, the services have normalized reductions in the size and number of military units, the forces remain well below the level needed to meet the two-MRC benchmark, and substantial difficulties in recruiting young Americans to join the military services are frustrating even modest proposals just to maintain service end strength.

Congress and the Administration took positive steps to stabilize funding in the latter years of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA). This mitigated the worst effects of BCA-restricted funding, but sustained investment in rebuilding the force to ensure that America's armed services are properly sized, equipped, trained, and ready to meet the missions they are called upon to fulfill will be critical. At present, the Administration's proposed defense budget for FY 2023 falls far short of what the services need to regain readiness and to replace aged equipment, and Congress's intention to increase the proposed budget by 5 percent accounts for barely half of the current rate of inflation, which is nearing 10 percent.

As currently postured, the U.S. military is at growing risk of not being able to meet the demands of defending America's vital national interests. It is rated as weak relative to the force needed to defend national interests on a global stage against actual challenges in the world as it is rather than as we wish it were. This is the logical consequence of years of sustained use, underfunding, poorly defined priorities, wildly shifting security policies, exceedingly poor discipline in program execution, and a profound lack of seriousness across the national security establishment even as threats to U.S. interests have surged.