



# What Military Service Members, Veterans and Parents Are Saying

*Comments seen on news articles, videos and social media regarding military recruiting, recruiting crisis, woke military, etc. This shows that the Marxist-rooted DEI/CRT woke agenda in the military DOES hurt recruiting and retention.*

Collected by STARRS.US from January 2023 to December 2024 | UPDATED: 28 January 2025

“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.”

“This SecArmy is delusional. 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.”

“My son was an Airborne Ranger. He joined the Army straight out of high school. When he got out, he told me that for the final year that he was in uniform, a solid third of the "training" that he received was in topics like "Proper Use of Pronouns", "Gender Equality", etc. I suspect that right there alongside the recruitment problem is a problem retaining the trained soldiers that want no part of the stupidity that is "woke" culture.”

“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.”

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

“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."

"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 wokeness 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."

"2 of my nephews were Active Duty. 1 was a Naval Aviator, Instructor & flew the Growler & F-35s. Planned on making it his career. He left last year saying, "I can't take the Woke Crap Any longer". My other Nephew was Army, Avionics. Worked on Apaches etc. He left last yr for the same reason."

"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."

"This is NOT the same military my dad or I enlisted in. It seems to have become a lab for social experimentation. Our enemies take great comfort in the inept and compromised senior leadership who are more concerned with PC, CRT, and pronoun as opposed to war fighting. Whereas our enemies are focusing on fighting and winning wars."

--"I wish you weren't right, but you are. I enlisted in 1998 and recently retired in 2021. The term 'dumpster fire' doesn't even come close to describing what the military had turned into by the time I got out. I was told to conduct extremism training to my troops and the material was 100% about right-wing extremists. I asked if I had leeway to discuss the left-wing extremism that was also

prevalent (BLM, ANTIFA etc) and was told no, stick to the material provided. I also had to give gender equality training that heavily consisted of transexuals and their transitioning process. It was clear what was happening and I'm glad I got out when I did."

"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."

"With all due respect.... 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 ETSd. 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. The airlines pay much better anyway."

"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 jab 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."

"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."

"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."

"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."

"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."

"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."

"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."

"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.”

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

“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.”

“Join the military and be forced to be injected with poison. No thanks.”

“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 woosing 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."

"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."

"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 woman 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 propagandize 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.”

“He is not wrong. I am a GB 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.”

“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 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."

"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).”

“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 showing 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 jab, 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 O311 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 youngers 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 country. 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 c\*ap. 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 wokeness 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 u 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 in courage 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, LBGTO, 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.”

“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 sickness is painfully evident in Americans no longer wanting to serve in our Military.”

“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.”

“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 standards. I never thought that 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 31yrs, 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 offended 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 serious 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.”





"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 todays 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 flippin 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?"<sup>8</sup>

"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 unmissable 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.”

“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”

“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 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.”

“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!"

"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."

"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.”

“Absolutely my trans station commander is personal 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.”

“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.”

“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!”

“Yes. 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.”

“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.”

“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 timeframe 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 b/c 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 pullup test and overweight... Deployment being handcuffed to actually accomplish something...They just sucked any chance of pride from these accomplishments away were 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 propping them up are exiting at a 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 PODUS."

"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."

"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."

"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."

"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 SM 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 that 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 BELIEVE 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 transgenders 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?”

“Our country really lost something when the draft was abolished. Military serviced served as a touchstone - a common experience and bond that almost every young man had in common. People my father’s age - didn't go around "thanking" each





other's for their service - instead it was: "What did you do in the war?" Military service also instills a love of country and civic mindedness. People tend to care about that with which they have investment. And - one other thing - for young men, military service teaches you that you are nothing special. You get cold, hungry, scared, lonely - just like the next guy. That is an invaluable lesson for a young man to learn, at a point in life when most boys think the world revolves around them. The military knocks that down real quick and teaches responsibility, commitment, teamwork at an age when most kids today are just iPhone obsessed narcissists!"

"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 Z'ers 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 comradery, 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 lickers) 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 academies 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 your going to be subjected to woke critical race theory, inclusiveness, and no 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 govt 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 ideologs. 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" practices. 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 yrs 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 benchmark 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 were 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 things 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 submariner 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 PowerPoint 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 decisive 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."

"That cadet is not qualified to be a commissioned officer. He should be dismissed immediately and charged with repaying every last cent the government has spent on or for him."

"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? Hmm...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 warfighting? 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 with drawl. 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."

"You can tell, she even knows no one is believing her lies."

"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."

"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 - Midwestern 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 gobbledegook. 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 otta 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. Biden needs to go. All senior officers promoted on his watch need to be thoroughly reviewed and replaced."

"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 therefore 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 '70's 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."

"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."

"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."

"Military trying to brainwash members to thinking conservatives are bad ..... no wonder enrollment numbers are way down."

"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."

"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...."

"These 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."

"I'm currently in the Army and there are huge issues that aren't tolerable. But being this close to 20 year retirement is the only incentive keeping me in. I've seen several amazing and young leaders under toxic leadership after their first contract they get out. I've seen women falsely accuse men of rape and they get captured out dishonorable. There is no investigation, it's pretty much if anyone accuses you of sex crime you did it. Women are incentivized to accuse men of misconduct to get transferred to new duty stations it happens a lot. The army doesn't protect or stand for men at all anymore. The quality of terrible soldiers that they allow to graduate from basic training is terrible I'm afraid. For the military future of America, they are promoting young selfish toxic leaders really fast to NCO. Soldiers I wouldn't trust with a potato gun. They don't have integrity; they will lie in order to protect one another. They want the Army to adapt to them and their participation trophy mentality. They are more focused on only what they can get out of the Army. They fraternize and most are having sex with one another junior enlisted and senior leadership and junior enlisted. It's truly disgusting they don't know how to take constructive criticism. They don't know how to separate friendship and leadership. I saw a female LT popped for cocaine, but she wasn't kicked out for failing her UA. A private nothing fails for marijuana and they chapter him out in like 10 days it's crazy."

"Whoever you are, you're 100% correct. I'm a female that retired in 2018, not because I didn't love my job, it was because of all the whining and complaining from soldiers who wanted to get paid



for being on their phones, and the leadership was there to support those who cause trouble when they couldn't have it their way. The military today is nothing like it should be. The United States couldn't win a war today with the soldiers they have, it's very sad."

"When I started hearing of the current recruiting crisis, my first thought is they must be having issues with recruiting the next gen from currently serving or veteran families. None of this should be a surprise to leadership. They know why. They just want us to do their homework and help them find the language they can weaponize to gaslight the next gen. Because they have no intention on fixing squat. Panels like this are just a way of entering \$\$\$ amounts under "programs and services" provided (legal accounting trick). That's not a joke. My husband and I are both Navy veterans. All three of our kids were born while on AD. All came of age within the last 10 years, and despite our careers in the Navy being a good life during the 90s and 00s, I threw down about any of our children joining up with any branch. From the outside, the current quality of leadership is troubling. Yes, I'm concerned about post service, but that's been going on since time immemorial. They have to stay alive to get to that point first. And I have zero confidence that our DOD values their lives. At all."

"I served in the military (Air Force and Navy) for 23 years. Enlisted at 17 and retired as an O5 in the Navy. I believed in this country with my whole heart and soul. Now I can't even explain to my 12 year old why I served. He understands things were different but just will never willingly put on the uniform of our Country. If the children of veterans and a retired veteran no longer have faith who is going to defend our freedoms."

"I am a retired Navy Commander with 30 years of Active Duty Service (4 enlisted 26 as an officer). I

started out in the Carter years, 76 to be exact and came back in during the Reagan buildup until 2012. I am as ardent a patriot and supporter of the military as anyone, in fact probably more having spent half my life in it. BUT, today I encourage no one to join.

In my days homosexuality was a reason to get kicked out, but I do not remember anyone suffering this fate. In fact, I had several people over the years that were most likely gay, but it didn't matter as in fact they were some of my most competent sailors. I do not encourage not serving because of this, as I said they were hard workers.

The reason I do not encourage service is DemocRATS allowing Transgenders to serve. Why? Because Gender Dysphoria is a mental illness. The military would not allow diagnosed Schizophrenics, Paranoids, Multiple Personality Disorder, and other debilitating mental illness sufferers to lead people. As I said I served in the Carter years with all the senior personnel having served in Vietnam and less than a decade after the racial unrest of the late 60's. In the mid-70's we all got along in the tight confines of a ship and worked as a team onboard and went out on liberty together. Now the DemocRATS are pushing racism THAT DID NOT EXIST until 3 years ago. THE only countries that have politics ingrained are Communist, we are heading there."

"The destruction of the US military by this administration has been intentional just as drawing down the SPR and runaway debt was intentional. I would not recommend volunteering to serve under this bunch to any young person despite all the good that comes from military service. A top down clearing out of all the services is needed to instill faith and trust back in the military. Start by removing woke from the service academies and bringing back real honor codes. Dishonesty and PC in the officer corps is pernicious. Good leadership





at the top will change the recruiting problem quickly. Traditional military values are timeless and essential to survival of the republic."

"During the 1990s, an aircraft carrier captain noticed that female sailors would time their pregnancies just before a WESTPAC deployment to allow them to stay in home port of San Diego. Instead of leaving the female sailors in San Diego, the captain took them along on deployment and left them in Guam to have their babies. There were no pregnancies before deployment after that happened."

"A member of my family was an officer aboard a carrier about a decade ago. Said they averaged about 5 a month they had to remove from the ship. Most he thought were on purpose because they didn't want to do the deployment."

"I was in the Navy many years ago. There are a lot of men in close quarters. You can't be having queers in that environment. I would NEVER join with all the LGBT recruitment that has been going on. Nope. Go to trade school.

I served 1977-85 Navy Nuclear Power. This was great training, estimated at \$100k worth back in the day. I'm comfortably retired from a profitable career, I have a hard time recommending that path today.

We only had one commitment - that was to the Constitution. Today there are so much corrupt loyalties required such as Diversity Equity Inclusion of degenerates. When I served - gays were not permitted to join. The ones that did kept it under wraps or got bad paper / kicked out. The reason the Navy explained in Boot Camp - was they are a security risk. Look no further than Bradley \*Chelsea\* Manning. Proof of the theory.

It was not an easy job then. Nuclear Power is 2 years of exhaustive training - and my generation

came better prepared regarding Math / Calculus. These kids have suicide stories making the papers - unheard of 40 years ago. It might be too tough for the tee ball generation. There were no participation ribbons - they failed out half the class routinely. There were just a few Carriers when I served, but more submarines. 41 Ballistic missile subs and almost 100 Fast Attacks.

I never served at sea with women - and don't consider that an appropriate environment for women. The plant was 100 dB noise, way over 100 degrees F and involved radiation exposure.

I have friends made over 50 years ago - and worked alongside many in the industry. It was a good experience but difficult and a ton of mentally and physically hard work. I can't see it lasting much longer just based on the available young folks and the degeneracy of the Pentagon."

"My last commander of my unit in the Airforce, called all of us "humans" because she was so concerned about not offending anyone and wanted to talk about our pronouns all the time. This was 2021."

"I work for the Federal Government, and I get an LGBTQ email every month. Constantly getting it shoved in my face. Gets old!!"

"DEI and the alphabet movement is a good way to isolate the majority of possible candidates. Pandering to maybe 10 percent of the population is a good way to tank recruitment numbers and guess what its showing. It's the military, DEI and sexual inclusion shouldn't even be an issue. Everyone is a soldier. Our enemies are fueling these movement to weaken our country and military and its working."

"I would never encourage anyone to join the US military nowadays. I retired from the Army in 1992 and live outside Fort Cavazos (formerly Fort Hood)





and am thoroughly disgusted with how the Army is run nowadays."

"I retired from the Army and have not recommended it to my son due to progressives. He was smart enough to reach that conclusion himself."

"I am a veteran. I also agree that the military is now too political, that's a very bad problem."

"As a Vet who has spoken with SM's and other Vets we most definitely think there is a woke problem."

"My Husband just retired after 23 years and he would have stayed in and gave them 30 if they hadn't went woke and political and every single friend of his says the same! I did 8 years 2002-2010, not only do I not suggest to my own children and family members to NOT join, I actively caution against it at all cost! We don't fight for a country who has made it known that they hate us!"

"I'm a vet....and I'm one that tells people to not join these days. It was getting too soft as I was ETSing, but my god it's a total embarrassment now. When a pronoun is more important than getting a vet good VA services....you have failed those service members."

"I've been retired for 22 years and this woman is embarrassing. I hang my head ashamed of my Army."

"I'm literally one of the ppl who hasn't joined YET, because of this."

"My son's ship just received a man who is waiting to have sex reassignment surgery and they had to go through around round of DEI training. We are heading into war and the navy is worried about chopping off genitals and wokeness training. That's why no one wants to enlist."

"I'm in the Army, been in for 18 years, and have worked as a recruiter. The poll that shows that the military is "too woke" is accurate so many people within the military feel this way... and the people that actually get other people to think about the military on a large scale, are not recruiters but other people in the military that talk about their experience to friends and family. The only way to turn this perception around would be to take a hard stance against liberal ideology and make an aggressive marketing campaign where they clearly state they want a strong force free from liberal ideology and apologize white people to overcome how bad they ignore their contributions to the force. Literally every other nationality gets special recognition but anything white is Ignored."

"You enlist, then just as soon as you get off the bus, you're told that you could go to prison for violating someone's protected gender status. I would never salute a fake woman, nor identify anyone other than their actual gender and would without reservation, accept prison and a dishonorable discharge to not play this game. People must reject the wrong and be willing to segregate from it, boycott it and provide aid to those who are fighting against it."

"I am retired military. I have always advised any young person to join the military until the past two years. I now have three grandsons and if things don't change, I will advise them to stay out of the military."

"I am from a military family. My grandfather, father, uncles and son all served in the Army or Marines. I cannot and will not encourage my grandchildren to serve in the military. The WOKE military is why."

"I served and am a combat veteran. I told my kids not to enlist."



"Cry me a river. Spent 20 years in the military when men were men now the military is full of wimps. Sure do hope there is never a war on our soil this country would be doomed."

"The boys from the south and Midwest will no longer be cannon fodder for a woke military. You can't expect them to want to die to keep deviants and perverts free to practice their lifestyles. So the most patriotic resource now will have to be drafted. Those southern boys are not going to lay down their lives so that Ben Cardin's intern can have deviant sex in a senate conference room. The moms and dads of these regions are not going to let their kids serve and I don't blame them."

"Well said. There is only so much abuse that decent, patriotic young men and their parents can tolerate before they say, "No more."

"Every AD troop I've spoken with (quite a few as I serve on a local Honor Guard) aren't reupping. Most say they can't trust the troop next to them to have their 6, little confidence in leadership and no value in mandated DEI garbage."

"It has always been this way. Service is Service. You have to want to do it for reasons other than monetary reward or you are going to be really unhappy and not just annoyed. My entire family for generations has Served and all felt good about Serving and the comradery with others in battle to protect their country. They all complained and laughed at the conditions, but the next generation always stood up and served just like the previous ones did. This has all ended and folks are now telling their children and grandchildren to forego Service. The government has made these folks out to be terrorists and dangerous because of their values. This has been and will be a very big mistake made by people who cannot see over their noses. But such is "democracy" I guess. Elections really do have consequences. Some good and some bad. The

communists and totalitarians will win this battle with decisions like this one."

"Many people used to join the military because they felt they were defending the Nation's borders and the principles that form the foundation of that Nation. Today, they see our borders and principles being attacked from within by those in our own government. That is not good for recruiting."

"It seems to be the woke that are complaining, but then you have to realize the non-woke were politically purged or kicked out over refusal to take the experimental vaccine. Those were the men and women willing to do their service, not complain and fight if needed. They were offered reenlistment but have refused that en-mass feeling their rights were violated. The whole thing seems upside down and backwards."

"I was in the military when they told us to leave. We were too male and too White. F yeah, it's personal. I wouldn't care if that military ended up at the bottom of the South China Sea. My only regret would be that the people who did this will be safe in the Pentagon."

"The woke military leadership told us to leave. They said whiteness has no place in the military and to double down told us to get a shot. So I retired. My kids won't be going to the military. That's where the problem is. See, my grandfathers, dad, uncles and brothers were in the military. They've lost those people. It will take generations to fix that."

"I served in the army from 1990 until 2008. I was a cavalry scout and saw action during Desert Storm and then again for OIF. I went to Iraq a total of 4 times and 1 time in Afghanistan. I am from the south, Florida, and I joined for basically the reasons u stated. I wanted to do my part for God and Country and to defend those that could not defend themselves. That being said, had I known



democrats would turn against America and attempt to destroy it and force their nasty anti American hate filled ideology on this country I would have never served in the first place. The worst person this country has produced, the democrats god-king Obama, we elected. Had I known I would have never served. As I see it, I wasted 18 years of my life with great risk to my life and have friends that did not come home, all of it was a waste. Friends sacrificed their lives and it was a waste. Men better than any democrat or rino did not die for this. I'm scared to go see them and have to be the one to tell them how their sacrifice means nothing because of ungrateful democrats and an entire generation of kids that can't even do 50 push ups in 2 minutes. If I could go back in time I would have never enlisted. Never in my worst nightmares did I think I would ever feel like this."

"Plus they are indoctrinated in school that the US is a bad country. Why would you be willing to sacrifice your life for a bad country?"

"The Air Force lost a fine young man who was fed up with woke leadership. How many more will walk away?"

"As a vet, I'd counsel the young to stay away as well. Well-led militaries do not carelessly throw the lives of their men and women away. That is an ancient axiom going back to Sun Tzu. Given how our wars go now, it's clear that we do not have a well led military and we won't anytime soon as the current senior leadership is not held accountable for battlefield failures."

"My sons came of age during the Obama administration. Their plan, hope, had always been to enlist after their high school graduations. They'd join together having decided upon the Air Force and had the test scores to accomplish that. They knew from family members who'd proudly served long term, many having retired from one branch or

another, the pay would be crap and the work beyond hard and even life threatening during time of war, but the benefits, to include a great sense of accomplishment and pride in so having well served God and Country, would outweigh the temporary hardships. But when the time came to actually enlist, I discouraged them, as did many in the family who'd served. Then was not the time. Better to wait to serve under a President who revered God and Nation. That man was not Obama who gave far greater allegiance to blood thirsty Islam than to Judeo Christianity and who was so hard pressed to change the very principled foundations this once great country was founded upon."

"The military I saw in 2005-2013 was in moderate shape. Since then, events and agendas have utterly destroyed troop morale, cohesion, and training. To join now is a bad idea; you may know, for instance that the military has lowered the ASVAB qualification score to '10'. Many of those who go in now are simple opportunists, with no discipline and no ability to be trained; those are the service members that you are asking your son or neighbor's son to entrust his life to."

"Our only hope is to clear out all the dead weight in the Pentagon. They do not seem to have victory set as the priority."

"Yeah, I am in the military, until I retire in two years, and come from many forefathers that have fought for the US as well as the Revolutionary War and for the Confederacy. My son wanted to join the military so I told him that he will learn more about life while continuing to work the job that he has, working on a farm. Needless to say, I discouraged him to join the military. The military is more concerned about leftist politics than training to kill people and break things!!!"

"I'm a (Cold War/GWOT) veteran Had my seabags packed and ready when the Iranian Hostage Crisis



occurred. Come from a long line of veterans. My son is in the Navy reserve. My Family has been in every conflict since the Revolution. I find myself telling young people of my community now days to stay away from the military. Something I would have never thought I would. Something is broken with our leadership Civilian AND Military."

"We, of the past generations, joined to fight for ideals, and we believed the Constitutional ideals were far better than the alternatives provided by the Soviets. And then we elected leaders and had school systems that espoused the ideals of Communism, and actively worked to undermine the Constitution. So, for what would a young person fight? The military is not for everybody, but if one cannot see the ideals for what one is fighting, then why volunteer? This is a failure of leadership, a failure of politicians, and a failure of culture."

"Nobody joins the military for good food and easy hours. Many people join the military because they love their country and the idea of serving it makes them proud. Unfortunately, the Biden Administration has done such damage to the military that patriotic American loving people don't want to be part of the woke mess they have created."

"My son didn't re-enlist because of Biden, and the whole DEI, women in men's barracks, and various HR "sermons" he had to deal with."

"What we are seeing is 100 % psychological warfare. Our military has been demoralized to such an extent it is no longer combat ready. If 60% of active duty personnel are overweight and reluctant to fight even going so far as to public voice their disappointment that means our enemy has won."

"If diversity is our strength, why do we have to keep lowering our standards to achieve it?"

"When you have demonized the part of the country that has fought for it for generations and loved it, this is what you get."

"The backbone of the military is young white men from farms and small towns particularly in the South. Now veterans are advising their sons not to enlist, a catastrophic break with tradition. Recruitment ads targeted low achieving minorities and sexual deviants, enlistment plunged, and now they're recalibrating and trying to recruit young white men once again but these men are not having it."

"I worked at a college until recently, and I heard a lot of young men state they had no interest in the military since it went woke/gay."

"21 years army and whenever I am asked by someone if they should join. I tell them unconditionally no. The young people I know are patriotic and un woke I tell them the new military would destroy them for their conservative and Christian moral views."

"I was a proud Navy vet, my brother and father AF vets, Two uncles army/marines, grandparents army and navy, great grandparents army. I've also a long history with the military, but even as of 2012, when I retired I saw the writing on the wall of how shanked it was getting, and am GLAD I have no kids thinking of joining, as I'd do all I could to utterly discourage them."

"My daughter and SIL are active duty. It is worse than you and everyone thinks. There are a ton of them doing only what is necessary to get to retirement and the new recruits, what few there are showing up in the unit, are disturbing. Uneducated, undisciplined, arguing with superiors including officers and everyone is afraid to do anything because they will be thrown out."





“No talk about the woke image the military has forced down recruits throats. People are actually tired of this crap and this push for diversity creates adversity and contention!”

“– Villainize the primary segments of society recruits come from.  
 -politicize the mission from defend America to worrying about “white rage”  
 -promote the most incompetent people possible into leadership.  
 -unhealthy obsession with the alphabet gang.  
 -lowering of standards.  
 -run off your best warfighters over a disputed shot.  
 -abandon the veterans  
 -sacrifice personnel and equipment for political brownie points.  
 -insanely low pay.  
 -rules of engagement almost guaranteed to make our people targets and get them killed.  
 And the list goes on and on and on. Why should anyone join right now?”

“I’m a 23 year Army Veteran and the strong economy they think we have is just not there for the last three years. The missed recruitment goals has all to do with the society that everyone is a winner mentality along with the woke policies being implemented in today’s military. I have a daughter who has been in for 11 years and she sees the effects of these policies along with the mentality of the recruit’s who think everything should be handed to them. Get back to the actual reason we have a military is to defend this country and fight to win wars--not be part of the culture wars. I also need to mention I work for the Army a civilian and see this firsthand with the training the troops go through all in the name of DEI. Stop it the military was never meant to be all inclusive it is not for everyone.”

“The focus on “living conditions” as a problem for low recruitment is a false flag and shows just how far out of touch the “senior” military leadership is with the average military recruit. The root of the problem is most likely that there is a subset of society that is inclined to serve in the military and that subset is currently dissuaded from volunteering to serve by the hard “left turn” of the current military leadership and subsequent drive to institute “wokeness and DEI” into all things military. I am a veteran and would definitely discourage my children and the children of everyone I know from serving in today’s military. I have absolutely ZERO confidence in the ability of the “Leaders” at all levels of the military to ACTUALLY LEAD in a manner befitting the service of today’s recruits. The Liberal Left has finally succeeded in destroying the US Military, something they have been trying to do since the early 1970’s and Vietnam. The Liberal Left truly destroys everything they touch.”

“A lot of us in during the clinton/obama years have long memories of witch hunts for patriots and the creeping wokeness that was infecting upper command staff, made the environment toxic and hazardous to your career. I used to encourage young Americans to go into the military. Not anymore. I cringe when I read the news of “diversity and inclusiveness” in the military and wonder how our military will fare on the next battlefield.”

“Just went to visit my son who is in the Military. He is enlisted flight crew. Besides his primary flight crew job, he is also working Supply (unit no longer has a Supply Guy). Unit no longer has a Finance Person so he has to help with Travel Vouchers and Government Credit Cards. Mission planning, Operations and Modules on Political Correctness and he is working 12-14 everyday, some weekends. He has what should be the best job in the Military and he cannot wait to get out!”



"Vaccine mandate and woke lack of leadership.....drag shows on flight lines. I would never join on these terms. Glad I am retiring soon. Seen a lot of administrations in my career. Trump was the best. Biden is beyond the worst. Sleep well Americans. Your military is being destroyed. Take it from someone on the inside."

"I served in the Army with combat deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq, I tell every young person that asks to stay away from today's military. The Democrats destroyed it and I will not help them fill the ranks to warp and destroy young Americans."

"One of the saddest things I ever saw was a retired Admiral talking to my father, a retired Colonel about regretting serving their country because of what it has become."

"Nobody should wonder why the U.S. military is not hitting its recruitment goals. This story about wokeness in the Navy is representative of the USAF and Army training too. I've supported the US military for 30+ years, and always encouraged young people to join. I can no longer do this, and I don't. Way, way too many training hours, constant propaganda, promotions, and rewards go towards woke nonsense. And, believe me, our military's capability and readiness are suffering. The damage to morale and effectiveness is much greater than the public knows."

"I'm not into this social experimental lab they have turned our military into. I'm disgusted. Our son is serving. He's one of the good guys. I asked him how does he cope? He said, "Mom, I just put my head down and put my shoulder to the wheel. This is my job. That's all. A job. I do it and I go home at the end of the day. I say my prayers. I know where my heart lies. I know in whom I believe and trust. That's how I do it." God bless him and the other soldiers who do the same. I've never been more

proud of our son. He's got 3.5 years left til retirement."

"This DEI stuff is not just confined to the officer ranks. My brother was busted down two ranks when a minority radio operator disobeyed a direct order not to radio back to base unless specifically ordered to do so. The unqualified diversity hire brought the entire company to their position when he panicked over rooftop gunfire exchanges between Sunni and Shia which were a regular occurrence. The fool ducked into an ally and sent for help then popped back out without informing my brother. He didn't find out until the Humvees started rolling in. My brother was willing to take discipline for the horrible actions by an incompetent in his squad but decided to exit the Army when the DEI hire faced zero consequences."

"I've been serving on active duty in the Marine Corps for over 20 years. Was even a recruiter too. With this current generation, I don't think even Zig Zigar could make any sales right now. The level of discourse, division, blotched Afghanistan withdrawal, as well as many other administration failures, is enough of a deterrent for any young folks considering a career in the military."

USNA Gender Course:

- "This is the kind of "education" that one expects of totalitarian regimes. Potential recruits are increasingly aware of this, and that is why the armed forces of this country can't meet their recruiting goals, which raises an important question: What is the future of a country in which the values and attitudes of those tasked with protecting it are fundamentally at odds with the social and political values of its citizens?"
- "Just like my alma mater, GWU, I am aghast by what has happened to great institutions and traditions. I am an 8-year Navy vet and



served during Desert Storm. The Navy was NEVER like this."

- "How about we teach something crazy like how to win battles...."
- "All that crap goes out the window when facing the enemy. It has no place in our military preparedness."
- "This is Bravo Sierra. Teach them how to shoot straight and kill the enemy."
- "Halsey and Nimitz are rolling over in their graves. We are now totally incapable of waging and winning a full scale war."
- "The US Navy is screwed."
- "Too bad they can't teach them to be leaders of victories."
- "The world is laughing at what has become the American Military."
- "They wonder why recruitment is down. Who wants to join a dysfunctional military."
- "What person of talent and skill is likely to pursue a career with any organization whose leadership is so eager and willing to embrace absurdity? What person of talent wants to work for an organization where you have to navigate this minefield of distorted reality knowing that one wrong step can lay waste to a career and person's personal and professional reputation. Talented people will go where their abilities can flourish while those who spend their days seeking to be affirmed by others for their distorted grasp of reality will do what they do best... they'll get promoted up the ranks."

"My son got a degree in geology. He used to be interested in the military but the politics, the wokeness has changed his mind. I'm sure many feel the same."

"Retired from the Army after 30 years and seeing how they treated my son during Covid, the mistrust of senior leaders from the Afghan retreat debacle, the apparent stressing of diversity over merit, and letting people who deny the reality of their own body join and then force others live with and accept their delusions-he is quitting and warning others not to join. I have to agree with him."

"I have served 34 total years, with 4 of those in combat/combat zones. I absolutely would direct all of America's youth to NOT serve under this America-hating, military-hating, woke Marxist democrat regime."

"I currently serve as a senior NCO and have had to deal directly with the woke agendas being forced down our throats. I wrote a paper discussing the backlash over these policies in an NCOs school and was met with criticisms from fellow leaders for not being open and stuck in old traditions. Our traditions are what have kept this country free for over two hundred years, and I will not be selling my fellow Soldiers out to make woke politicians and insane activists happy."

"I left after 21 years when the CO of our garrison decided to make PT 'optional' because so few soldiers were even bothering to go."

"I served 27 years in the US Army. My father served 20 years in the USMC. We'll be the last in our family to serve. I have 3 sons. None of them will join and I am the reason why. I have specifically told them the current US Military is dishonorable and an unworthy organization. Two are serving in the JSDF and the last will join in a little less than 2 years. The JSDF focuses on discipline and winning any fight they get into. The US Military of today focuses on pronouns and gender change surgeries. They will lose the next war they get into."



"I bailed as soon as I hit my 20-year point in 2004 because political correctness was seeping into everything. I can only imagine how bad it is now."

"I'm a 20+ year vet. Frankly, poor top-down leadership in both our Government and military brass, along with the woke nonsense (DEI, identity politics, pronouns, drag queens, over indulgence on abortions, vaccinations and transgender policies, etc.) and the systemic indoctrination of our youth through social media and liberal school programs that literally promote anti-American sentiment are to blame. Yes, the Afghanistan debacle was the last straw. Biden Administration sealed our fate and until accountability is reestablished, I don't see improvement."

"I ended my career as a master chief in the special forces--we were respected. Now an E4 can destroy your career if you use the wrong pronoun. The military needs to get back to worrying about war and not the proper use of pronouns. Our woke military is the weakest it has ever been, yet we are in the most dangerous times for the US' future."

"I am from a long line of service members. Grandfather Army during WWII, Dad was a marine in Korea, Brother CB during desert storm. My self a 22-year Navy retiree served during all of the 911, middle east and Bosnia conflicts. My Son-in-law Army is a vet in Iraq. My son is an active-duty Chief Petty Officer. We have a 15-year-old grandson who we ALL are dissuading from joining the military. All of the the reasons have already been outlined in this conversation."

"My wife and I are both combat veterans, joining in 1981, retiring in 2006 and probably wouldn't join the military the way it us now."

"I retired Army in 2012. I tell every young person that asks me my opinion to stay as far away as possible. They are not serving a nation or

protecting freedom. They are serving a corrupt government."

"After 28 years in the military our present military in most cases is not a real military but indoctrinating our soldiers and not training them to fight. I would not recommend any young person join out present military."

"A respectable and honorable career, has been diminished by many politicians who fight for injustices and diversity, over American historical values, and the view that America is a force of good. Not a good path we're on."

"My family has had someone from every generation in uniform for every war this nation has ever been in, officers (as high as General - Army), enlisted (a couple of Master Chiefs, five Sergeant Majors - various). We had historically been in one uniform or another for nearly 350 years (US, British, French, even Mexican). We have never gone more than 15 years, until now, without someone serving, Navy, Air Force, Army, Marines - even a Coastie. Currently the "old guard", the old farts (and a few fartesses - their term) are not suggesting military as a path, we just don't trust the political leadership to do the the right thing. And that phrase means something to the military community, it goes beyond politics. And a sizeable portion of the family feels that the military could end up being used against other Americans, for the first time since the Civil War (I am not on that side of the equation, yet)."

"Most of us joined the Army because we wanted to be barrel-chested, steely-eyed freedom-fighters and because we loved our country so much it hurt. Many contemporary kids and young adults, the same type of kids that would have volunteered years ago, aren't interested in pronouns, being lectured by hypocrites, or being taught CRT. The Army that we all dreamed about and role-played as





kids needs to be rebuilt. Recruiting takes care of itself if you're not thumbing your nose at your base."

"The inclusion of women in some physically demanding programs, once again lowering standards, has watered down the selection process where you end up accepting candidates who previously would NOT have passed. This hurts unit morale!"

"The military purged religious members and many real god fearing and exceptional loyal soldiers. The result will be felt for decades. Coming from a retired LTC."

"I work on an AFB and the Airmen are getting weaker every year. They need things wrapped around their self-esteem, rather than acting to solve their own problems. There are a few standouts, but on the whole there's a general lack of initiative even when one spells out their various options. It's "You can do XYZ without my help," with which they answer, "But that's too hard!"

"I'm a military veteran. A neighbor child asked me about joining the military and I told him he should probably not at this time until there are some changes for the better. If that ever happens, of course."

"As an Army vet, the answer to low numbers is so obvious. Look at the recruiting messages and the reality that young patriots don't want any part of a woke military. Young patriots don't want to fight for an equity America where talent and hard work are no longer recognized."

"My father, 4 brothers and I served in the USMC. My younger brother served in the U S Army. I recommended my son not to serve. Our once great military is a complete woke joke and has not been involved in any fighting that has benefitted our great country in many decades."

"My son is Proud to wear his Uniform. Chosen as Platoon Leader in Combat medic school. He returned from Iraq with medals, but now he says he will never tell people he was in the service. Of course I understand. Biden, has shown nothing but utter disrespect and labeled them to such a low level. And of course we saw first-hand how he used the Military in his Afghanistan withdrawal horror show. Disgusting. Those men died just to increase his Poll numbers."

"My grandfathers served, my dad served. I served and my oldest daughter served. I would not want my grandchildren serving until this woke military is fixed and the current administration is a thing of the past. There is no way at this time that the US military could prevail in conflict."

"As a 20 1/2 year veteran myself that works and deals with troops, Ashish Vazirani IS DEAD WRONG!!! These kids coming in now CAN NOT MEET THE CHANGED SOFTER STANDARDS SET FOR THEM!!! It is SAD to see these lost kids who cannot follow directions and expect recognition for showing up (Trophy Generation). OUR NOW WOKE MILITARY IS A SAD WEAK JOKE AND I AM SCARED FOR AMERICA!!! I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH DEFIANCE AND LACK OF DISCIPLINE IN NEW TROOPS. WE ARE IN TROUBLE WHEN THE NEXT WAR KICKS OFF!!!!!! Former 92B/68W30 - Retired 153DB WARRANT OFFICER. I have seen both sides of the fence and what we are seeing in the forces today SHOULD SCARE THE HELL OUT OF EVERY AMERICAN WHO LOVES THIS COUNTRY!!!"

"My daughter was going in after college. Her friends who are already in recommended her not to enlist. They said they waste so much time of woke policies. They are upset at the pronoun policies, and men are allowed to wear dresses."

"I have a retirement date in mind after 30 years of service, the only reason I don't retire immediately



is I couldn't stand to have this President sign my retirement! I collect a few more paychecks in the meantime and earn slightly more of a retirement payment until I retire with someone's name and signature I can respect on my "Presidential Letter."

"I retired from the Army in 2014 after twenty years of service. When service members retire they get two signed certificates. One is from the serving POTUS, and the other is from the Army Chief of Staff. Pres Obama signed one, and Gen. Raymond T. Odierno signed the other. Guess which one hangs on my wall and the other in a box in the attic somewhere."

"The leadership of the military is now woke, they started turning about a decade and a half ago. I had 23 years in and got out when it started really going bad. Obama as CIC destroyed the military from the White House, but the Officers in every level of command went along willingly to the detriment of the country and its security!"

"The military started losing applicants when they started going woke. They have shot themselves in the foot. Women in combat arms MOSs, transgenders and openly gay personnel being embraced as the norm are just a few. People don't want to say this, but it's true. They made the military a testing ground for extremism and it is failing."—Army person

"My son mentioned joining the other day. 20 years ago I would've been "Hell yeah" . Today I said "not for some bullshit war you're not""

"I love the US ARMY but sadly I cannot point a young man or young woman to a career in the Army nowadays. That saddens me to say this because I love the Army, but I CANNOT tell a young person in good conscience that this woke ran dog and pony show is a good place for them."

"I understand. I served my country and was willing to die to protect it and put my life on the line to PROTECT AND SERVE its citizens. I took my flag down 3 years ago. I want to hang it upside down. I don't even recognize this country, told my kids DONT JOIN."

"My kid served in the Navy and told me horror stories of what WOKE is like there. She made E5 and decided to get out to go to college. The biggest reason she didn't reenlist wasn't college, it was WOKE and the nonsense pushed in these servicemen and women's faces."

"I served 21 years in the US Air Force and when asked, I don't recommend it."

"That's what happens when you alienate the majority of recruits by calling them all oppressors. I went in right when I could. Was amped up to join as my grandfather, father, and uncles did when they were young. But since the country traded in all its faith in values, morals, and the family unit, for shit that doesn't even exist, you lose that entire base, too. I go on post about 4 days a week. Mostly a training base, I'm astounded to see the decline in the past couple of years alone. Graduation days are not even that crowded now. Slovenly uniforms, mud on the boots, hair way off reg, attitudes like you wouldn't believe, and very little respect. Unbelievable. We were not perfect when I was in, but shit sake this is ridiculous. People think it isn't their problem, or it's an exaggeration, but when troops lack discipline and dignity, that's when we have lost. There is no offense or defense without a show of force."

"Why would white men want to go fight for a country that despises them? I was in the Army 03-08. My son is quickly coming of age to enlist and I have told him that if whites no longer have a place in this country, then they also don't in the military."



“We discussed our son entering the ROTC program. Nope. My husband served, and on both sides of our families, every generation has served since they had legally immigrated, even in the Revolutionary War. Today’s military is openly hostile & vaxx mandates are morally wrong.”

“I remember being in a yearly Army thing for Army docs and them telling us that acrylic nails are approved for all genders and we’re all like who gives a \*\*\*\* about that we’re here to take care of our war fighters not to look cute smh.”

“I retired from the Air Force in 2023, partly due to all the woke politics and mandatory DIE training. I was embarrassed to be associated with it by the end.”

“My sons will not serve. I don’t have a single veteran friend who’s encouraging his sons to serve. Most are actively discouraging them from doing so. Send the Pride Brigade to fight your next ridiculous war for you. The “threats to democracy” are done with all that.”

“My son wanted to go to West Point. He doesn’t anymore. The whole agenda killed it for him. He is absolutely the kind of person you would want in the military, too.”

“I tell my three teenagers every day that under no circumstances should they volunteer to serve. Pains me as a veteran and someone who can trace their family military history all the way back to the Revolution.”

“I served this country with honor and did 4 combat tours. My father, grandfather, great grandfather, and many cousins, and uncles, all served as well. I’ll be the first to tell you, I do not recognize the America I served for! What you see today is not the once great USA..sadly.”

“My son would be a fourth generation US Marine, but it will never happen if I have any say about it.”

“Although I served, I absolutely will discourage my kids from serving. This nation is unworthy of them. I will still teach them of the founding principles and how we HAD a proper government at one point, at least on paper.”

“As a retired Marine from 96-16, it would be insane to serve today. Today’s military will MAKE them conform to ungodly and ridiculous standards. It’s definitely not the military. The boy scouts could probably do a better job defending the country. [#sad](#)”

“My son has been in 8 years with 3 to go. He’s advised his brother not to.”

“My son who is quite interested in all things military was talking about serving... We've been explaining why that isn't gonna happen.”

“I love the Corps [@USMC](#) and really appreciated my opportunity to serve and fight for my country. However, I will absolutely not let my son fight for a country that has turned its back on God, veterans, and the American people.”

“Served 7 years and felt proud. Worked across the DoD as a civilian 20+ years. I steered my kids from it. Witnessed a rapid degeneration of the military-- last 3 years has been crazy and caused solely by senior officer and senior NCO apathy. No one has a backbone.”

“As someone who enjoyed my time in the military, 4 active, 16 reserves, I would not encourage anyone, especially caucasians, after everything that has happened and the governments motives, corruption and support for these degenerate and divisive groups.”



"My husband is a West Point grad and I was an Army wife. I dreamed of one of my daughters following in their father's footsteps. No more. I would never let any of my children serve in this military. I refuse to let them die for the Rainbow Brigade."

"Count me in that group. Retired Navy officer, son of a retired Air Force CMSGT, brother of another. Our immediate family has a century of military service. It ends here. My son didn't enlist, and his daughters never will."

"I have discouraged my children to serve. I loved the Corps and served 20+ years, however I could see the woke changes happening and was glad to get out. I have no faith in military leadership."

"We are a Marine Corps family. There is no way I would encourage any young man to become a Marine today. And that hurts me."

"My buddy is a recruiter, it's not just that nobody wants to enlist, everybody wants out too."

"The Marine Corps is the best thing that ever happened to me. It made me a better man while letting me serve a nation that I love but today I would die before I let my kids join."

"Our Pastor's son got a basketball scholarship and went to West Point last year. He lasted one semester and had to get outta there. He said it was so woke that he didn't trust anyone if we end up going to war somewhere. A complete s- show. So disillusioning."

"I am also a veteran of the 82nd airborne, and I will not have any of my children serve in the military... And I would encourage anyone who's thinking of enlisting in the military of not making that fatal mistake of dying for some "woke" cause...to make others rich."

"I felt proud to serve because of my father. My children choose to serve for their own reasons. I will try to change my grandchildren's mind if they consider serving. 50 years of military service comes to an end. This country has fallen so far beyond belief."

"Every male in my immediate family that was eligible to serve, served, going back as far as we can remember. My youngest bro. Just retired from USAF. That streak is over. We all STRONGLY discourage any talk of service. We generally won't even discuss our service around them."

"I served 30 years AC. I was Recruiter of the Year in the 90s at Company, Battalion, and Brigade level. I also convinced some kids at church later in my career. Both my sons enlisted. For the last 3 years I've gone 180. I've convinced about 12 young men not to join."

"I have two kids in the Army. They want out so bad now they are regretting re enlisting."

"I'm a former commissioned officer with honorable discharges from both the Army and the Air Force. Sadly, there is NO WAY that I would advise a young person to swear an oath to this current corrupt commander-in-chief. And that goes for the senior officers of the Pentagon too!"

"My husband retires from the Air Force with a 20 year career in less than 2 years and it can't come soon enough. Wokeness is an infection rotting it from the inside out. Good airmen no longer get promoted due to the strat program. White men are time and time again looked over to meet diversity goals regardless of their achievements."

"As a Veteran, I'll say color didn't mean shit in the Army in the early 2000s while I was in. My Drill Sergeant told us we are all one color, green, and I can tell you that when you're in a foxhole with someone, that man is your brother and vice versa."





“Same here bro. I joined the Army in '81 and 2x a warrior. During my service we look at each other as an American warriors and nothing else. I wouldn't serve under a WOKE DRAG QUEEN MILITARY TODAY.”

“As a Hispanic and former senior naval officer, I have never been offended by names of military bases and hardly think any military officer is. Military personnel should always be promoted based on their performance and knowledge not the color of their skin or gender as so many are today. I separated from the military under the Obama administration because of their woke agenda changing the readiness of the military. Today's military is not the same military I joined and that is scary.”

“As a combat veteran and whose son is on active duty now, we are ashamed of what our beloved military has become.”

“As a 15 year veteran so far I can say that the critical race theory and woke progressiveness has long been present in the military and I can say it's a very dangerous thing. I'm seeing people that don't know their jobs being inserted into leadership positions based solely on race, gender, and sexual preference. It honestly sickens me and thank god I'm nearing retirement. The first time I was put in front of a board for an award, I walked in with my supervisor and he immediately said well you gave it a good shot, good luck next time. I then asked him what? I haven't even gone yet and he replied I know but look over at the other candidates. As I looked over and saw a pregnant black female I understood what he meant. Lo and behold I lost to her despite clearly outperforming her in every regard. This was confirmed later when I spoke to one of the board members. This led to her making rank before me. This is only 1 of the countless examples I have encountered of the struggles of

being a straight white male in the military. Flame me if you want I don't really care but it's true. I will 10000000% keep both of my children from joining the military in the future. If you're reading this I STRONGLY encourage you do the same. I have lived this life and the regrets faarrrr outweigh the benefits.

“My Dad worked for the Coast Guard as an electrician. This was back in the 60's, 70's & 80's. He was self-taught to become an electrician doing the electrical repairs on Military ships. He got passed over for promotion 3 times for a younger black less than knowledgeable ppl. He had to constantly review and fix what they messed up. These aren't ships that can afford to have electrical problems on mission. He complained about it and got passed over again. However, he was not going to let our seamen go out there and get stranded, so he kept doing his job and theirs.”

“10 year Army veteran. Agree there have always been elements of this but it has gotten so much worse. I'm the 90s the military still maintained an air of impartiality where politics was concerned. In fact, in private conversations there were plenty of conservatives. I now work as a civ around military and I can tell you that is not the case anymore. It is blatant and it is disgusting. It is why recruitment among whites is plummeting.”

“I'm a minority, spent 30 years on active duty and don't recall a single moment where my race played a part in my promotions, it never worked for or against me as it was all based on ability. Today's DEI requirements are a joke and an insult to qualified personnel.”

“I was seeing this in the Army before I got out in 2007. People getting priority and promotions based purely on their race, and it wasn't white. It's the biggest reason I got out. I had better scores, better PT tests, attitude, etc. and it just didn't matter.”



“We were given a class back years ago by a senior officer that served as the head of the promotion board one year. He talked about how aviators were selected for promotion. First the list was generated based on their performance files... Then the "rack and stack" began. People were moved around, and rightly so, based on the needs of the airframe. By that I mean if the first 50 names on the list to CW3 were Blackhawk and Chinook pilots and the Army needed more Apache CW3s then those top Apache pilots would move up into the list. After all that happened they then went back and racked and stacked based on color so that there was more "diversity" on the final promotion list. He said that then meant that of the first African American Apache guy was no. 100 on the list he would then move up passed all others to be promoted not based on his performance or Army needs but rather his skin color.”

“When I was a recruiter for the Navy, we, including the other branches, had diversity goals. We had and still do have black upper mental group, hispanic upper mental group, Pacific islander upper mental group (which was Asian, Indian, etc, WINTR (women in non-traditional traditional ratings). Upper mental group is anyone who gets 50 and above on Asvab. We didn't have a white goal. As a matter of fact, we didn't make a goal if we didn't find a certain amount of the above ethnicity goals. So no matter if I had 25 white upper mental group men ready and QUALIFIED to join, unless a percentage of that 25 was not ethnicity, I missed goal and could not put them all on. Let's call it how it is, the military/government did this to themself.”

“My father served in the Army for 23 years. I served in the Army for 21 years. I would not recommend my children serve today. And that's sad.”

“I graduated USMA in 1983. Special recruiting and retention criteria were absolutely in force. I guesstimate about 33% each across special recruiting for blacks, women and athletes. Retention was entirely focused on women and blacks. White, Latino, and Asian men got or no special attention when they failed. Women and blacks got multiple tries. One woman tried to kill herself over stress 5 or 6 times and rather than removal on a psych basis they fought to retain her. Yup that's the kind of person you want making life and death decisions .”

“I actively dissuade people from joining. I was almost killed in 2011 when a diversity hire f'ed up and froze. Now that the military focuses on it, I cannot in good conscience give support towards our youth joining with the current leadership and military values in place.”

“This [fast-attack] submarine veteran calls bullshit on DEI in the military; a submarine could NEVER be nearly affective as they are without merit-based crews; anyone who claims their lethality is in their weapons has never been IN the fleet and has ZERO clue in what submarines do [talking about fast-attack, not the boomers].”

“Being retired from the military and having access to different bases, I have seen a huge decline in the base infrastructure, appearance, and mostly the attitude. Our current administration really just doesn't care.”

“I just retired after 21 years of service in the Army and I will not recommend anyone to join the Army. This is a great example of what DEI has done to ruin our military, especially the ARMY.”

“Trust in our government is at an all-time low. My son was up for reenlistment but my brother, a USMC Colonel, and myself discouraged him from doing so. Like a lot of parents and family members



we don't want our precious children dying in wars brought on by a politically rotten and corrupt president that currently sits in the White House."

"Our current government has labeled all white men White Supremacists, domestic terrorists, and blamed for every wrong in the world. The real question is: Why WOULD a white man voluntarily die for this government? I served 30 years in the Army, but I would not recommend for any white person to join this military."

"Retired after 27 years...not aligning to the woke Army or one misstep can mean no promotion and removal...especially for officers. REMOVED for Non-selection for promotion to LTC. Yes, white male."

"I was in the Army, both my sons are in the Army. What a conversation we have, on all that has changed for the worse."

"Over 20 years active duty and my bride a vet as well, discouraged our kids from joining and would not recommend to anyone in its current state. Very sad times."

"I spent 24 years in the USAF. I wouldn't recommend the military to anyone. It's a politically correct nuthouse nowadays."

"The folks that pushed this CRT stuff and woke agenda of inclusion that has infected our schools and even our military is destructive for morale and integrity of our soldiers. I served in the Army, and it was one place where there was no division, as each would give their life for the other. You will never find the folks who demanded their radical agenda to be part of our armed forces in uniform, serve their country, or even honor our flag, so I too would never recommend enlisting in the Army."

"Go WOKE and go broke. People are seeing the results of our current military leadership and are saying, "Nope." I retired after 30 years of service,

and if I had to do it today, I would choose another career path. I guess the draft may be on the horizon."

"All we wanted was to survive when I was in Vietnam, no one cared about race, religion or what you believed in as long as you stood up and did your duty."

"As a retired Army NCO that served from 1984 - 2004, I saw racial quotas in promotion of E6 - E8. Those days you had to have an official photo in dress uniform in a promotion packet. The excuse was to see if you looked physically fit, but it was also to see what ethnicity you were. The promotion boards were given quotas on which they were to promote each year. I worked for some of these quota promotions and some were functionally illiterate. Getting monthly counseling from them was a challenge to say the least. Some were also not proficient in our job skills either."

"Junior enlisted make up approximately half of the armed services. They should trot out a squad of these folks and ask the same questions. I guarantee the answers would not be welcomed by the left. My mission in the Army was pretty clear and DEI had no bearing on my readiness. What did have a bearing on my readiness were the hours upon hours of required training that had nothing to do with my job or readiness in general that 100% took away from the mission. Even as a young soldier, I recognized that it was completely unnecessary and a huge waste of time and resources."

"I have dropped my voluntary retirement request for Oct 2024 because the military has gone woke! Every freakin week or month you have training about Sexual Assaults, equality, trans, inclusion. It has become so politicized. We don't care what your skin color, just do your damn job-- cause you can't then I get stuck with it."



“180 degrees from what my Army was in the 1980's and 90's. This is one the reasons my son is leaving the Army Officer Corps. No longer in the business of war fighting as he put it.”

“My daughter is USMC and will probably not renew but she is grateful for the training she's receiving. If she didn't develop tachycardia issues (possibly job related due to the requirements of her having to get it) she might have looked at extending. She tells me she doesn't think they'll let her re-up with a heart condition. Even though its their fault she acquired one. Stupid mandates.”

“My son was bumped out of VMI because of quota expectations. Not because of his academics. The letter stated he could try again for the next year but the Institute required a percentage of diversity applicants. What we have done is tell our youth that here in America you can be and do what ever you want if you work hard enough. What is actually happening is if you fit a certain criteria you will be put ahead of the line and pampered to ensure your success and you don't have to work hard to get there. And we wonder what has happened to our youth, and young leaders. Agreed, definitely a sad day!”

“A good friend of mine was told to his face “we are not looking for OCS candidates of your ethnicity. We are looking for an Asian American and an African American.” Recruiter didn't even hide it. The conversation stopped right there. Refuses to entertain the idea of putting my buddy in. We sat there blown away.”

“As a retired black 28 year special forces SGM ; what does diversity have to do with qualification and assessment to become a pilot etc.”

“My friend's son was initially denied a USAF WSO spot graduating from Purdue with a EE summa cum laude degree because he's Asian. All the slots went

to Black and Latino graduates regardless of their major or GPA. He was later offered (and accepted) a WSO slot when, presumably, they could not fill enough of the slots with MORE diverse (you, know, more diverse than Asian or Caucasian) hires.”

“As a black AF vet, too many of my fellow blacks could not pass the qual test to be pilots in the first place. And those that could wouldn't elect to be pilots anyway. Most would pick career fields away from aviation and the rest would only join for college assistance.”

“They filmed a “commercial” at our base, didn't film anyone in our shop. They brought in a bunch of females of different ethnic backgrounds from office jobs and had them pretend to do our jobs on camera.”

“I remember the day in bootcamp where they told us that there are no black Marines, white Marines, Latino Marines, etc. We are all just Marines (well recruits at the time), and we are all green.”

“As a retired USAF veteran (1982-2003), this breaks my heart. My best memories are of the “togetherness” of my brothers and sisters on the flight line. We didn't care about skin color or sexual anything. We worked together and played together. I guess not anymore.”

“Two months ago, [@samosaur](#) and [@RobManess](#) and others discouraged Americans from joining the US military. While I said I understood their logic, I also said I disagreed with the idea. But I've been thinking about it a great deal ever since. I haven't felt settled that I agreed with my own advice. Would I personally be willing to serve in our military given its present destructive course? No. Would I be willing to send my own children to serve in the military? No. I continue to meet veterans who wouldn't dare recommend military service to young Americans. I can't blame them. We defend





every other country's interests but our own. What a foolish errand it is to sign up for that. Our sons and daughters swear an oath to support and defend OUR country (OUR constitution), and we send them off to die abroad for reasons it is impossible for even the brightest to articulate. KJP wasn't wrong when she thanked our military for "serving this administration." Our military leaders celebrate all of the wrong things. Only a few years ago the ONLY things worth celebrating were duty, honor, and country; were integrity, service, and excellence; and victory in conflict. Everything else is a distraction. When the wicked rule the people mourn."—Lt Col Matthew Lohmeier

"All 3 of my teenage sons are interested. Two are aspiring pilots and the other plane mechanics. The benefits for education are huge. As a homeschooling family, financial demands can be a strain. But I can't imagine sending them off to illegal, immoral war."

"I find myself not wanting to agree, but every time I think it out that's what I conclude as well. It's sad. It's scary for our country."

"Our 2 active duty kids helped convince youngest to drop her ROTC scholarship after the AFGH debacle. I will forever be grateful to them."

"Those of us who were career military and had their kids follow them in...we are now just hoping they don't try to retire and GTFO as soon as they can. I am praying mine just get out alive...literally."

"USMC vet, I absolutely would NOT recommend anyone joining today's military, especially under current CIC."

"The country the Greatest Generation and others have fought for is going farther away each day. I have so many wonderful veterans in my family who would be so heartbroken to see where our country is now. The country I grew up in is gone."

"My nephew is an Air Force pilot and we hear about the "wokeness" that has penetrated the military. There is a huge loss of camaraderie and the overall sense of "being one" that is extremely important in the military. When I served, we felt like "one". It didn't matter if we were white, black, hispanic, Asian, etc., we were united with a common overall mindset.

The same way the US has been fracturing into tribalism, we are seeing the same thing in the military. Add in the transgender lifestyle that's actively being promoted under these conditions and there are people that no longer want to serve, or that refuse to reenlist.

The government has gotten so many people accustomed to receiving money for doing nothing, that far too many don't want to work. They'd rather sit home, play video games and collect a check. Are there really so many young people that are ineligible to serve due to health reasons? No, there isn't. That's where doctors and the military itself needs to fix themselves and the nonsense. They need to stop creating "new" reasons to make young people ineligible to serve."

"My son left the military after 5 years of service for this very reason. He noted the weakness it promotes and disunity. I feel for those who this affects."

"Wokeness has dissuaded both my spouse and I from encouraging our two sons to join (having two retired military parents, does that seem to be saying something?)"

"As a parent of active duty kids, I know the crap about DEI training to be true. This crap has been forced down their throats. China is laughing."

"A good friend's son is a sniper instructor in one of the branches of the U.S. military. A black female jr officer was accepted into the sniper school and failed miserably. He flunked her out and thought



that was the end of it. Not so fast! His superiors told him to give her a better score and record that she completed and passed sniper school. The sniper unit went ballistic. To a man they were prepared to resign. DEI comes to the military."

"Wow, the justification for slashing positions is a pretty creative spin. If you cut the force, then it's easier to make a much lower goal. Spin it anyway you want, Woke policies and much lower standards = recruiting shortfalls. It's not rocket science."

"I'll give you the answer. When the current administration demonizes white conservative men, who make up about 64% of the armed forces, as "racist" and "extremists" it shouldn't be a surprise as to why recruiting is down. Couple that with the fact the Secretary of the Army said she doesn't want "legacy soldiers" i.e. recruits who have family members that have served. The blame for low numbers can be put directly on the Biden administration. Who would want to serve when the administration hates you?"

"After serving 23 years including OIF, OEF, Desert Storm I have watched the standards drop , discipline disappear and physical standards lowered. There's a reason we haven't won a war since WW2. The leaders today are more worried about everyone being inclusive and not keeping the Military a fighting force designed to engage the enemy, we were so worried about casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan that orders were to basically avoid contact, we do not have the strong leaders we once had. Politicians are too busy being involved and turning our military into an all-inclusive club. The Military needs to be run as it was designed, not by political leaders who cater to the whims of the public and follow the latest trends. We would NOT survive a war similar to what's happening in Ukraine. Yes, we have technology but we do not have the discipline or desire to fight or defend our

Country. We have let the Political leaders dismantle the Military and brainwash our past few decades of youth to be defiant and entitled. Men want to be women and vis versa, hate the Flag and Country expect everything to be handed to them, and give back nothing. The real Soldiers, Marines and Airmen are leaving in droves because they are sick and tired of carrying everyone else and dealing with the latest bunch of brainwashed recruits who are all inclusive and can't perform or refuse. At one time we weeded out those who couldn't make it physically or mentally only those who met the standards could wear a uniform."

"The way we used to work - as brothers! The sweat and salt pouring off our bodies in the heat was a badge of honor. We weren't just a team. We were family. We were brothers. You did not want to be the last guy to jump and would fight to be first. We were as proud as young men could ever be. Defending our freedom and the American way of life was what it was all about for us. Not anymore. They can say what they want, but now it's all about the individual."

"The majority of military recruits are white and I would guess that majority holds most of the higher skilled positions. I say most because I was in the military for 7 years and met many minority soldiers who were extremely bright and capable. That said, when America's leaders join the woke minority to discredit everything white, including our history why would intelligent whites or any patriot defend a country with no identity?"

"My husband is retired military with 35 years. He says he would not serve in today's military, it's too woke and they are not training recruits with discipline and not training them in a way to keep them alive should they be in a war. They are too conscious of gender nouns and pronouns and hurt feelings."



"23 years in the Navy. My son is 13 and is apologetic when he tells me "Sorry Dad but I'll never serve." I tell him it's Ok. I wouldn't do it now either."

"As ex-military, no young man or woman wants to join an Obama/Biden-created woke-racist military, where men dressed as women have become their commanding leaders and Tampax machines are in the men's commode. We've lost troops while China is gaining more. We have no spare ammo or materiel which will take years to replace, while China is creating stockpiles. We have no fuel reserves because Biden won't drill, while China has a surplus. And thanks to Biden, American no longer has the once-massive energy capacity or ability to manufacture and create weaponry, while China has built a coal plant a week, for two years. Our offspring still believe in America's values, but one of those values is not selling your soul and joining a military with leaders hellbent on suicide. The once indestructible cohesiveness and brotherhood in our powerful military began to degrade the day Obama was elected, and it is now totally disrespected by Biden."

"A strong, proud national identity will attract strong, proud recruits - it's not rocket science. Underperforming recruitment is weak leadership followed by poor moral and no national pride, an atmosphere of wokeness and weakness, a lack of respect for service and a lack of a clear distinction and understanding of honor and respect. If you have no pride in your country, you will not be willing to die for it. If you have more pride in your gender identity than your love of country, you will not serve your country. As a combat veteran of this great nation, even I, today, would not want to die for it as the country in its current state is not worth dying for; that is a sad state of affairs. I only hope that this country's downward spiral is stopped and that we bring back national pride and bring back all

our industry for without it, we are all doomed. China currently has these things that we had - they know what they are doing."

"Who wants to fight for this woke country? If I could take back my service, I would. This isn't the country I fought for."

"The political army is playing games with the data. IF you delete positions you are supposed to fill, then the differential between your established manpower needs and the positions to be filled drops. So that differential shrinks and makes your situation appear less critical? Is the Army saying that we were paying for positions they could never fill or never needed to fill? Money for nothing? And since the inability to fill them makes our recruiting and leadership look bad, by deleting them the apparent shortfalls statistically shrink: Making the crisis less of a 'crisis' of their poor management from the TOP down to the recruiters office."

"I'm currently in the Army (22 years and counting). Without a doubt, the Soldiers coming in today are substandard as compared to even 10 years ago. Generations of TV and constant phone time have destroyed them. It's sad."

"Gotta love DC babble. Less is More! Only the gov't can come up with this head scratcher: "We are cutting our already depleted army in order to help us fight better!" When you can't recruit the soldiers YOU said you needed to be an effective fighting force year after year...simply change the number, move the goalpost, "clarify" the objective" or revise the description/strength of the opponent."

"My son is in the U.S. Navy ... he's embarrassed to be in it and hates it. He's one year in and can't wait til it's over."

"My family has served since the revolutionary war. Talked my grandson into NOT enlisting. First break





after 12 continuous generations of military service.”

“THIS is why my son transitioned out of the military. He had such high hopes of moving up rank and retiring. But you have freaks in the military now and you HAVE to affirm their mental illness! My dad gave 25 years in the Navy and he would be appalled by this!”

“This is a prime example of why the Air Force and all branches of the military are not meeting their enlistment goals. Real men and women don't want to be led by and indoctrinated by the LBGTO idiots running our armed forces.”

“I'm now embarrassed to admit I was in the Air Force, I just say I'm a veteran and leave off the branch of service.”

“A few years ago my nephew got an almost perfect score on the SAT. Although they don't actively recruit, 3 of the U.S. military academies were corresponding with him because my nephew's grandfather was an admiral and knew a lot of people in military circles. He was leaning toward the Naval Academy when he watched the debacle of American withdrawal from Afghanistan and saw Joe Biden repeatedly checking his watch as they unloaded the dead servicemen and women onto the tarmac - Those young people were DEAD because of Joe Biden's awful decisions and he was myopically only concerned with what time he'd get to leave. Shortly thereafter, my nephew declined all offers from the military and now attends a private university in Texas. He's wise beyond his years.”

“I am an AFA grad, class of 79, LCWB. The woke shit at the Academies is out of control. I have stopped donating to the AOG.”

“In 2003 the Air Force Academy, from where I graduated in 1975, removed the "Bring Me Men" sign in two foot-high brushed aluminum letters that

stood above the main ramp leading to the cadet area. It was based on a poem by Sam Walter Foss "Bring me men to match my mountains, Bring me men to match my plains..." as an inspiration to the cadets. With the Rocky Mountains which form the backdrop of the Academy it was very fitting.

Many critics had suggested the removal beginning in 1999, as it was not considered inclusive of women. The Academy resisted for historical reasons, but a sexual abuse case in 2003 provided the excuse needed. Now in the wall above the Warrior Ramp are the Academy's "Core Values:" "Integrity First. Service Before Self. Excellence in All We Do" Upon learning this I wrote to the Academy Superintendent and told him straight away that this new motto sounded like something out of a 1990s Total Quality Management (TQM) corporate training seminar. He was good enough to write back, but I knew then this type of rewriting of history and the country's cultural "evolution" was not going away, and has recent events have shown, it will only get worse.”

“USCGA '84. I stopped renewing my alumni membership over woke policies. CGA refuses to release a rejection list of applicants. Suspect many overqualified white straight males are denied admission to meet social quotas. Many socially favorable tribes have special support groups and have vast resources spent on recruitment and retention. SWM has no such advantages.”

“One of my close buds is a West Point grad and a decorated veteran and very involved with the school on an almost daily basis. He just shakes his head when discussing how the school is going woke.”

“This is an obvious change to making them loyal to the leaders of the Army instead of the country. Now it is obvious that plans are in motion to





subvert military allegiance to our country and it's Constitution for nefarious reasons.”

“My kid graduated from USMA just in time to avoid this crap. I won't send my other boys to an academy now. Too woke.”

“Democrats will never learn. It's the love of one's country that gives a young man the courage to sign up for military service. It is then a honor to serve and evolves into a duty as you fight alongside your fellow soldiers each dependent on the other, each with a trust and friendship of all. I have no shame in saying the military made me the man I am to this day. The soldiers I served with are lifelong friends and one can travel the world and not have to look for a bed. That army is being killed off by Bidens woke brigades. What has a soldier got to fight for now? A rampant greedy globalist communist outfit going hell for leather in destroying our America for what? Money and power. No honor there.”

“So what is are Army Values these days - - - DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion), BLM , Trans and Gay rights, etc ?”

““Duty, Honor, Country” are very specific values and eliminating those terms means it's a lot easier to redefine “Army Values” depending on leadership's whims, such as “transhumanism, equity, inclusiveness, blah, blah.” The end result is a watering down and graying of the definition of our Nation's principles. Just what the progressives have been striving for the last 50 years.”

“I graduated from the Academy years before Steve Gilland was out of high school and attended a class reunion a year ago. Gilland gave the 'Supe's Briefing' to the reunion class, intending on 'enlightening' all of us. He ended up berating the concerns of a classmate who was simply respectfully asking questions that clearly made Gilland uneasy as he tried to dance away from his

woketardary. When you have to explain in length why you changed something that really did not need changing, you are making excuses for the reason behind the change. “Duty, Honor, Country” has been the motto of USMA for eons but also represented the values ALL LEADERS in the Army are expected to model. I imagine Gilland's ideas for Army Values are those that tend to change with the political leanings of the administration controlling the US Army and he couldn't be more wrong. West Point officers should be modeling the values West Point used to ingrain in its graduates. And while Duty, Honor, and Country doesn't need to be part of the Academy's mission statement, what are today's Army Values supplant those three hallowed words? Here's a clue: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Gilland ought to be politely, or not so politely, dismissed from further service as soon as the buffoon in the White House is gone and kept as far away from cadets and USMA administration as possible. For my part, no more donations to USMA or its Associate of Graduates until this woketard is gone and the decay in standards that he has ushered in as its Superintendent is reversed.”

“We are witnessing in real time the destruction of one of the greatest nations the world has ever known. I never thought I'd live to see the day, the country I volunteered to serve and protect from all enemies foreign and domestic, crumble before my very eyes. So sad.”

“No more duty, no more honor, no more country.”

“As a 1970 grad, I am not surprised by this never ending, progressive attempt to denigrate one of the last bastions of national stability, strength, and the American spirit. They have worked through, and infected, the universities, the national educational system, the federal bureaucratic structure, all the way down to parents at PTA's spewing their hate for this country. The military



was their last challenge and this is part of their opening volley along with the D.E.I. insanity and Covid mandates to destabilize the remaining bedrock institutions of our national history. The chosen "woke" general officers to lead the military are destroying the fabric that has allowed us to be the arbiters of peace on the world stage. They need to spend an afternoon walking through the cemeteries at Arlington or West Point and listen closely to what they are hearing. I doubt there is anyone who would prefer to be operated on by a D.E.I. surgeon versus one who earned enrollment based on meritocracy. How much more is that true about the officer who is going to lead your son or daughter into battle. Stand up and stop this assault on the America you love. Vote like your life depends on it, for surely it does."

"The new mission sounds like something out of third rate corporate training. Already we're being attacked for "God, Family, and Country". Now "Duty, Honor, and Country" is out."

"Replacing specific, honorable terms we all understand with a vague reference to "Army Values" is another use of changing language for a political motive. Army Values will inevitably become whatever the Commander in Chief decides it will be. This is an anti-traditional, anti-democratic, anti-American, totalitarian, pro-Marxist maneuver. Shame on this Administration and the current Army Leadership. We are being destroyed from within."

"Today's "Army Values" include, DEI, racial preferences, men pretending to be women, and Colonels dressing as dogs. It will always and forever be "Duty, Honor, Country."

"'Duty, Honor, Country' was specific. It was direct. It was time-honored tradition. It meant something. It was a compass. "Army Values" is amorphous, squishy, meaningless, and capable of being

changed with the stroke of a pen and to suit the fad of day. This is emblematic of what's ongoing in all branches of the Armed Services. As an Army veteran, this is a very sad day for West Point, the U.S. Army, and the nation."

"Frankly, this is the way our armed forces are headed. Sadly, as ex-military and with a son in the military (freaked out by pronouns and half-baked 'men') we have lost all respect for the services, especially the officer Corp. They should protest en-mass or resign. Instead they're mere cowards out to protect their own asses. After the failure in Afghan and no general resigned over the decisions made by blo-Joe. There should have been a sense of honor and register disdain and disgust for that decision. Instead they mumbled—no sense of honor!"

"Before 2025 even gets underway, it will be impossible to recruit ANYONE into the U.S. military who isn't gay, bi or trans. Real men, and real women too, will just "sit it out," wait and watch the world go by. And who can blame them?"

"I'm old enough that I heard Gen. MacArthur speak those words in person. They were embedded into me. I served as an Army officer."

"As an "Old Grad", I am appalled by the overall direction that the Academy is heading down. The Woke Agenda has reared its ugly head into a location that should be focused on discipline and character. However, in the past few years the trend has been just the opposite."

"As an Air Force Academy graduate, I share your disgust."

"My father is a USMA mid-70s grad, and he shares your feelings. Frankly, our whole family is disgusted by what the institution has become. It really is a shame..."



"I'm not privileged to have been an academy grad. But I am an Air Force veteran who proudly served. I can't believe what's happening in this country now. It's appalling."

"My son got fed up with the Army nonsense and left after 12 years. He made a great decision."

"It's been coming for a while. My son was a 2013 USMA graduate and had at least one communist in his graduating class."

Franklin Graham said on Truth Social: "What are 'Army Values'? The U.S. Military Academy at West Point has removed the words 'Duty, Honor, Country' from its mission statement and replaced it with 'Army Values.' We know what duty, honor, and country mean, but army values can mean anything and change with the wind. This is just another attempt by socialistic Democrats to weaken our military institutions. Pray for this nation."

"As a former Army officer and Vietnam vet, I am sickened by this action at West Point. I thought about this creed throughout my 9 years in the Army. It made me proud to serve. No more!!!"

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

"I come from a family of veterans and first responders. I already expressed my opinion to my grandchildren not to pursue military. This administration is woke and cares nothing about the soldiers who would see combat. This was proved in the Afghanistan withdrawal and attacks the terrorist groups on our forces in the Middle East. This administration is the most corrupt and uncaring of the U S citizen ever."

"Our enemies are training their children in the ways of war while we focus on which pronoun to use in various social settings. My screen name here (barbel580) represents one of the US Navy submarines I served aboard during the Cold War. I am in contact with thousands of others who like me, proudly served in our military and would to this day defend our great nation with our lives. However, most of us agree that we could never serve in today's military. The bar is set so low it has almost disappeared."

"Served 40 years ago; recently went to a USAF junior officer's promotion ceremony. But there was no ceremony, no senior officer, no dress uniforms, no tradition. Just another day at their office. Someone brought a pizza."

"I am a grad and I agree with much that Mr. MacKinnon said (except for creating our own academies). At WP we were taught that we fight for the civilians not just fellow graduates. The U.S. Constitution states everyone has a freedom to state their opinion. It is true that Duty, Honor, Country is still the motto and it was only included in the mission in the late 90's. So much of what the Academy has stood for and held true has eroded. The Academy was forced to removed statues and rename buildings because we wanted to eliminate historical figures that helped build West Point and the nation (Does Lee ring a bell?). And much more but space limits my comments."



"I am a former USN Officer, now retired. I and many like me entered the military in the 1960's. The Greatest Generation were our senior and mid-level leaders. We would have followed those men anywhere. I learned true leadership from those men. In the words of the late Col. John Boyd, "You may choose to be somebody, or to do something for your service and our country." Sadly the careerists are now in charge. They decided long ago to be somebody. The call for accountability is met at lower levels at the risk of their careers, as we have seen junior officers punished for speaking out. We fought World War II with less than ten four-star generals and admirals and a much larger force. Empires are built by careerists. Merit is dead, killed by DEI."

"Served for 23 yrs on active duty. I have to agree."

"34 years of service in the Navy, I agree absolutely."

"I tell them the same thing. That said, my youngest son enlisted with the Navy but he went in with his eyes open to the lunacy he'd experience."

"I'm 64 years old 10 year active duty USN veteran, and I tell all young kids the exact same thing. Do not join the US military."

"With a close relative in the Marine Corp., I hear how woke and disgusting the Marines have become."

"With a broken heart I counseled my sons not to join the military when they came of age during the Obama years. Since the early 90s I've watched the military be systematically weakened. Had it been the military of my youth, I'd have been proud to see them join. I'm glad they didn't because they'd be suffering under lunacy today."

"As a 21 year vet that retired in 2017, I tell every young person that will listen to me to NOT join the military.... I have stopped one, he is now training to

be a fire fighter in our community, instead to possibly heading off to die in the 3rd world for, whatever reason."

"My last name has served & fought in the military in every major war going back to before this place was a country. From me in Iraqistain (Airborne infantry & AH64 pilot), my dad AF pilot Vietnam/Cold War, his dad Marine Raider WWII, his dad 30th Infantry Div WWI, his dad 7th Cav Indian Wars, his dad 51st NY Infantry Civil War, his dad DC Militia War of 1812, his dad Revolutionary war, and his dad, who was sent to present day DC in the beginning of 1700 after being captured in the Jacobian wars against England. All of that said, I will do everything in my power to discourage or outright sabotage any of my four children from joining any branch of the US military. The institution is rotten because the members are morally corrupt & lack all personal courage to uphold the Constitution."

"Same. My kids will be the first in a family line stretching back hundreds of years here to not serve in the military in some capacity. I am actively steering them away from it. They will not be mercenaries for oligarchs."

"I'm actively trying dissuade my brother in law from joining at the moment. Something I never thought I'd be doing. But it's 2024 and DEI is full-bore."

"My son, a Navy Seal, would agree 1,000x with what Pete Hegseth has to say. Also have multiple other family members who are active duty and getting out. None of them signed up for a woke military. And they wonder why recruiting numbers are down!"

"I didn't want my son to join, but I didn't stop him. I am thankful that his 5 years in the 82nd Airborne ended with him honorably discharged after he





decided he didn't to play the woke military games anymore. Hegseth has it exactly right except he fails to call these so called generals that "go along to get along" exactly what they are...gutless cowards who don't deserve to wear the uniform."

"Pete Hegseth has it right. I personally listened to a veteran who was an Admiral that spoke firsthand about how "woke" policies got rammed down Generals' throats by civilians in high elected office positions. Such terrible policies not based purely on meritocracy have significantly weakened the morale and effectiveness of our fighting forces. And this is seriously a dangerous condition considering how many enemies the U.S. has these days. I too am a veteran (USAF) and I'm very disappointed and disgusted by what's happened to our military with these horrible "woke" policies."

"I served 82-90 with four years at the WH manning the military communications for Reagan & Bush. My family and ancestors have been performing military service back to the Revolution. Told my kids to forget military service as those now leading will disrespect you and treat you like pawns."

"I live near our largest Naval Station. Navy veteran. I also UBER. What I'm hearing is VERY disturbing. There's way too many 2nd enlistment people that are getting out. E-5's are our working backbone and hands on teachers and we are losing them ! They are absolutely disgusted by new recruits that have ZERO initiative and discipline. The Coast Guard has parked 10 Cutters and closed 29 stations that they cannot staff. We are beyond in trouble."

"There will be a day in the very near future when this nation will regret that we have done to our military."

"Reminds me of Jack Nicholson's diatribe in 'A Few Good Men' that 'You can't handle the truth' . It was

quite a masterpiece. We will doubtless be reminded of it in the future when the latest military intakes run away from harm's way rather than towards it or are just wiped out a far better trained and selected force. I expect that the Roman army when through a woke phase just before the Empire failed."

"I served for 28 years, and he's right. It started with Clinton's "don't ask" policy. I noticed a declining morale whenever a democrat president took over. Those policies do make it down to the lower ranks. The Generals (and other officers) acted like politicians."

"Worked over 30 years for the military. Saw this deterioration starting around 2010. Glad I retired shortly thereafter. Obama is the cause. It all started with him. Interns were rewarded with not working. DoD hired mostly minorities who had no intention of doing the training or the work. No punishment. No bad appraisals. When he sent \$150 billion to Iran, I said goodbye. "

"The military twenty years ago was well on its way to wokeville. The woke garbage started when Clinton took office. I was there."

"As a retired Air Force veteran, I'm astounded by the lack of enforcement when it comes to dress and appearance at the local air base. Apparently, being overweight is the new norm along with ponytails, cheesy mustaches, fad haircuts and full beards. I believe supervisors are afraid to say anything so they look the other way. Commanders should be ashamed!"

"And now it has come to JROTC--About 45% of USAF JROTC units are on probation for not making 10% of student population or 100 cadets whichever is less. Have the option to not wear a uniform once a week--now can wear a polo and have any length hair you want. And the new pay scale is out--no



impact of how much time you served, can now have as little as 10 years and make the same as someone who did 25. BUT, they are implementing a 15% pay cut for folks that have been doing it for awhile. Most of us won't take the pay cut and will be replaced by those who have never been above the unit level. Glad my kids are serving but I'm sorry I couldn't give them the Air Force that I knew."

"I joined the US Navy in 1978 with the intent of making a career of it. Four years later, I declined to re-enlist. The reason that I did so was because they started allowing women to be posted on Navy combat ships. I felt then that by doing so there would be compromises made that would create a division between men and women from the standpoint of performance requirements as well as dissipate cohesion of the units and distractions from the tasks to perform while on duty. There are many examples that can be found which supports my assertion that I was right. Just looking for the rate of sexual harassment claims and pregnancies on ships will support my assertion. A woke military is even worse."

"My good Friend was Navy on the USS Yellowstone, aka 'The Love Boat' as so many female sailors came back from deployment very pregnant."

"Then you will remember the time the Navy allowed women as an experiment on a carrier (don't remember the ship) I was at NAS Miramar at the time, on a first deployment, and when the wives got hold of the story, they were angry, but the DOD didn't listen to them, after a 9-month deployment some of the females came back pregnant, And I kid you not, there was a news story about it and when asked the Navy actually said that they didn't know how they ended up pregnant."

"It was the Enterprise (CVN65). Experienced it all. The "lady" recruits had all the "chiefs" under their

thumbs and were providing "sex" favors to gain advancement."

"It's been a long time, but I think that I do remember something along those lines. I'm actually surprised that someone hasn't called me sexist already. It has nothing to do with thinking that women are not capable of doing the jobs, it's all about the problems their presence creates in a male dominated environment. Problems that in that environment have a magnified effect as opposed to the civilian environment."

"I served over 21 years on active duty and what I saw essentially parallels what Hegseth is reporting! The problem is not the line troops, but rather with corrupted leadership, starting at the very top!"

"I entered the AF in 1970. When I retired in 95, we, the US, still had the capability to fight two major conflicts simultaneously. Today, I'm worried if we could even fight one. I see our stockpiles, manpower, and industrial base depleted. Then to top that all off, I see the leadership, both active duty and civilian, trying to score points with whatever is the newest thing coming out of the woke world. Not a good look for our military."

"As a disabled Combat Veteran with almost 24 years' service I simply cannot recommend military service to any young person right now. Today's "leaders" are a joke. They care more about their political future (and wokeness) than for the men and women that depend on solid leadership. In simple terms, they just don't "have your six"."

"I was a fourth generation military member but I steered all of my children away from the military. I still felt like mission was the number one priority when I served, and I served alongside awesome men and women from diverse racial, social, and cultural backgrounds to accomplish that mission. Today diversity is the priority. The 2023 budget



authorization had \$8.6 million for gender dysphoria (half of one percent of the military) and \$16 million total for body armor. Those priorities speak for themselves."

"This woke movement started long ago in the military, it was called affirmative action back then. In the early 1990s I witnessed an E-5 get recommended for OCS when he could not pass his E-6 end of course test (EOCT). No joke. He retired an O-3.

How did this happen? A message came down from on high to recommend minorities for OCS. Our O-5 boss, always a suck up, decided he'd recommend this low performing E-5. Remember, he could not pass his E-6 EOCT to save his life. Voila! He's off to OCS."

"My husband retired from the AF in 1996 after 22 years and said he could see the path they were going down and feared for the military."

"Looking forward to reading this. It's sure to hit home. After military retirement, sadly, the flag pole at our house remains empty due to bitter feelings stemming from the destruction and chaos caused by the far left. Holding out hope it changes."

"Merit is the only parameter worth considering. Race should not be a factor. I want the most competent pilots to control planes I am a passenger in. I want the most competent surgeon to operate on me. The race of that person is insignificant to me. The very fact that these studies were ever done is an indication that racists are now running our country into the ground. Leftists are racists. They don't care if they destroy this great nation if they can twist studies with foregone conclusions to fit their ludicrous destructive agenda. Now we have to worry that the men or women flying our aircraft were hired because of their color or because they are best suited for the

job. When I was in the military Blacks, Whites, Browns, trained together, slept together, fought together with no thought about color. Now our internal enemies have set race against race, sex against sex, and elevated unbalanced people to positions of power who are there because of their external characteristics instead of their Patriotism and love of country and their competence. The inmates are running the asylum and ruining the nation."

"I spent 42 years in the Coast Guard. This diversity tripe really took off with the Obama administration. We had to endure indoctrination as part of our general military training and like it. I was cancelled three times in a year, by the Commandant's office, an instructor at the Academy, and a now two-star admiral for contrary views expressed publicly. I am so glad we are finally ending this crapola and even happier I'm retired."

"I have lost count the number of GOFU who have reached out to me over the years to thank me for covering this topic and to tell me some of the horror stories they have experienced trying to get a Navy ready to fight while working around the Zampolits and their crowing influence. They still do. That is one reason I keep going. There are plenty around who know this is bunk...but they have work to do. I don't blame them \$.01."

"As a '63 grad of USNA, I find the liberal (non-military) environment in Annapolis an embarrassment. Years ago, I stopped my donations to the USNA Foundation because of the way everything at my Alma Mater had deteriorated. If the Academies don't return to the way things used to be, American taxpayers will decide not to support them."

"Rot is a good word to describe what has been going on. This same kind of favoritism is not new. In my experience It began at USAFA and the other





academies following the entrance of women in 1976. As soon as the female cadets became eligible for positions of rank within the cadet wing, they were promoted far out of proportion to their overall numbers, not because they deserved it, but because they were the favored class. Those responsible were the sycophant officers, primarily the generals in charge, who selected cadets for promotion, not based on merit, but on gender in order to enhance their own reputations within the political climate of the time. This was obvious to lower ranking officers and to most of the cadets. It created deserved contempt for the toady generals in charge.

Today the problem has metastasized far beyond gender to the point that the military cannot even meet its recruitment goals, and its effectiveness in defending the nation has been degraded. The trend has greatly accelerated under the current administration, and it will grow far worse before it gets better — if it gets better. The political generals in charge of all the academies today are far more rotten than those who began this travesty back in 1976. Their progeny and their ROTC counterparts have now infected our entire military. The miserable likes of Austin and Milley (ROTC Princeton) are spread throughout the ranks from top to bottom.”

“I served in the Army from 83 to 85 and from 87 to 89. My MOS was 13Bravo20/Gunner. I was a Sergeant E5, and I wound up getting medically (Honorably) discharged as a result of the heavy physical demands of my job in combat arms. I was in the best shape of my life, and serving in Artillery burned me out. As much as I commend women for serving in the Army and the other branches of the Armed Forces, there is absolutely no way that a Female Soldier can do the job I did in the Artillery. An MOS that often required me to perform heavy physical labor. In my day, female soldiers were not

allowed to serve in combat, period. The Army has changed and the Army I served in no longer exists.”

“DEI is destroying Civil Air Patrol in California. My daughter just joined CAP. I was in from 1979 to 83. It is nothing like when I was in. They have said they do not believe in the concept of Esprit De Corps. Everything is about the minority individual. They are consumed with promoting minorities over all else. They have cadets that have been in the program 4 or 5 months and are already Senior Chief Master Sergeants. What can be done to fix this? It’s crazy there is open contempt for white males.”

“My husband and I have been disgusted with this. We both served over 25 years in military, and we have lost faith with everything.”

“I’ve been currently active duty US Army and have been for a long time. The change in the army in the last 4 years has been extreme, we have now weekly classes on LGBTQ, diversity, inclusive and all the rest. These classes are used over range time, so instead of firing our weapons and learning to be efficient, we have classes. As an officer I’m being forced to make our enlisted learn this instead of their jobs. No one can speak out as we get ostracized and even forced out. The real state of our ground forces are in a terrible way.”

“Amen, brother. Same boat in the AF. You will get destroyed (UCMJ) if you don’t unquestioningly accept this nonsense. As an officer, you are required to even advocate for it to troops. The Fauci ouchy was the same way.”

“I’m so glad I retired out in 2011 and done my time in Iraq and Afghanistan when combat unit was still men, and the camaraderie was still great, I’m so glad I retired out in 2011 and done my time in Iraq and Afghanistan when combat unit was still men, and the camaraderie was still great.”





“Currently serving in the Army and have been for 16 years... I’ve seen changes that would make my veteran grandfather’s turn in their grave. None of these changes increase the ability to take the fight to the enemy. It saddens me knowing that the next conflict will result in unimaginable losses. Unfortunately, I believe it will take such a loss to realign our priorities.”

“I serve currently and have 28 years this year and the military since 2020 has been spiraling out of control. People are moving to their camps and leaders force the DEI crap and this has divided the military that has not been like this in my experience. I will retire at my 30 year mark and can’t wait and am sad that the legacy I leave is in total disarray.”

“I am retired USAF (27 years). I am thoroughly embarrassed, for the military and our nation. This helps no one, but our adversaries. Lord help us all.”

“Also retired USAF here (20 years). I don’t think you’d find a retiree who doesn’t agree with you.”

“I am 21 year veteran and I totally agree with you.”

“26 years USA and it saddens me deeply and you stated very succinctly, “LORD help us all”.”

“I am retired USN, 20 years. I could have stayed longer than 20 but I had to go. I saw this crap coming 10 years ago. July 2013, at a command within the DMV, we had a meeting telling us a man was going to be legally allowed to use female spaces. This was 2 months AFTER the mandatory DoD-wide sexual harassment training. My comment was all that training was done for nothing if we are going to allowed women being harassed by this dude ‘because he feels like a woman.’ BS. The only reason I didn’t fight it was because I was retiring in less than 30 days and couldn’t get in trouble or that date delayed.”

“10 years on active duty and this is a huge reason why I got out. The military stopped making people conform to the military ways and instead started to pander to society, which in my personal opinion is wrong. The military is diverse without forcing it, no reason to force these woke ideologies in an organization where it doesn’t add value to, but I can sure make the argument where it takes value away.”

“Talked my daughter out of the military. She’s a jr at UK and doing well. My son won’t be seeing the military either.”

“As a vet with multiple sons, I advised them to steer clear of the modern military.”

“As a vet I would not allow or advise any young kid to join the military.”

“I am a veteran who used to promote that my kids serve in the military. However, I have since encouraged them to do other things. This new country I live in is no longer America. These new leaders do not represent me.”

“I grew up in the 80’s. We grew up in a traditional Hispanic home. My father was a big Ronald Reagan fan. We were brought up to love America and love the Military. I was amazed of how incredible our country was. I joined the military and see it as one of the most proudest and enjoyable moments in my life. Now it makes me sad what the U.S., and military has turned into in the last 3 years.”

“Husband is retired Navy and we do not want our sons in the current military.”

“I’m so glad I retired out in 2011 and done my time in Iraq and Afghanistan when combat unit was still men, and the camaraderie was still great.”

“I left active-duty army in 2017, after 11 years and 4 deployments. Thank God I got out.”



“Same here. Joined in may 2007 got out 2018 so same amount of time as you roughly and after seeing how things have gone it makes me glad I’m not a part of it anymore.”

“I was in the Air Force 24 years, if I saw something like this during my tenure I would immediately request a discharge! I could not find the energy to lift my right hand to salute this deranged officer. I told both my sons to avoid the military because of this woke BS...thankfully they heeded my advice.”

“Literally dreamed of going into the military my entire childhood. Finally ready to enlist as an officer and there’s just no way. It’s so depressing to feel the loss of direction.”

“This is why I got out of the military, I joined in 2020 of January and got out in July of 2023. It was total mess, and even had formation meetings about what you couldn’t say to trans, bi, minorities and all, and I couldn’t believe that I was given lecture about certain people but it never mattered about the suicidal rate that was happening right in front of us and so much more.”

“82nd Airborne infantry veteran here and I’m so saddened to see what’s become of our military.”

“5th generation Veteran, served in Afghanistan (11B) and there is no way I’d go into the military now and unless major reversal happens I can’t promote this military to my sons. The army dropping down their recruitment quota only shows me, more parents and kids feel the same way.”

“Retired Navy and proud to have served, thankfully not in the present era.”

“I was combat in the Army (2005-2010), and people who would try to stand out or be special would be shamed for “trying to be an individual.” Identity politics doesn’t belong in the military on any level. To bring people together and create unit

cohesion, you focus on what you have in common, your shared risk, and shared enemy/struggle. You must assimilate and conform. If you can’t or won’t, then you’re a liability and don’t belong there. It’s not about what’s “fair”, it’s about what works.”

“Wow! Such an amazing video. I was sitting back in total shock unable to move throughout. This video is completely spot on. As someone completing their 2nd contract in the Army and getting out, this was well said. I noticed the change happening from the months before COVID-19 (when I enlisted) and the months to about a year and a half following Covid. The change started small but drastically increased. (As I’m writing this I would say once Biden got in all of this gender, whatever crap you want to call it started to go really crazy. I’ll just leave you with one example. We’re in a foreign country, towards the beginning of the Russian/Ukraine conflict, and we get told to attend a mandatory class immediately. (I’m thinking it’s war preparations or something important or even relevant.) The class was about transgender/how to treat transgender people/(biological men “changing to women” and how that’s “normal”). We had females asking questions like oh, the “guy” can shower in the same bathroom as us if his DEERS is updated as a female? It was ridiculous, a waste of time, and honestly utterly embarrassing. I sincerely hope something changes because this is getting out of hand, and is a terrible look to not only our advisories but also other NATO allies. Something needs to change quick, fast, and in a hurry.”

“I got out of the military after 6 years in June of 2020. I had planned on doing 20 years, but after covid hit and the forced covid vaccine and wokeism, I couldn’t get out fast enough.”

“From Rambo’s to Rainbows...I served three of my four years in Germany 88-90. I traveled extensively



bc of my MOS as well as personally. Meeting Canadian and UK troops during reforger exercise. People from Mexico to South Africa in Munich during the October Fest. I was also fortunate to participate in the International road march in Nijmegen. We met fellow soldiers from around the world and it was a great experience. We traded insignia patches, hats, berets and communicated the best we could and made a lot of friends. I didn't meet every single military group that was there. But the ones we did meet there and everywhere along my travels had the impression American soldiers were all like Rambo. We were far from "elite" forces. But they were very intimidated by us. We did have a chip on our shoulder. We were hard, and they knew it. There was no trouble at the march. And we were reminded we were representing not just our post but the entire US military. It does break my heart to see generations of tradition being cast aside. Knowing what the same soldiers that gave us a very recognizable nod of respect would be laughing hysterically. I have absolutely no doubt there are still fine outstanding young men and women that are serving proudly. But policies like this make their jobs harder. And battles are won before they are fought. Motivating and encouraging a foe is not exactly a winning formula in the art of war."

"As a former Navy operator, I can't recommend that my son follows in my footsteps."

"My husband, son and I are all veterans that will never advise a young people to join our military."

"I'm afraid in these last three years, we have already lost a lot of fine young men who otherwise would have joined. Fine young men like the UNC fraternity brothers who rescued the American flag from terrorism. My 17 year old nephew for example is on his way to earning his private pilot certificate completing his junior year in high school.

He had aspirations to join the ROTC while in college, and then join the USAF for hopefully pilot training. He has this year ruled that out thanks to wocketardism in the military and instead is just focusing on a commercial aviation career."

"I can't see why anyone would want to serve under the hostile conditions that exist in today's military. A lot of others feel the same way...and it shows. Bring back the meritocracy, testosterone, and patriotism and the military sells itself."

"A lot of young men I have talked to over the last few years who would otherwise join up some even would have made a career out of it, I have talked out of. My own Sons I talked out of as well. My family has a history of servicing in every war since the beginning. I am the last who answered the call from my family. The young men I have talked to who had questions I answered for them. Some wanted to fly and join the AF. One I was close to finished his school and promised me to take me flying with him. His family is grateful I talked him out of service."

"Young man I taught to fly and helped get into USAF flying Mud Hens (yeah I know) resigned recently. Top of his class. Test pilot school grad. Combat tours. Reason? Military brass has gone too woke. :(

"I was a combat medic for a line platoon. Deployed to Iraq. Earned my combat medical badge. We drove tanks and walked every day. Our unit was a well-oiled machine. Efficient. During our deployment, a female soldier was attached to our platoon. Long story short, we hadn't seen one woman our first three months and this female soldier had the body that basic training gives you. What people don't understand is that humans must take themselves to an unnatural mental space to handle the stress of war. Instinctual, carnal, aggressive, willing to go pull the trigger. The





complexity of dropping a dime piece on us in the middle of our deployment destabilized our platoon. My men became distracted, began competing with one another. It was not conducive to bringing everyone home safely and certainly not the place to test progressive ideas.”

“My oldest son was active duty when the decision was made to integrate women into combat roles. I asked him what he thought of it. He’s a linguist. He told me that in any given FOB in Afghanistan there are a bunch of Marines in their boxers saying things and doing things they might not feel comfortable saying and doing in front of a woman. Moreover, if there’s an actual combat situation every guy is going to be worried about the girl, where she is, if she’s safe, etc. It’s a huge and unnecessary distraction and a pathetic effort on the part of the idiots running things to rub it in the faces of the men defending their country that women can do what they can do and they’re not exceptional.”

From a female veteran: “I served for just shy of twenty two years. Women do not need to be in a combat situation to have an adverse impact on the mission. Good people take care of their people. There are avenues to address assault and harassment. I’ve seen women put themselves in bad situations too. I don’t think that women should be kept from serving but they do not need to be in career fields that are tip of the spear and they do not need to be in combat zones. Too many cons and not enough pros.”

“Women pose an operational liability specifically because the typical age range of military service overlap with their prime childbearing years. Pregnancy, particularly in the US armed forces removes a female troop for a year. What happens when that troop is filling a critical role? There’s no temp agency to call so the rest of the team picks up the slack. What if that woman is in command? How

well would a unit function if their commander was removed on the eve of a combat deployment? In technical components, the teams or duty sections tend to be small so the importance of each individual team member is magnified by scarcity. If a small team has multiple female members who all get pregnant simultaneously that can cripple a team. This happened to me. I was the #2 in a 7 person section that lost all 3 female members to pregnancy within a month. All were junior enlisted. Two were solid workers, the third was an apprentice in training. Hazards associated with the job prevented them from doing their jobs, and the apprentice’s training stopped. They were essentially absent for a year between the duty restrictions while pregnant and the maternity leave afterwards. The remaining males had to pick up the slack. I was one of two NCO’s. We worked 14-16 hour days for a year to pick up the slack.”

“Former US Army soldier here. I had to go through Basic in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. This basic training camp was mixed, women and men. The women ruined the entire experience in so many ways. Couldn’t pick up their loaded packs, couldn’t do pullups which we had to do before any meal at the DFAC, constantly had to be trucked while everyone else was rucking because they ‘fell out’ or got injured, were always late in the morning because of their hair being out of regs or some crazy whiny shit. Every damn day it was a problem. And you know the military, everybody got smoked because some girl (usually the same 5) was late or in the wrong uniform. The women were unbelievably catty towards each other, so they wouldn’t help each other out. For instance, if a guy had the wrong uniform, we all jumped on him to fix him before the drill sergeants got there. The women would leave the others out to dry but then the entire company would get punished. Pure insanity. Then, we men had to step up and cover





for them in team drills, team exercises, everything. Very, very few of them were not genuine burdens. I'm not the only one who has reported on this craziness. What made it worse, is we met other soldiers from other Basic Training Camps like Fort Sil that only did one gender at a time and all the guys said Basic training was straight awesome. They couldn't believe their ears when we told them about our experience with mixed genders. The drill sergeants found lesbian love letters, girls in each other's beds, men on 'self-deletion' watch because they thought a girl liked them. Craziness left and right."

"Marine veteran (female) here. Got injuries right out of the gate, despite being very athletic my whole life. I loved serving but our bodies aren't meant for that."

"As an old vet who went to war multiple times as infantry, i do not think women should be on the front line in any capacity. Medics? Sure. Maintenance? Go for it. Legal or admin? Absolutely. I have no faith that any woman could pick me up in my gear while she was in her gear and I'm small for a guy. I was 5'7 and 160lbs but i wore 70lbs of gear so now I'm 230lbs. As an infantryman, that's "light weigh" for us. I could carry the 6ft tall 230lbs guy who had the saw ammo for like 20ft. were looking at 300lbs plus my 230lbs. I've never seen a woman move that situation and i would never expect a woman to do it. Then, there's the psychological aspect where most men are raised to protect women, so if she gets shot, do you keep returning fire or focus on her out of concern? If you kill the treat, you're safe and have time but she may bleed out. If you stop shooting, they may get brave enough to stand up and throw a grenade.... what do you do? If you thought about this for more than 1 second, a bullet just flew past your head because you stopped shooting. That's the reality."

"I knew a guy who served in the forces. He said thanks to the DEI initiatives they were promoting women into leading roles who weren't ready for it and he ended up having to baby sit and train his new superiors. Obviously this makes no sense and he ended up leaving."

"I was in the service. Women serving with me were consistently held to lower standards almost across the board both mentally and physically, and even then they often struggled to keep up. What more need be said? Well, that the women were also the most sexually aggressive and promiscuous compared to the men even in the midst of basic training. That should also be noted. Also, there was more than one instance of false assault allegations, and in each case, the female eventually admitted to fabricating the claim for often entirely juvenile reasons."

"In the USN it was a regular experience to see woman get pregnant before a deployment so they could get sent to shore duty. we regularly went to sea "undermanned" because of this."

"I was in the USAF from 1999-2009. Many women became pregnant and could not deploy and some became pregnant intentionally so they could get out of the Air Force without finishing their enlistment."

"I was a infantry team leader who was in Iraq at a COP with just my company there so for the most part no woman except 5 times, the first was a woman MP came out for 2 weeks to search Iraqi woman during elections and she was definitely green but professional, the second was a reporter who came out for 3 days and ended up giving a staff sgt the clap, the 3rd was when we got blown up and called EOD and for some reason that air force eod had a woman LT in charge...well they got blown up on the way out to us and she started crying over the radio to the point where my LT told



her to give the comms to her male private driver so we could get the location (we showed up and she was still bawling, thank god it wasn't a ambush) the 4th was a Iraqi American woman who was supposed to be our level 4 interpreter but she saw us roll in after being attacked and she instantly quit lol, the 5th was a Iraqi interpreter my buddy met while doing a special mission outside of sector and within 4 days she had sucked off 6 of the 9 guys in the squad lol."

"I got shot in Afghan back in '11 in July and it took four other Marines to run me to the bird. It was over 100m sprint in a field and one corner still dropped me from exhaustion in 120 degree weather during a tic. I say this with the least amount of prejudice but women don't belong on the battlefield. Men are better warfighters. A better investment is filling all the spots with the most capable warfighters."

"Women in combat, bad idea. Anyone who has had basic infantry training and understands interlocking fields of fire from two-person [sic] fighting positions KNOWS that that discipline will break down if there's a man and a woman manning that position. The man will invariably do what it takes to protect the woman. It's inherent in a man's DNA. The first WESTPAC US Navy 6 month deployment in the 80s with, if memory serves, had 14 women on the carrier and 13 returned pregnant. The old fuddies in the Pentagon all looking blankly at each other, "How did that happen?" Really?"

"My oldest son was still active duty when they decided to put women in combat positions. I asked him what he thought of it. He said in an FOB you could have a bunch of Marines in their boxers saying and doing things they wouldn't feel comfortable doing or saying with a woman around. In the desert they have to shit in a box in the sand. In combat they'd all be worried about where the

woman was and if she was safe. She'd be a distraction. He said it was like the people in charge were trying to tell the war fighters that women could do anything they could do, that they weren't exceptional. Set the bar high and people reach for it. Set it low and you get what you ask for. If you want to keep your country safe train the best war fighters and give them the freedom to do their job unhindered. The military is no longer effective if it's a social experiment for the left."

"While recruitment is already way down, as these West Point cadets graduate, and bring their woke indoctrination with them to their various commands, you'll see retention rates drop drastically, even more so than seen currently. A friend I served with, an O-6 (colonel), took an early retirement, despite outstanding Officer Evaluation Reviews resulting in early promotions, due to pervasive Army wide wokeism."

"I live near a U.S. Military base and as a Vet I can state unequivocally that standards are going down, down, and even further down in a death spiral like I've never seen in my 78 years and counting. Even the main gate sentries are ridiculous and wouldn't last a week in earlier times. They are shorter, fat, visibly out of shape, and completely clueless when asked even a simple question — like "why is the Flag flying at 1/2 mast today?? The answer: you are greeted with is a blank stare and "I don't know, Sir ... " Pathetic .. disgraceful ... I don't think we could "win" against the Salvation Army these days ... let alone a real enemy."

"I'm an old school Navy Chief and retired back in 1997 after serving for 22 years. The reason I never made the next higher rank of Senior Chief is because I didn't give a damn what your rank was, if you were a screw up you were going to hear about it from me. Now it looks like the whole damn system has lost its mind. I have two grandsons on



active duty now. I'm sure they do NOT like being forced to "train" on DEI crap. In reality is is treason and blatant sedition being committed in plain sight. I would not last a day in the military now. As the former top gun EP3 aircraft fleet instructor flight engineer and I did not tolerate lack of proper military bearing. There is a reason for it and ignoring military bearing weakens the ranks leadership structure immensely. In the heat of combat nobody will give a sh\_t about DEI training."

"My grandson graduated college and wanted to go into the military (we were a military family). We begged him not to do it because it is not the same military my son and husband went into and were proud to do so. He became a fireman."

"I retired from the military in 2015. I work as a DoD civilian now and I don't even recognize the military anymore. There are no standards and there isn't a mission."

"Similar situation here. I personally seen an AF commander walking around outside of a hanger picking up trash with a pointed stick while the non-coms inside sat around inside watching TV. I could see both at the same time."

"Same here! I retired in 2008 and am a DoD civilian and I work with Active Duty and honestly, I'm disgusted by what I see. I personally work with some AWESOME officers, but they are all ready to get out, because things have changed so much...and not for the better. I was talking to one of our young AF Capt's and he is one of the really good ones...and he said all of his friends are getting out because they are no longer able to make POSITIVE changes and troops are getting away with everything...no weight standards (we have an AF Col and I swear his buttons are going to fly off his uniform, he is that fat! NO RESPECT any longer...it's such a different world. I have always been and will

ALWAYS be Warfighter first! but TRUMP needs to come in and clean this shit up!"

"Retired back in 2012 (13F).....Best decision I ever made. For the 1st time in my life, I would caution my kid about joining."

"I've been in the Army since 2020 as Blackhawk mechanic. I know two women who are pregnant and are actively flying in UH-72 Lakotas; one as a pilot and the other as a flight medic. In aviation, you have to maintain flight hours if you are a flyer. These women are restricted in what they can do in a helicopter and, once their pregnancy reaches a certain stage, will no longer be allowed to fly at all. As for all the other gender confusion/ DEI stuff that's going on, I personally am not seeing it in a big way. That's not saying it's not happening, just that it's not as prevalent as folks might think. Keep in mind that our active duty makes up over 1 million people and our reserves and National Guard are right around 800,000. If you take 1000 weirdos out of that nearly 2 million people and give them a camera, it's going to look like our whole fighting force is falling apart. I promise you, if it comes time to fight, the real warriors will step up in a big way. All hope is not lost folks!"

"You're kidding me right? It's in all the "equality" doctrine they push on us. My unit has a few trannies and they're absolute mental cases. One was collecting garbage in his room for months. Can't do anything about it."

"So I'm guessing you left high school at least 4-6 years ago. The reason why you don't see it like older folks is because you were fed this stuff in High School. Maybe not so much if you went to school before that."

"There are a lot of anti-white propaganda books in the Holloman Air Force library on the front display as soon as you walk in."



"Former Marine, I don't recognize this world. But I did swear an oath, with no expiration date."

"Hey boys! I'm an airman, S&E medic for the USAF. I love the guys and gals in my unit, most of which are competent and airman that I can rely on to do their job to an exceptional degree. The sentiment that DEI is absolutely fucking retarded and serves only to kneecap our mission capabilities is omnipresent among the enlisted side. Even some on the commissioned side will speak their mind about it behind closed doors."

"My son would have been the 11th generation in Service from my family... he has paused his Commissioning. It was his dream for the last 10 years."

"I come from several generations of service members going back to the war of 1812, and this will be the first generation that won't have someone serving. I served during Desert Storm, but I won't try to encourage my kids to serve under this administration. Perhaps my grandkids will have a better chance, but not if we don't stop supporting this warped ideology. I still support the Veterans and will to the day I die."

"I retired from the military in 2012. I was able to see this starting to creep in. For the most part, most of the non-comms still had a pretty solid idea of why they were there. The worst, that I saw, were the mid to upper level commissioned officers. It's like they went to War College and received a lobotomy. Makes me sad to see....I'm glad I'm not beating my head against that wall now."

"I've seen it. This is really been pushed hard in the past 2 years. No need to tell you why or who is doing this...none of this existed before and even younger troops are upset by the agenda forced on them."

"I retired in Nov 22 after 35 years. refused to sit in and refused to track as the G3 the 4 mandatory Transgender Training events everyone was supposed to take. I and several others could see the change and decided it was time to leave."

"Let this not get you down because the primary warfighters, infantry and special forces are still the best of the best. The Rangers, SEALs and AF Special Warfare have not lowered their standards and don't let anyone into their units that they don't trust with life. I'm in a regular USAF unit and the DEI influences are a mere light annoyance on the ground level. The biggest problem is a culture of people joining for the wrong reasons and not taking the job seriously. It's led to a degradation in work quality respect between teammates."

"It's been an issue since the early 2000's, you couldn't get promoted if existing while white. I know guys who watched men they trained get promoted over them constantly, DUI's article 15s nothing mattered but skin color when it came to promotions."

"I come from a family legacy of military service. My great uncle Jumbo rode with Pershing chasing Pancho Villa, my grandfather was a paratrooper in the Army in WWII, my Dad is a Marine who served ready at the Bay of Pigs, my Uncle is a Marine who went through the Tet Offensive in Viet Nam, I joined the Marines at age 17 with the Iran Hostage Crisis as my motivation along with the family history. My son wanted to serve and due to what you are covering today I talked him out of."

"The wokeness is why I left the military. I was lucky enough to have more than 20 years in."

"I was an EOD and scout sniper Corpsman. I fought on the front lines of combat in two campaigns. The military today is woke garbage. The fighting spirit has been replaced for political correctness."





“Our son abruptly retired as an officer last year after 20 years of service. He had enjoyed being in the service and hoped to stay longer. He had never seen so much political pressure put on (relative to DEI) and couldn't stand it any longer. He went to work for the state government where he lives and it's the SAME situation. So much more work could get done if the best qualified gets the job without racism or sexism being the tipping scale.”

“In the 1970s, the USMC had human relations classes, that we were required to attend annually. They did more harm than good. Marines would come from training feeling divided, when the Corps depended on unit cohesiveness. Even now I worked with young Marines, and sadly the Corps not what it used to be, all in the need to implement and force DEI upon them. DEI does not win wars, competent, trained warfighters do.”

“When I was commissioned into the Air Force in 1983, the mission statement was simple, "Fly, fight and win." Promotions were merit based. Then came McPeak who left the Air Force unrecognizable. When I retired in 2009 after several leadership changes, the mission statement was "Fly, fight and win in the air, space and cyberspace." Now, you have senior officers more interested in using the correct pronouns than being combat ready. I really hope the next administrations will revoke the commissions of those officers that are not combat ready and place more emphasis on using the correct pronouns.”

“I have responded to my 6'4", 245 lb, Honor Roll student and defensive end to NOT consider the military until they pull their collective heads out of their 4th point of contact! The military I served in WAS NOT a social petri dish to conduct social experimentation! Signed by a retired 1SG.”

“As a navy Vietnam vet I used to encourage young people to go into the military. Not anymore. Not under this screwball administration.”

“My Air Force vet family has taken down all pins/badges/old Air Force memorabilia. They're embarrassed to be associated with it anymore.”

“I have a relative who WAS in the Navy until about 3 years ago. He was a fairly high level (I forget, but I know his military retirement is \$90,000/year) with 30+ years of very important logistics jobs he solely accomplished after being a pilot for 20 years. Sharp, assertive in his roles and extremely resourceful. About 4 years prior he told me about how he had to take a 'Critical Race' course that included him having (forced) to write a paper on how he was the problem and what he should do about it. He hated it, but knew not to complain. Simultaneously he was 'passed over' three times for re-commissioning. Seeing minorities and woman with massively less experience and skills get promoted past him. He reluctantly resigned his commission.”

“I served two years – one in the jungles of Vietnam – so I am familiar with what it was like then. My battalion has annual reunions and we have active members, usually six, that attend. The battalion commander brings five of the best soldiers who earned the privilege to come. A couple of years ago about half a dozen of us vets and four of the enlisted men sat around drinking beers and BSing. The subject of re-enlisting came up and all four said they were not going to re-enlist because of priority placed on sensitivity classes, using the correct pronouns, etc. These were all soldiers who had at least six years of training and experience and considered the elite to get to come to our reunion and are now no longer in the service because of “Woke” policies.”



“We are a military family, with some still serving. Great friends also have kids in. Military academy alums. Thought they'd all be lifers. They're all leaving.”

“Dear Secretary Wormuth:

I watched your recent Congressional testimony with shock and dismay. It is clear to me that you are in absolute denial regarding the Army's ongoing recruiting crisis, and I am writing now in hopes of penetrating the fog of delusion that apparently surrounds you and the Chief of Staff.

I come from a family with a long tradition of proud Army service, dating back to the Spanish-American War. I myself am a retired Army officer, having served in Desert Storm, OIF and OEF. For generation after generation, we have served honorably and proudly, knowing that we were making a difference for America.

Today I do not have enlistment age children, but if I did I would be actively discouraging them from enlisting in any of America's armed forces, and I do in fact actively discourage nephews, nieces and the children of friends from enlisting.

I can promise you that there are literally MILLIONS more veterans who feel exactly the same way I do and are similarly engaging in such discouragement.

I think it is important that you understand why this is.

Below are the reasons why generational Army families now tell their children to never enlist:

1. Warfighting, realistic training and the warrior ethos have all been made secondary to DEI initiatives and other suspect social engineering programs.

2. Poor equipment and training readiness ratings means we are building yet another Task Force Smith.

3. If a soldier is a white, heterosexual male, he can expect to be indoctrinated that he is inherently evil, and he will face active and purposeful discrimination in assignment and promotion opportunities.

4. America's political leadership views the troops as mere political pawns, and whatever sacrifices those troops make on the battlefield and whatever gains they make in combat will be tossed away on a whim if it means more votes for the politicians. America's disgraceful, disgusting, despicable withdrawal from Afghanistan is living proof of this.

You may not understand how this sickening abandonment tore open old wounds that millions of us bear, but we know.

I know from your testimony that you are oblivious to the reality I state above.

However, know that the millions of veterans who bear the scars of America's forever wars feel exactly the same way I do.

I just described the root causes of your recruiting crisis. So what are you going to do about it?—Retired Army Colonel”

“Former army officer here that discouraged his children from entering service for exactly these reasons. America has been f--ing around for the past 20 years and is heading towards finding out in a very painful way.”

“Can you add my name to this? Perfectly said. I have discouraged several people from enlisting in the last year for exactly the reasons you stated. LCDR (R) M.D.”



"4th generation Navy/USMC/Army --2 Gold Stars  
Same Grandsons not under arms"

"My wife's family is retired Air Force and have taken all their medals off the walls at home because of what that institution has become."

"My family's military service stretches back as far as we keep records, to pre-revolutionary times. Every generation, at least one male has served in some capacity. That unbroken line of service ends with my sons. I am actively steering them away from it now."

"I too come from a long line of men and their families who have served in the military (noting that the families also serve in their own patriotic way where the sacrifices can be enormous). And zero percent of any of us would recommend ANYONE we care about ever go to any military college or sign up to serve in any of the branches of the armed forces."

"This RETIRED SFC agrees. The army is a total shitshow at the moment. I do encourage young men with military potential to join the Marines. They haven't slipped off the deep end into wokeness as much and still train Hard."

"Amen! 30 yr military spouse here and when my grandson mentioned joining the military, I pitched a fit! I told him no and if he joined now he would completely break my heart. Told him all the reasons you noted. I told him it wasn't the military his grandfather was part of."

"Amen brother. I come from a long line of military men and women as well. I do not encourage any of my relatives or children of friends to even entertain the military as an option right now."

"Same here, 5th generation US Army my brother served in Vietnam, (same generation of course) My Father in WWII, my Grandfather in WWI and WWII,

great grandfather in the 1890's, and his father before him 1860's. They will not be getting my son for all the reasons you have stated above plus one more. This trend of the political class to look for conflicts abroad and involve the US Military in conflicts that are regional in nature and not necessarily a threat to America for political purposes, money and possibly to distract from failures at home. No more."

"Standing in agreement COL (R) TC 33 yrs service  
Enlisted- Officer Retired 2022"

"Amen!!! I am an Army Vet, proud descendant of those who served... and encouraged my boys to serve, which they did. Now if any grandchild/young person I know would want to join, I would STRONGLY discourage them. I used to say, I would go back in if they would let me...NO WAY now."

"I recently had a nephew leave the Army due in part to the DEI nonsense. He is not white."

"LTC(R) here, fully concur. The Army's job is to close with and destroy the enemy. That has been discarded in favor of the woke agenda. It stated with the 2008 election and is the main reason I declined promotion to COL and retired instead."

"I served 20 + years on active duty. My time in service was rewarding for the most part and I am glad I served but I now tell my grandchildren not to join and my reasons should be obvious even to the most casual observer."

"The military today is no longer the honorable service it used to be. Woke leftists have been emplaced at all the top echelons, woke polices abound and as a whole the socialists in the U.S. have turned the entire military into one giant political experiment. We don't train for war anymore, we don't properly train new recruits anymore. Over 20 years I watched around me as the military (Army for me) went from something I



was proud to be part of to something I couldn't wait to get out of."

"I'm a retired military officer that works as a civil servant on a military base. I can't wait to retire from civil service because our military terrifies me. At least 30 percent of the people in my office are foreign born who have very little loyalty to this country. They serve for the benefits and are open about it. There are several I know who only have green cards. This is by design of the left. He who controls the military, controls the country."

"Retiring in one year and the military has been an incredible adventure, challenge, and I greatly admire the men and woman in our military. It has been an honor to serve with them. I have significant reservations advising my son to serve at this time since I believe we no longer have a country worth defending. Our government is broken, a tyrannical justice system, absent leadership, and a porous Southern border resulting in a loss of our sovereignty."

"As a combat veteran myself I would tell my son that joining the military today would most likely mean that you would have to sacrifice your honor and your values in order to be successful in the current climate."

"I know a young man who graduated West Point and wanted to make the military a career. He recently got out because he said the Pentagon has become way too political and WOKE."

"And for a West Point graduate to say that you know it's bad. I spent 37 years in and so glad I retired in 2016. Things were just starting to go south then. The Pandemic really made things worse."

"My Grandfather, the son of a sharecropper, retired from the Army as a Major after enlisting at the 17. My Dad retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after

graduating from West Point. I turned down West Point and went to the Coast Guard Academy. I didn't make it a career because I got out to care for my young wife with brain cancer. I also named my kids Lincoln and Liberty. As a 3rd generation vet from a family with over 50 years of continuous service, to say I'm a Patriot is an understatement. And I can't in good conscience recommend the military to either of my kids. I would be extremely proud if they decide to serve, because there is no higher honor. But this country and our military has changed and I'm not sure the fight is worth it anymore."

"Our family is ex-military - I did 2 combat tours - We live in a military town and most of our neighbors are current military. You do not want your sons to join Pete. There used to be a semi-parade every day past our house as troops in uniform and full packs jogged past us to keep in shape (101st). Today, maybe one jogger a day in jogging gear. DEI has definitely taken its toll."

"Retired in 03 and both my daughter and son joined the military, AF and Navy. I encouraged them to get an education but joining the military was their choice and I supported that as well. They both served their terms and are doing quite well in civilian life but if that were today, I would tell them you don't need "leaders" who are Men wearing Dresses leading a combat fighting force. Don't join that crusade to support insanity."

"I, too, fought and sacrificed for my country, like thousands of other outstanding men and women. However, the country I believed in then is not the country I see and believe in now. The problem goes deeper than, "a change in leadership inside our military." True fundamental, long lasting change happens at home as the author so aptly describe by the intent and manner in which he taught and raised his sons. The democrat party figured this out





a long time ago and, like demons possessed, are destroying the lynchpin, bastion of society's strength through their war on the nuclear, traditional family and its support structures of religion, schooling, scouting, and sports."—Persian Gulf vet

"My son is 17 and knows how to fly a Cessna. We are a military family but he does not want to join for now until the military gets back on track and stays on track with the mission."

"My nephew was a casualty of Afghanistan in 2020. He had a strong sense of duty. It cost him his life. I honor him. However, in my heart ....No, Afghanistan was not worth his life. He sacrificed for this woke, democratic nation and politicians. This country is merely a shadow of what it used to be because of politicians that play chess with the lives of our soldiers to make money on defense contracts, etc. Sadly they are merely pawns in a game of chess."

"USA retired here! 30 years, mustang, Private (E-1) through Colonel (O-6) and a Ranger too. I do not recommend military service at this time! Dad (O-5), Uncle (O-3) and Brother (O-3) were USMC Officers. None of us recommend military service at this time! We were all combat Infantry Grunts!"

"I served 20 years in the Marine Corps. Seeing how these phony, lying, self serving, corrupt politicians are destroying this country I feel like my service was a complete waste and will never encourage any friends or family to consider the military as an option."

"No, Pete, service is no longer worth it. My partner is a disabled, ex-POW veteran, who killed many people "under orders." Through many surgeries and constant continuing pain, I have never seen him cry. "Pain is weakness leaving the body," he tells me when I ask. Recently, however, I have seen

tears threaten his eyes as he realizes that all he did was for nothing."

"When I was in Vietnam, it angered me to see fathers take their sons to Canada to keep from serving. With today's WOKE Pentagon, I'd charter a bus to take as many as I could to Canada."

"Have military background in my family and recommended the armed service to all my 3 boys - 15 years ago . Now ... NO WAY ! Totally disgusted with the country's leadership and military leadership. I fought FOR COUNTRY , not woke ideals . Is it too late ??? Semper Fi '72"

"I feel like I wasted 15 years of my life in the military supporting a government I thought was worth my sacrifice. I personally don't care how people feel about those in the military. That's a personal issue and has no weight on how I feel about my time in uniform. what makes me sick to my stomach is the disregard my government has for the rule of law that the constitution is supposed to guarantee all Americans. the American government has subverted those laws to capitalize on situations for their own benefit and not the benefit of the American people. Seeing where my government has taken us to today, I wish I had made a different choice back then."

"I served. It was an honor and made me the man I am today. I come from a long line of service members, where almost every male member has done at least one tour. This has been for generations going back to before America was formed. I told my son he should find another way to serve. Our military has stopped serving our country and its people and is now just used to serve the elite and powerful."

"I know now my years were not worth fighting for a country on its way to communism."



"I can tell you right now as a 4th generation combat veteran that none of my children will be recommended or in my opinion even allowed to serve in this military today. This country at this point and under its leadership is not worth saving and definitely not worth fighting or even worse dying for. At this point the only thing worth saving is your family and the ground you reside on. Fellow Americans definitely aren't worth the time and effort and I have zero faith in any of them."

"I served 5 years & I regret it. A Nation that Hates its Citizens."

"The Platoon SGT to the CO in our "modern military": "They're ready and prepare--oh wait we let Pvt Suzie and PFC Shenequa off from responsibility for their vital weapon's system cause they're pregnant /not deployable to a combat zone for almost a year...SGT Charlotte and SPC Brianna need to have a detail to lift the M2 and .50 Cal ammo into their trucks, it's too heavy for them. PVT Ashley is on sick leave for LGBTQRST microaggression PTSD. Oh, and SSgt Ben isn't available for three months for mandated parental leave, LT Chelsea can't go because she's(he) in the 6 month pre-surgical counseling for his, I mean her transition surgery. SFC Jones has been reported to the DEI office for having a Trump sticker on his car...(DEI Military today)."

"As a retired Soldier, I am torn on this. My 1st son is still serving (a majority with the SOF community). My Grandchildren will soon be able to choose to serve or not. the next few years will determine any endorsement."

"I am third generation active duty Army. No way will I encourage any young people from joining this current administration's military. No one would have their back. Maybe I will later with another administration in charge. But not now."

"My son and daughter served as did my husband and father. They did not come home after wartime deployments the same personalities who left. Military service is a sacrifice and should be treated as such. It is also an honor to serve this once-great country. Unfortunately, I will not encourage any of my grandchildren to make this commitment, I think the times have changed and this country is in decline."

"Good for you if you feel that way. I regret my 24 years of service now and discourage anyone from joining the DEI military. It's a disgrace. The country is lost - accept it. It's too far gone for anyone to save it."

"My teenage son wanted to be a navy seal since he was 5 (no joke) and he changed his mind a couple years ago. My middle son wanted the air force and changed his mind. It's sad what the military is doing to itself. The strong men aren't joining."

"I served 35 years, I retired last August. He is 100% correct in his observations. The military is a mess at the moment due to social justice agendas forced on the members."

"I just retired last year after 22 years. DEI is being pushed hard. I wanted to serve 30 years, but it got to woke. Command teams have lost so much power that they are just place holders."

"My son retired from the military because his commanding officer wears a dress and is a mockery to women...overcompensates the walk and talk. He said it's hard enough to follow a commander that you think might be crazy, but harder to follow one that is outwardly crazy. He also stated we are too close to wars to risk following these fools."

"I served in the Marine Corps from 2003 to 2009 and did 3 tours to Iraq. With that being said I'll do everything in my power to keep my 2 sons out of any branch of our current "Military". It was already



going down the "woke" road by the time I got out, Obama was gutting it immediately."

"This is not the same America I signed up to serve for! I'm in the Marine Special Forces and contemplating taking an early discharge because of the current administration, and I'm not the only one that feels this way. The moral is the lowest I've ever seen in my tenure so far!"

"I'm a US sailor and we are so soft now. Everyone is getting out asap. It's insane. My division doesn't even have a 1st class petty officer cause ours is leaving too. So all we got is an ensign to take charge. Our one first class got demoted to 2nd class cause he said something."

"I served in the US submarine force under President Ronald Reagan which required me to volunteer twice, once to enter the military and once to ride submarines. There is no way I would volunteer or encourage my children to volunteer to serve in the current US military and under the current political administration. In fact, if the draft is reinstated tomorrow, I will buy their ticket to Canada"

"In 2016 I remember my first "transgender awareness training". Because of my political and traditional beliefs people were trying to out me and destroy my life in the military. It worked because in 2018 I chose separation. I would never recommend my children or anyone else to join."

"I'm retired navy.... and also the first father in five generations of my family to warn my children off the service. It's a mess. An evil mess, where it doesn't at all need to be."

"On the second day of Navy Bootcamp I had my head shaved, issued my uniforms (just like the 86 other men in my company) and told that there are only 2 colors in the Navy: Navy Blue and Khaki!"

"I served but ultimately had decided to not steer our children from serving but to educate them about what this modern military is like....so they had all the tools to make an informed decision about the "Modern Woke Military" and we will have all new conversations with our children now and encourage them to take a "wait and see" mentality because no one wants their children to be part of the woke madness that's got a grip on our country."

"This coming Wednesday marks 12 years in the Navy. I saw the decline begin in 2017 with transgender standown we had. At the time, I didn't care too much as I assumed people would still be held to the standards. I assumed wrong. Fast forward to my tour in Europe (2019-2021) and the issues compounded further with extremism standown, early stages of Get Real, Get Better (response to readiness issues that caused the collisions and loss of 17 guys), leaders like Captain Crozier, Col Scheller, and Col Lohmeier calling out obvious neo-Marxist and radical ideologies and being fired for it. Who remembers the Army ad with two moms? The drag queen appointed as a spokesman to bump recruitment numbers? CNO reading list that includes How to be anti-racist by Kendi? I recall the records of two female Rangers being destroyed because of mean tweets and rumors that they were allowed to recycle and not complete the course within standards. All these problems while the enemy has infiltrated the border or traitors within our own government."

"I recently got out and the way the military has become is a part of the reason. I'm like Hegseth where I got out as a Major. I am hoping to see a positive change after the election, and I will go back in if the direction of the DoD is corrected. I worked in a Recruiting Battalion many years ago and I felt these changes both on the line and in the recruiting challenges."



"Glad I retired in 2012, I was at my wits end with the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell, endless sexual assault training, a victimhood mentality sprinkled with treating it like a joke. Women, caked in makeup, perfume, to train a d work. It's ridiculous."

"Policy changes happened subtly at first but I was relieved, yet saddened when I retired in 2012, I'm not shocked at all."

"I was army infantry from 2004 to 2011. This all started with Obama, I promise you. I watched it first-hand. Thank God I got out before it went too crazy."

"Joined in 2002 due to 9/11, infantry, volunteered because of a sense of "duty", and to do my part for this country. Couple of combat tours, lost a lot of friends/brothers, came back changed. Looking at our country, our government, our citizenry today. It was all a waste, for nothing, a scam."

"After 35 years I had to remove myself from DoD because I was labeled as a racist. This was triggered by my complaint (twice) about a young airman that just plain refused to work at all. He was of a particular color and therefore I was the problem regardless of all the evidence. Strange times."

"Both of my parents retired from the Marine Corps, I did one enlistment and couldn't do anymore. It's so bad. I'd never condone my children joining even the marines in its current condition. A lot of young people ask me if it's worth it and I cannot in good faith tell them it is. Some very very big changes would need to happen for me to encourage anyone to join."

"The Downstream military philosophy is Very REAL. The men in my family have served in every war since the WW1, including me. I have 3 sons. I strongly advised them to NOT join the military unless it's S/F or Air Force to get an education as the institutions I knew are mostly dead. My

youngest ignored me and was a Ranger for 10 years. Couldn't be prouder but even he admits that the last 4 years he was in he HATED it and got out because of DEI. Hegseth has it right. A soldier's job is to kill people and break things. Everything else is just a dangerous distraction."

"Back when I was in, ALL military personnel were brothers and sisters. Race didn't matter, if you liked or disliked someone didn't matter, you were all family, and had to trust each other with your lives."

"Was in from 2013-2017, was a police officer after I got out and went back active after Russia invaded Ukraine because we're on deck for war. The difference now from when I first came in 11 years ago is terrifying... it's a complete 180 degree turn. I do believe we're still a lethal force. Just not the same culture. This culture sucks. This invasion of liberal agenda into the military is a cancer. The war fighting mentality took a back seat unfortunately. Our job is to successfully impose our will on an enemy, unfortunately it isn't top priority over the feelings of junior enlisted."

"I served in the very first cycle of gender integrated Army basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO in 1994. The female drill sergeants were overweight and dumb. The male drill sergeants were top tier guys that inspired me to be my best. The girls in my unit were whiny and needy. There were guys having sex with the girls behind dumpsters. It was a shit-show. On our mandatory 20k road march ALL the women fell out within the first 10k. The girls that I was friendly with took turns clinging to my rucksack calling "Hammett! Help me!" Until I was forced to shake them off so I could finish the march. The leadership was hamstrung from helping us. It was miserable. I was a rah-rah gung-ho soldier, who ran track and played football in high school, so I was a physical specimen, but my superior abilities made me a target for the inferior





soldiers who would complain because they couldn't keep up. I chose to end my service at the end of my contract because of wokeness before "wokeness" was a common term. I know many others felt the same."

"In my extended family there is an individual who is a colonel. Last year he was informed that he was going to be promoted to a brigadier general. He thanked the powers that be and handed in his resignation instead. His number one reason for leaving is the WOKeNess, and DEI. The quality of those serving has been greatly diminished just in the past 4 years."

"One of the reasons I recently retired from the military. Stopped focusing on readiness and instead uplifts DEI garbage. Witnessed it too many times. Wrong people in the wrong jobs, those who shouldn't have been pushed for awards and promoted....got promoted anyway."

"No one is enlisting and many who went in intending to make it a career are leaving! Our son who was an officer got out as soon as he got his 20 years in. He had intended to stay in but couldn't stand the DEI/COVID/Politics that now is rampant under Biden/Austin."

"I'm a 20 year Veteran retired in 1997 if this was the priority back then I would not have stayed till retirement. The focus of the military is the destroy your enemy and nothing else, your feelings, my feelings about what I think I am or am not has nothing to do with the mission. If this is the priority in the DOD then we have lost the battle before it even starts."

"This stupidity is exactly why my West Point graduate, Ranger-tabbed, Green Beret son left the Army."

"And to think I once proudly served doing 24 years with 8 actual combat tours for the military to come to this! I am ashamed!"

"For those who have been in the military, who know the importance of esprit de corps, we know how bad it is. We know that it is degrading the effectiveness of every unit in every branch. Those currently in charge do not know. The biggest blame goes to Barak Obama because he pushed out or forced retirement for a huge number of old, senior officers at the upper echelons of the military because they wouldn't go along with his program. Biden has just continued and exacerbated the situation. It is one of the reasons why recruitment goals are not being met across the board." – Navy person

"Courage and loyalty go hand in hand. You can't trust the process if the people responsible for the process are corrupt. That's when Courage and Loyalty must, and are compelled, to stand. Our military know this. It's ingrained in us. If you're lucky, you can just criticize without being directly involved. Just like we in the military expose ourselves to bodily danger and you don't."

"This nonsense called DEI needs to stop. I as a brown guy survived without DEI, and don't need any artificial quotas. Equal opportunity is what is needed."

"As a retired Army officer back in June 22, I'm thankful to have crossed the finish line, even with the mandatory COVID vaccine and "Extremism in the Ranks" mandatory training. But the fact is, the entire top structure of the military needs a drastic overhaul. The current stars need to be evaluated. Most have drank the Obama/Biden political kool-aid and need to be shown the door. Even as a Conservative, all military personnel need to be completely apolitical and devoid of any political influence. Yes, we should vote with our beliefs. But



DEI and anything beyond promoting for merit should be prohibited. Command Teams shouldn't be required or strongly encouraged to participate in EO/SHARP events. But if you don't nowadays, you are considered unfit for command. We have to return to what our warfighters were trained for: warfighting."

"As a retired Air Force Major, give me the courageous stand of Former Lieutenant Colonel Matt Lohmeier over the disgusting testimony of the former Chairman of the JCS when he testified to lawmakers about want to know more about "white rage"."

"My hope is, come November, a new President will be elected and turn this insanity around. DEI, CRT, and Trans are failed ideas. My own son got out of the Army after six-years due to all the HR classes peddling these theories. My apologies that our nation and woke officers have screwed you over. Keep your head up and bless you and your family."

"As an enlisted veteran, I agree with the commander. Moreover, this divisive training is one of the reasons many are not reenlisting and choosing to retire early, this is a huge problem for all branches, none are meeting their recruitment and retention targets. No-one wants to join an organization where your life depends on the people you are serving with, when these people are being advanced not on merit, but merely to meet a diversity quota!"

"It's sad to see what Space Force has turned into, both of my parents used to work there. Ironically DEI under the Obama Administration was what caused my parents to leave their jobs."

"My sister is going on 25 years Air Force...currently deployed.....her final one.....she is so disgusted...has been for 3.5 years....but has suffered for that full pension"

"Wow. I'm from Poland. When my dad served in the communist Polish People's Army they had an officer like he described. The political officer whom everyone was afraid of. He had an authority over the commander and was subordinate to the Party. I'm shocked what's going on in the USA."

"When I was in the military, the last thing we thought about was race. Don't force this trash on people."

"I'm an Iraq veteran who served 13 years in the Army. I recently went to an air show at Hill Airforce Base and was shocked to see the gate guards with full facial hair, beards, goatees, mustaches, everything, and other uniformed Airforce personnel with facial hair (beards), other Airforce Airmen, their uniforms were wrinkly and messy, I turned to my fellow veteran and buddy and asked "what the hell has happened to the Airforce?". I'm glad I'm not in the military now, they've been destroyed!"

"DEI weakens the military. I saw this starting as I retired in 2020. I want the best person in each position, not someone who checks a color, gender, or sexual orientation box."

"This is exactly why I got out of the Army as a senior leader-- military went woke "

"I got out in 2017 because the military was on a trajectory I couldn't be a part of. Entire briefings to our soldiers on how evil white people are. Completely dividing our platoons. I was halfway to retirement and a platoon sergeant. Leading men in combat was my life. 34 months overseas giving everything to my country. Our commanders were the equivalent to Soviet propagandists."

"About a year ago a recruiter reached out through text message wanting permission to talk with my daughter. She has a very feminine name (so no confusion on gender/pronouns) but the recruiter



kept referring to her as "They" it was definitely on purpose and very disheartening. That's when I knew people who were acting like or saying DEI was not a problem in the military have absolutely no clue what is going on or are fully supporting the movement. Its divisive, tribal, tokenism, racist, and will bleed the truly patriotic from the ranks."

"On my last day in the military I was forced to attend a class. The class was called "Avoiding the White Gentleman's Club". I sat for about an hour and listened to the speaker constantly insinuate that most success from the white people in the room was ill-gotten. Then the focus shifted to "leveling the playing field". While walking back to the barracks with my roommate (of color) he stated that it made him feel extremely comfortable. He also received bonus promotion points over me based on skin color. Though I would never hold something like that against a friend, you can imagine the collective divisiveness this causes within our ranks. Most of our dumb European counterparts don't even have armies this woke. That was 13 years ago. I can't imagine our current state affairs..."

"Look, I'm Gay (so's my Husband) but this effeminization of DOD Must Be Stopped, & LGBTx ripped out by its roots from Military culture. Its subverting the force intentionally & will have dire consequences should Biden's Wars suddenly turn 'Hot' for the U.S."

"Retired USMC about 4 years ago. The vaccine handling through the chain of command was a staggering blow as well. People went from motivated and engaged to shocked / no longer believing in the entire concept of service within a few months."

"I get thanked for my service, then I usually discourage service in modern times."

"I have two sons and would do everything in my power to keep them from joining the military. It shouldn't be this way, sad."

"I just had the honor to host three of this country's finest young men who recently left the Army Rangers. The reason they left is — you guessed it — a weak commander in chief and woke policies putting their lives in danger, and we Americans are in danger as a result. One of the bright young men has a brother and a father who also bolted the service for the above reasons. Do you think this is an isolated case? Think again, my unprotected fellow Americans. They, to a man, admitted that they see zero desire on the part of young men or women to enter the military for the reasons above. Solid leadership is required in order to attract these great men and women into necessary positions in order to keep this country safe and secure. I don't care what your political leanings are, I for one wish to live in a country protected by the best we have and under present leadership that ain't happening. "

"I left home at 18 never to return again. I enlisted in the USAF and became a medic & dental technician. I retired as a colonel and an oral surgeon. What a great opportunity for me, one that I do not recommend to my grandchildren due to all the DEI nonsense."

"I retired 20 years ago after a 23 year Army Armor career (81-04) and contracted to the DOD for another 16 yrs here and overseas. I have a son with 3 combat tours and another son still serving and the changes I see and what they tell me about the required DEI briefings (indoctrination) they have to listen to is ridiculous. The military must be a meritocracy, it can't survive any other way. We must train warriors, not social warriors. The best people will rise to the top because they are qualified, not because they check some box. I am



sure it's not the Army I retired from, but I remember the state of the military in the late 70's and President Reagan turned it around. I have faith it can be turned around again, but under different leadership."

"Pete is correct. Even before Pete's service, the establishment of diversity councils were a sham. They did not accept diverse opinions, and typically they are not reflective of the organization's population. My second to last commander was more concerned about image rather than reality. Publishing a lie was acceptable to burnish his image. After 21 years in the Air Force, I spent 33 years at Boeing. The growth of DEI changed Boeing from the company to solve hard problems to one that now bungles its core competency, building airplanes. A picture of the diversity council is proof that it is not reflective of its employees. The first Asian heritage member resigned after 18 months because in his words "it is a hate white male organization."

"Being a service member with two combat deployments (12 and 14) facing both an administrative and medical discharge, simultaneously, I can attest to how the Army has changed over the past 4-ish years; I can say the Army, organizationally, is paralyzed and will sacrifice its commitments to the Soldiers in favor of the political agenda of any given month/year. There is no loyalty from the organization to the Soldier.... This is why the Army will fail once more Soldiers realize they have been deceived into joining an organization and lied to along the way."

"I retired in 2004 because I could see what bush was doing in Iraq. After a 26 year career, I was tired of being led by idiots. I would never let my kids serve in the military under today's politicians. They get elected for themselves and no one else."

"Marine infantry riflemen here.....NEVER would I serve under these soft woke people."

"A culture of excellence that has taken 200 years to create, is being destroyed in a single generation. The left's victory over America is nearly complete."

"They say that they aren't pushing DEI in the military but we're still getting emails and training pushing exactly that. They aren't hiding it. Training/events from the command "Diversity Committee" literally pushes DEI. Our command still has chalk graffiti all over the sidewalks from their celebration of Pride Month. Yeah, the triad lets that happen. Some of the staff NCOs have confided in me that they aren't confident in the junior troops ability to handle a real-world situation, both physically and emotionally. I told them that it partially falls on the NCOs to push them and get them motivated and trained. They have told me that their hands are tied by the higher ups wanting them to be more "sensitive". So, yeah, it's changed for sure. I've been serving both in the military and with the military for well north of 30 years. The NCO's I mentioned are ALL Black and Hispanic and my boss is of Korean heritage. I'm white and never had a single problem following someone's lead/example if they were a good leader. Heritage never mattered. Maybe that's why these fellas are comfortable confiding in me what they're experiencing."

"It's shameful and extremely dangerous to our freedoms what has happened to our Military. I've been a MARINE combat veteran for over sixty years and the changes I've witnessed in the CORPS are alarming. I would/will discourage any member of my family from joining any branch of the military under today's conditions. So sad!!!!"

"I served in the US Army Infantry through four administrations (Bush, Clinton, Bush, Obama). In my view, it really started to change during Clinton. I





served one year during the Obama administration and got out because I started to immediately see the vision the military was going. I am a very proud veteran and my kids all are proud and honor all military vets. And it is very sad that I did not recommend military for my kids.”

“The military started its change under Clinton. Democrats hate our military; I served 21 years in the military, retired during Clinton era. I had gone too far to quit before retirement, but I also did not recommend the military for my three boys, who along with my grandchildren, always respect and honor our veterans. Obama and Biden completely disrespect what our military stands for and the people who are in it.”

“My family immigrated to the north American colonies in 1633. We have had men and women in our family in the armed services of the US since the revolutionary war in every generation since the US became a nation. The last three generations in my family have been Marine Corps enlisted O3s, including myself. This is the first generation of my family where all the kids are choosing not to serve. So far out to my second cousins none of our kids are joining the military this generation and I don't blame them. His book covers all the reasons my children and my cousin's children are choosing not to serve this time around. Hopefully this will get corrected soon, and my grandkids will serve and this will just be a hiccup in our nation's history.”

“A friend of mine served 9 yrs active duty, 3 tours overseas in areas of conflict. Refused to take the shot, was expelled from the military, they tried to strip him of all EARNED benefits, ALL ! He sued and won. So spending time in wars zones, being shot at, being a faithful soldier, leading his group, doing his job, being divorced in the process,( Dear John Letter ) wasn't good enough, refusing one specific shot and they tried to treat him as if he never

existed. And I helped encourage him to join! NEVER AGAIN will I do that to someone.”

“They told me, 'I'm walking on eggshells here,' 'there's no accountability,' 'the standards have been lowered,' I'm concerned about political influence.' It was guy after guy and gal after gal who said that." This is exactly why I left in 2010. Loads of politics, buddy promotions, falsifying paperwork, triple standards.”

“As the seventh generation Army in my family, I will be the last Veteran. I will not push or let my children join this woke Army. My friends who are still in said they are required to have transgender and DEI classes. Plus, they are walking on eggshells, anything they say can be misconstrued, and their career is over.”

“I am a veteran and the son of a veteran. I tell all my friends not to let their sons join. They are like second class citizens in today's woke military.”

“I agree after over 200 years of my family serving and myself a retired vet, my children will not carry on the tradition! The military is a window dressing of its old self and too political. It's not about defending the country and winning wars!”

“I am a woman, retired from the Army, helicopter pilot with combat time. That said, there are differences between men and women. And each of us too. We cannot lower the standards for DEI. I was lucky when I went through flight school. I had the exact standards as the men. You either do it or not. This is life and death, and security of our nation. Woke does not fit.”

“I wanted my kids to serve after I served and believed in serving my country because I was born into this great nation, but now I have clearly stated I do not want them serving, because, well, it's NOT worth it.”



"I'm a 3rd generation veteran with a son named Lincoln and daughter named Liberty. My family had over 50 years of continuous service. My son just turned 15 and I can't in good conscience recommend that he follow the family business. It's not the same military that his great grandfather and grandfather served in. It's not even the same that I served in back in the early 2000s!"

"I got out in '09 after returning from Iraq. Sounds like thing really went downhill. Our Pentagon is full of woke political appointees. Our general officers are more interested in their careers than in a capable, lethal combat force."

"I just finished Pete's book. He pulls no punches, especially regarding the woke DEI mentality that is being pushed throughout the military from basic training and the military academies up to the upper echelon of military leadership. I served as an officer in the USAF from 1972 to 1992, and this wokeness was being pushed as early as the mid-70s, starting with compulsory Race Relations training to mandatory Sexual Harassment training. The military has always been the petri dish of leftist social engineering because we salute smartly and do what we are ordered to do. Pete hits every nail on the head. Thanks for speaking up for all of us dedicated military veterans past present and future."

"Pete hit the nail on head. I can go back to the Civil War with my family's service. But that is all changing now. My children will not serve or be encouraged to serve under any of this administration's directives. Even when Trump gets in there, he needs to flush out the DEI appointees and hires before I'll think about letting my children fight. The lack of meritocracy will cost people their lives. The lack of mission focus will cost people their lives. The lowering of standards will cost

people their lives. I won't be sacrificing my kids to that nonsense."

"I'm a retired combat vet of two campaigns. My son was in Afghanistan and we talk often. The military I embraced and loved, and served honorably, is gone. Thank God Mr Hegseth is calling them out. Just ordered his book from Amazon. Can't wait to read it."

"Amen. I wouldn't ever EVER let one of my 4 kids serve in this crap show military of today. It's beyond disgraceful. Shameful."—Navy

"I watched my Marine Corps allow a dubious "native American" to circumvent haircut standards that have existed for as long as I can remember. I my day, the Vietnam era, we were all "green." When left was ordered, we went left. When forward was ordered, we went forward. There were no slackers or exceptions. The system worked and the Marines were feared by the enemy and respected by our allies. That is all gone. Killed by people that have no idea what it means to stand a watch, or to carry the dead body of a fallen comrade off the field of battle. I am proud of having been a Marine. But I have no pride in speaking about today's Corps. Semper fi and RIP."

"I'm a first generation Mexican-American, broken English, two Engineering degrees, Masters degree, almost two years in the Army(part-time), I think it's insulting to be DEI hired, I want to get hired cause of my skills, knowledge and experiences not color/race."

"What is so sad is that, I just read a comment on another site criticizing out of shape men in law enforcement. I have trained units in the military with females in them. It was a total nightmare. An out of shape man can still handle himself in a fight if he knows what to do, he can carry another man, and he darn sure doesn't argue about not having to



do something because they are a woman, or constantly throwing harassment charges against my other instructors. I saw this firsthand multiple times. The stereotype didn't just come out of thin air."

"I served. My Dad and Grandma served. Under Biden, my kids will never serve."

"My dad served. I served. My children will not."

"They went woke wasting millions of man hours on training for identity, sexuality, and proper pronouns. This has driven multigenerational military families away taking strong military leadership skills with them. Merit based promotions went away leading to weak leadership in strong positions."

"Every person I know that was in the military quit due to a lack of meritocracy, which is extremely dangerous in real life."

"“Why are so few signing up?” Military service has been a family tradition for generations. My grandfather served, my father served, I served and my first son is currently serving. Previous generations of veterans encouraged their prodigy to continue the tradition, but for many of the reasons shared in this thread, veterans are no longer. My eldest was encouraged to join, but his four siblings were not. The mission of the US Military use to be to produce the MOST effective fighting force in defense of the country and her ideals. It is now about producing the most “diverse” and “inclusive”. The Russians, the Chinese, and terrorist organizations will not be defeated by proper pronoun usage. Unless or until we return to the original mission, and abandon its current one, my son may be the last to militarily serve this great nation."

"20 year Vet. My brother and father both served. With Biden and the possibility of Kamala being

President, there is no way in hell my son will join to fight their wars and take their CRT indoctrination nonsense."

"Maybe it was those toxic mandated clot shots you tried forcing on them."

"Or maybe it's the woke crap the highest echelons are forcing on the young men and women who, like their forbearers, want to serve a great Nation. 1stSgt USMC (Ret)"

"When politics & wokeness was being mandated into the military , this is a chief factor !!! Who wants to be subjected to this nonsense !!!!"

"I served 28 years, I'm glad I'm out now and not serving under this president, may be the same reason that good young people don't want to serve today!"

"My nephew was career AF, MP/K9 instructor. 20 and loved it. Last 2 years were too nauseating to stay. He's out."

"Merit and ability are systematically being diminished in favor of D.E.I. Promotion. The traditional Judeo-Christian ethic that was essential to the Founding Fathers establishing our Constitutional Republic has been neglected by too many. Integrity is being undermined by greed for power and control over budgets...not only that, the social engineering of our youth. Masculinity demonized as toxic, radical ideology hostile towards traditional family values"

"My kids will never serve for a DEI woke mind virus, intent on starting a new civil war."

"Because it's being destroyed from the inside by WOKE policies."

"Veterans are not allowing/discouraging their kids to sign up. No way I would allow my sons to go fight in any war now."



"Under this administration: forced woke-ism, forced experimental jab, pay so low that personnel are advised to apply for food stamps, and a general environment that repels traditionally patriotic Americans who would otherwise be eager to serve."

"Would you want to sign up to a military where men wear skirts under a clueless administration that already got 13 killed and that is poised to go to war with Russia and China over minerals that Ukraine has? It has nothing to do with defending America."

"Don't forget about forced experimental injections."

"The people who set policy in this country would never serve, the people who serve do not want to serve for a country that has broken their trust. So the policy setters need to convince their blue haired, face tattooed, nose pierced, transgender constituents to serve. We're done."

"When the military discouraged young masculine men to join by going DEI, they took "the best that we can be" out of the equation."

"Ask the current members of the military why they can't meet recruiting quotas, and you will be told a different story. The decisions from the top are putting those in service at risk. men/ women compromised by lax woke policies."

"My Gen Z kids know too many vets who have highly discouraged them to ever join, including their own grandfathers. There are too many senseless wars just to make politicians rich."

"Wokeism! The Left ruins everything they touch."

"I voluntarily served in a pre-DEI military. I would not join again under the present conditions."

"It isn't that we know so little, but rather we are learning so much. Why send our young to be maimed and killed for political lies? They are being forced into being used in medical experiments. Wokeness and DEI have taken over. Our veterans are not well cared for. Die for that?!"

"We revere the men and women who serve, but the bureaucrats, the brass at the top, and politicians are showing they don't really care about veterans, or American values. There was a time I would have supported my son enlisting. Not anymore."

"I'm a Vet and I wouldn't sign up in this day and time."

"Simple we do not trust our leaders anymore and we don't recruit for ability anymore."

"So, my family are almost entirely military. Grandfather's, Father, Uncles, Aunt, Stepfather, Brother, and even my husband. I had planned to join, but I had my sons instead. They won't be serving!"

"The Vax mandate."

"Served in the army for 23 yrs and loved it. Clinton downsized the military and paid me to retire early. Could not stand the military today."

"They have gone woke...my family served also and I am proud of everyone who serves but....the military had changed."

"Because they do not support the WOKE agenda and being forced to do things that are unamerican."

"We cannot get the best of young our patriots to sign up when we have a weak freckles leadership, DEI and Woke lax standards. My nephew is a cadet at West Point and my other nephew is in the Air Force."





"I know someone in the military who is getting out after 10 years because of woke culture."

"I have a military background and the last place I encourage my children to go is the military to be used as a tool to fight some foreign war period. We don't trust the people who run our government. Hope that is clear. Look at the last 20+years."

"22 year vet... 5 tours...enlisted and officer... hell no my kids will serve,"

"I have twin sons...both former combat Marines...one did 9 months in Libya and almost a year in Kabul...their Co begged them to re-enlist after their 4 years were up...they refused... because gays were allowed to serve in the Marine Corps by that time."

"Veterans are encouraging their children and grandchildren not to sign up anymore because it has gone woke."

"My family served but I would not let my son who wanted to go into the Army (respected branch) as I didn't want him serving under Obama or Biden the two worse presidents ever for the first time I was afraid to have him or others enlist...sad."

"Nah. It's the leadership these days... my brother did 9 years of army nat guard and said nah, leadership ain't worth it no more. I was gonna join, then decided not to."

"The military has become a breeding ground for social experiments and wokeness."

"Tell us over and over again how the military protects our freedoms from foreign threats. Meanwhile, our freedoms are being taken by politicians right here at home."

"Imagine starting a career with an organization that you know up front you will not be promoted by

merit but by the color of your skin or gender. Not hard to figure out."

"I would have joined if they weren't forcing the untested and now recalled job."

"Served my country well from 94-2000. My father. His father. All of the men in my family served our country. I forbid my children to serve an honorless government. I've taught them to serve their country by way of living in an excellent manner. They serve by being decent kind and good."

"D.E.I., what non-protected class person with two active brain cells volunteer for this if he had any other options?"

"This report was fantastic except for the obvious, also controversial points it overlooks... How does DEI impact the warrior class/relatives of vets? How does the appearance of upper leadership incompetence impact recruitment? How do recruiters effectively respond to the challenges presented by the incessant global war on terror?"

"I'm a vet, then served in military sealift command at 60yrs old. Young people are taught to hate their country."

"After serving 4 years in the USAF, I decided that Woke ism-Gayness was becoming too problematic for me to want to reenlist despite being offered \$8,000.00 as a reenlistment bonus."

"Because nobody worthwhile wants to enlist in a woke military!"

"With the current woke education indoctrination system, along with a woke government, and a woke military, the military will continue to fall short of their enlistment/reenlistment annual goals. Given that America got to witness all those active duty service members that were kicked out of the military for not taking the poisonous JAB, what is



the point of joining. This problem is all SELF INFLICTED FROM THE TOP DOWN. So figure it out snowflakes, cause war is around the corner, so your only option on the table would be the DRAFT. America better brace themselves to what is coming down the pipe!!"

"The troops are supposed to follow their leaders. First, they need a leader which this country lacks!"

"I would say that covid and the unreasonable way all the military forced their people to get the jab or lose their job, must have a lot to do with it. I would not trust anyone that forced me to do crap against my will. This is not a communist country, no one wants to put themselves in that situation again."

"Because an entire generation has been taught that America is evil and always wrong. Why would they fight for that?"

"Weak leadership not backing the troops, poor support from the federal government, mandatory covid shots, no real mission statement (God, honor, country), Wokeness, no individual thought, etc."

"Who in their right mind would want the current political establishment to be calling the shots for military activity, that would involve them directly."

"Read "The War on Warriors" and you'll understand."

"Just like most other ads for the military, they left out CRT, DEI, and other woke idiocy that this administration and the Obama administration has injected into the ranks, to include requirements for the top brass to go along with their programs. Also, a strong military needs a strong CIC, and Clinton, Obama, and Biden have been weak and they have only used the military as backdrops for political mumbo-jumbo."

"Sad that it has come to this. My kids served with pride, grandson wanted to do the same, but the "new reality" had taken hold, so he opted out - at least for the present time."

"I would have dropped everything to fight for my country. Biden changed that."

"My son was considering the military but after talking to him about how it has been politically corrupted he decided not to."

"My son and son in law suffered thru the same bullshit. They both turned down nice sized bonuses to stay in. 6 generations of my family served in our Army. Me, 10 years. I am so disgusted with the toxic culture ruining our entire military."

"Prior enlisted for 12 years. I got out 2 years ago because of the extreme woke environment. The army lost all of its spine. Really unfortunate because I loved what it once was and planned on retiring."

"I was an Army recruiter. I tell those I love to completely disregard military service. Sucks but true."

"I'm here to tell you that's it's not just the armies numbers that are hurting. I've served in the air force for 15 years now and I can tell you first hand the damage that DEI has done. Young white males no longer want to join and even IF they get suckered in to joining its not long before they're beaten down and give up on a career. The process for earning rank is incredibly flawed and you only see white males being "chosen" only after all other races and genders have been promoted first regardless of merit. I've heard it joked about that the fastest way to make staff sergeant (lowest rank needed to retire) is to simply be pregnant during the promotion cycle. Why would we do everything possible to exclude the largest portion of our



population from joining the military? Ill never understand it. DEI = Didn't Earn It!!!"

"Spent 6 years in the Army. Airborne infantry. Seriously? I would not join today's Army. DEI has destroyed it."

"My brother is currently in the army and is serving his last year. They tried to convince him to do another 4 years, and he gave them the finger and said, "I'm out ". He witnessed so much bs with the new recruits that joined and getting waived with poor pt scores during basic training. According to him, it's pretty much hand holding."

"I was a military recruiter about 10 years ago. We spent 90% of our energy recruiting women, because we were told to. We had to tell men NO."

"Retired USAF MSgt (1988-2012) here. There is no way in hell I would join any of the services today. Everything has turned upside down in the twelve short years ago since I retired. My friends still on active duty tell me they can't stand all the woke bullshit that gets shoved down their throats and can't wait to get out."

"Retired USAF E-7 here as well, 1991-2012, and I agree with you 1000%. If my son or daughter (21 and 18) ever express any interest in joining the military, I'd only have one word to say to them..."don't".

"Hey SGT., US ARMY Vietnam Veteran here. I'm a 100% disabled Vet (service connected) and I'm allowed to shop at the Commissary at Maelstrom AFB here in Great Falls, MT. This year when "Pride Month" rolled around they displayed a huge digital sign at the main gate celebrating the month they honor Gays. Then of course there's only one day for Veterans."

"In 1962 I joined the Army, it was because of the war movies on TV and at the theaters. While in, I

was with the 101st Abn Div (then a jump outfit) and became an Army Ranger as well, (that school was brutal). Today, I do not see anything our government is doing to promote the military. It seems all about wokeness, changing the language of the military, bending over backwards placating DEI, women, and gays. We need emotionally dedicated men willing to take orders and follow through on the battlefield. There is more I could say, I will leave it to others."

"My husband retired in 2005 from the Army after 22 years. I was with him the entire time and raised 2 children. We do not tell anyone to join because of all the social changes."

"Another big factor was how the Army kicked soldiers out who refused to get the jab and even IGNORED RELIGIOUS WAIVERS. A lot of soldiers quit the Army after that, and even MORE soldiers discourage family members from joining now. That includes me. I've been in the Army for 20 years. Can't wait to retire next year."

"Yea I'm in the Army too. I've been in for 6 years and have been cringing the whole time. It's woke as fuck because they try to cater to females so much. Every team I've been with that had more females were way more toxic. The vast majority of time, they don't improve the teams in the Army, they make them worse. Wokeness isn't necessary in this profession."

"My son has 4 yrs remaining for his 20 yrs in the Navy as a fleet Marine force corpsman. They made his final enlistment absolutely horrible. He has to watch everything he says and does or there will be retribution."

"I spent 26 years in the Air Force. I was one of their best recruiters after I retired in 2003 but what happened in Afghanistan under the Biden



administration I sadly stopped recommending the military to young people.”

“I retired from the Navy and I was a Navy recruiter for three years and I refuse to recommend the present day military as a career choice. I work in a DOD building and the "wokeness" is suffocating. The officers are the "woked". The officers I worked with had flown hundreds of combat missions in Vietnam and they would knock you're head off of your shoulders rather than sit there and wonder about how you were feeling. They weren't your friends either. They were leaders and they were there to develop you into a warrior and lead you in combat if it came down to it. The military is not the civil service and if that's what you're looking for, you're in the wrong office. Go over to usajobs and look for something that would better suit your delicate nature.”

“I got kicked out of the Navy cuz I refused the covid jab. A few months later, they sent me an email saying I was eligible to join back up. Lol what a joke of a military we have.”

“As a former soldier I have dissuaded both of my young sons from enlisting. DEI and wokeness has destroyed the military. They're actually lowering standards for Ranger selection so women can go through. Pathetic!!”

“I served for 24 years in the United States Air Force and retired in 2000 as a Master Sergeant. I was proud to serve and defend my country from her enemies. Today, our enemies are internal liberals/progressives. If I were 18 years old now in 2024, I wouldn't join the military because if I am going to be called upon to lay down my life, I want to know my life was given for something meaningful and truly important to the country, not to satisfy people like Biden/Harris who allowed 13 servicemen to die in Afghanistan unnecessarily.”

“I retired from the Air Force in 2000, my son just retired from the Air Force earlier this year. Both of us have seen the changes and how toxic the military has become. My grandson at 19 years old decided he wanted to join the Air Force, he signed up 8 months ago and still hasn't heard back from the recruiter. They must not be hurting too bad, or maybe he is just the wrong gender, who knows.”

“I served in the army for 8 years and I have a son. I will not be encouraging my son to join. No longer worth it in my opinion. I didn't reenlist due to political persecution in the military, young soldiers refusing to follow your orders if you vote a certain way, and they're already lazy to begin with. And whatever the Joe's are doing the E5's and E6's are worse never seen people so lazy and unmotivated before. Lazy, always on their phone and never willing to help the soldiers move up and get promoted. Only the ones who play the political game get promoted.”

“What is not being reported on but is a bigger problem than recruitment is retention of NCOs and junior officers. We are bleeding internally and the Army says practically nothing about it. We are losing the vital combat and operational experience from the last decade of the GWOT.”

“I'm a grandmother, 6 grandsons, no one in our family is promoting their joining anything that has gone woke. Woke is nauseating. We aren't people haters. We love our country. Making things woke is ridiculous.”

“23 year Veteran here. I used to sponsor new recruits back in the day. I received several commendations for that work. I even encouraged my son to serve, which he is currently doing. He has 4 years left before retiring. So what's my point? With what I have witnessed for the last 15 years, I can honestly say I won't encourage any young man to voluntarily enlist in any of the 6 armed military





branches. And there are a lot of Veterans who feel the same way.”

“As a vet, I wanted my sons to have a similar experience and serve their country. They signed up to do just that but when the Covid vaccine was mandated, they were both kicked out. I’m glad to have them back and they work our family run Safe and Vault business now with me. This is the first time in my life, and I’m 55 years old, that I wouldn’t recommend a young man or woman join the military. Why would they? It’s not about defending the country anymore, it’s not a military, it’s a testing and proving ground where you might even get to fight a war and die for a cause that is completely pointless. Pointless that is unless you’re one of the fat cats that capitalize on, the spoils of the great war machine.”

“I served 6 years in the army infantry and 12 months overseas. I had a career ahead of me. I got out in 2022 because of two things: Covid policies and DEI which destroyed my unit. Half our guys quit and we had female and tranny command staff coming in which destroyed our brotherhood. Then they changed our entire unit because we were affiliated with Native American tribes which they found to be offensive even though it was actually a really cool historical connection.”

“I was born in ‘72. Joined the Air Force in the Summer or ‘90... right before Desert Storm. Both my brothers also served. We were all proud to do so. It was a tradition in our family, to be of service to our country. I’ve been disappointed with the direction this country has been heading, and I’m extremely concerned about the potential lack of service members, because of it.”

“I am a veteran. The Army is a family business. I stopped encouraging my son to 6 years ago when he turned 16. I don’t know anyone of my fellow

veterans who encourage enlistment of their own sons.”

“I joined the military in 1976 and served until 1985. I then worked with the Department of Defense as a contractor until 2023. Most of these contracting jobs had direct contact with service members, so I got to witness firsthand the slow decline of our military, and its culture. Sad...very sad.”

“I’m a girl and the 90s commercial made me want to join the army.....the girly commercials of today did absolutely nothing but make me cringe.”

“Served 20 years from 1983-2003. Have advised my grandson to avoid the military at all costs. The service is broken and needs a complete leadership overhaul to recover.”

“Every single man in my family served in America's army since the French and Indian War...I served in Iraq as Airborne Infantry in the 82d Airborne and got out after just one enlistment. I actively discourage family and any young people who ask me if they should join. I'm symbolically in touch with the end of an era for what was the military tradition of the United States. It's over.”

“I got out of recruiting and the Army all together about two years ago. I had never met a real narcissist until I met my transgender station commander... I got some stories but I had to sign an NDA but I promise y’all South Park couldn’t write this script.”

“20 year veteran who joined in October 2001. My kids are not allowed to enlist. They’ll be the first generation of my family in over a century not to serve.”

“I am a 26 year veteran of the Navy, 6 years of which was as a recruiter. I can't imagine telling a 17 year old kid today that if he joined there was a good chance he would have to bunk with an openly



gay or transgender sailor. Wokeness has destroyed the services.”

“30 years in the Army, Purple Heart, 3 combat deployments, and an amputee. I retired immediately to escape the political climate in 2020 pre Covid. Best decision ever!”

“I worked with a company that was getting paid to do digital marketing for the US Army. I've worked in digital marketing for 15 years. They wanted to focus on non English speaking women, I really don't know why. The mismanagement of this does not surprise me at all.”

“I'm very thankful to have served in the military but I wouldn't encourage any young men I know to serve in today's military. That's on the military, not me.”

“I was an infantryman from 2006-2010, went to AFG in '09. For the longest time I encouraged people to join, but within the last 3 years, I've changed my tune. It's absolutely pathetic now, and plenty of people that are still in have told me they routinely promote people based more on race/ethnicity than merit.”

“I retired from the Army after 22 years in 2013 and am not shocked that they wasted millions on this or the "my two mommys" campaign. What I do find shocking is that they marginalize and alienate their prime demographic then piss and moan that they're not enlisting.”

“I served in the Corps for 8 years during the 90s. They had already started doing targeted promotions back then (95 or 96). Watched a Marine's career end early when his MOS finally opened up but he was not allowed to put a package in to the promotion board. His OIC was told that since he wasn't black, hispanic, or female, he wouldn't have a chance.... 2 years later he was automatically denied reenlistment with 18 years in

as a SSgt. 18 years of service and no opportunity for retirement. Worst part was he was one of the most respected Marines in his MOS.”

“Retired after 23 years. The last briefing? How women have to shower with men and be okay with it.”

“It is true. After recently serving 11 years, it became very obvious that the focus and priorities of the military became social justice, lowering standards so that women could feel better about themselves, making sure everyone felt included, expunging conservative values, etc... Rather than ensuring a military of the most lethal fighting force in the world. There is only a select number within our armed forces that are still truly capable and present for the right reasons.”

“I never saw the expunging of conservative values, until the DOD gave stand down training that conveniently took place shortly after January 6th. Recently I saw it when 3 days after President Trump was shot at, SECNAV released a memo stating what active duty was allowed to do in terms of political expression. Another conveniently timed event.”

“I saw it slowly infiltrating over the last few years, but then exploding right after January 6th. Refusing to recognize religious beliefs and forcing vaccine mandates, categorizing in training slides white patriotic veterans who love America as potential extremists/racists, telling fellow service members that they could not fly a Gadsden flag because that flag was linked to “white supremacy,” putting women into jobs that should only be held by men for the sake of coddling people's feelings over reality. It's been a constant degradation over the last decade.”

“When my husband retired from the military, he couldn't wait to get out. Plus he will not recommend it to anyone with personal drive and



intelligence. After military leaders implemented the new military, pushed for diversity over ability, and wouldn't make people accountable for their inactions my husband said he was done."

"I feel like I left the military at exactly the right time. My last All Hands I attended in 2016 was about how to change your gender in DEERS. Glad I didn't hang around after that."

"I would advise not joining. I did thirty years. Retiring this year. It has changed so much. Not worth it in my opinion. Dozens of reasons: chiefly: the politics racial and gender: there is (IMO illegal) trans policy requiring one to allow men to berth and shower with women. The racial politics have morphed into a focus on equity rather than equality. Furthermore, we don't fight wars to win anymore. It is depressing to lose and more or less that is all we do anymore: police actions and losses. The bureaucracy and paperwork is stifling, many members are obese and suffer no consequences. Yes-Men get promoted and those that speak up about improper policies get sidelined. I could go on and on, but your talents would be better applied in many other fields I am sure."

"Active duty here and I hate how DEI is being shoehorned into our warfighting doctrine. We should take after Colonel Chester Phillips who said: "General Patton has said that wars are fought with weapons but are won by men. We are going to win this war because we have the best men."

Meanwhile there's a tranny working just a few rooms away from me. SMH."

"As a member of the U.S. Navy this is embarrassing. It's all very simple. Recruiting is down because they target the demographics that don't want to join, and they alienate the demographics that do want to join. Would be simple to reverse if not for how brainwashed a segment of the population is."

"I retired from the Marine Corps in 2014 and have great faith in our service members. That faith does not extend to the political appointees and officer corps that bends the knee to politics in an effort to further their career. Every one of my 8 kids has received the same conversation from me. I will support them whatever their decision, but due to political posturing I recommend they not follow in my footsteps. Almost all service members I served with, and keep in contact with, feel the same."

"It's so bad that both my son and son in law want out. They are Navy and they tell about how harassment and intimidation is used by leadership to get the ones they don't like to quit. It's shameful. And yea they blame DEI."

"No kidding. I retired in 2010, right before all this crap started in full force. I cannot imagine being in an infantry platoon and my lieutenant was a "chick with a dick." The Army cannot meet their recruiting goals. Why? Young white men say, "Screw this," and go to the private sector."—USMC Col

#### **USNA Race-based Admissions Trial**

"As an ex submarine officer, I wanted the best qualified people on the crew. If one person failed to do a critical job properly, we could have all died together. Race has no place in any selection process."

"My sons are both Marines. One is an Annapolis alumnus and the other was accepted but decided not to go. My son doesn't wear his ring at all ever. I'm pretty sure if the worst should happen, Harris is elected, both will resign their commissions and get out."

"I know a young man who graduated West Point. He wanted to make the military a career. He has since resigned his commission for this very reason. He is white and says the military has become way too WOKE."



"I don't know current policy as I retired from the AF in 1998, but while I was on active duty we were required to state at the end of every fitness report that "so & so supports the affirmative action program." I never objected to this at first because I had no idea what it meant. By the time I made E-7 I learned about an AF regulation that covers affirmative action. It was short, only a few pages, but it laid down the rules for this program. It required that the test promotion scores for white males be lowered until they were below the level of cutoff that would capture enough "promotees" within the targeted race or sex. Discrimination 101."

"I hope they are successful in their efforts. I'm a retired Naval Officer. Received my commission through NROTC. Son of a Naval officer which made me eligible for a presidential appointment in the early 70s. At the time I think there were 100 each year. I was 104th on the list of candidates even though I was at the top of the class academically, basketball team, student government, etc. Mother is Japanese, so part of an even smaller minority. I see these efforts over the years as favoring specific groups and not in the best interests of the service. Admissions should be solely on merit and aptitude."

"My grandson graduated this year from USMA West Point. He said that some of the instructors were absolutely woke and probably thought that not mis-gendering the enemy was more important than war fighting skills."

"Prediction: It will lead to under qualified people in the wrong places and a weaker organization... like it has 100% of the time it is tried anywhere else."

"If you want to have the academies reflective of population composition of our country the answer is to have students prepare earlier in their education/life. To lower the standard just to get

more of a certain race, gender, etc., is a slap in the face to those who toiled to be consider for admission."

"Regardless of skin color or ethnicity, future military officers need to have sufficient intelligence, physical performance, character and integrity to do the job. We call it "merit" for short. The people of the United States deserve to be defended by the best. Everyone has an equal opportunity to strive to be the best, not a guarantee to get a place on the basis of DEI."

"Where is merit? Where is the idea of passing tests and personal interviews? Where is competition to earn a place in the Academy or any other place you want to be? This ain't my Navy! I have written that phrase too many times in the near past or recently with the many things I see that have left our Spit and Polished way of life. While being a Midshipman myself many moons ago, there was competition but also friendship between all of us and no mention of any kind of race preference was ever talked about or even thought of! By the way, there were no women Midshipmen in the middle fifties. I have seen all measures of people, women and men now in the ranks of the Naval Academy Midshipmen and never thought of any kind of DEI at all! Beat Army!"

"How about we seek the best and brightest without regard for bathrooms, preferences or heritage."

"Once we pick the most qualified candidates not based on color, sex or religion, then we can begin to call ourselves a racist free country."

"The sad part is that a large portion of the "DEI plebes" will wash out over the four years, since they're not adequately prepared in some way or another. Saw this situation often, and the feeling that "other qualified applicants were cheated out





of a spot/chance" is common. The ones who did make it through, even after five years, were good to go and many have done well in their military careers. In the long run however, the DEI scheme just doesn't work in a vital organization such as the military."

"If DEI is so great, why are people unhappy when they are called a DEI hire? Shouldn't they feel honored?"

"It should be a strictly merit based selection process. People can more likely die when not choosing the best candidates."

"My friend wants to know if the Chinese have race-based initiatives for their military leaders."

"When you fight Racism with Racism the end result is Racism."

"I remember when women were first admitted. Some had to be twice as good to get equal recognition. Some got twice the recognition for half the effort. Some got ahead by giving it. I definitely remember body fat on women being reclassified as "loose muscle" in order to avoid kicking them out for being, uh, basically, fat. The men didn't get that consideration."

"I was a PRT PO, I had women who couldn't do one pull up, enough sit-ups or push ups, and forget the run. They somehow passed while men were forced to do remedial PT."

"Choosing because of race or gender over skill, intelligence, competency = lower standards = downfall of academies. It's also reverse racism."

"The attorneys argue that "unlike civilian universities, USNA prepares students for war." As a veteran, I would prefer that the officer leading me into battle got into the service academy because he was smarter than the other applicants. Not

because he was black, Latino or some other preferred group. DEI has no place in the military."

"USNA's new cadets: 4 Native Americans, 70 African Americans, 132 Asian Americans, 178 Hispanic Americans and 642 Whites." What, Whites are not Americans? Or you tell me you cannot say White American?"

"When I was in USN flight school in the mid-seventies, minority students received 5 points extra on exams. As a result, many unqualified minority students earned their "wings." In the fleet, some NFOs refused to fly with some because of the risk. Many of these NFOs were then separated from service when it was reflected on their performance evals. It was a very dangerous practice to give an extra 5 exam points on the basis of race."

"I am a combat veteran, also a woman. When I went into the Army then accepted to flight school, there was none of this crazy DEI "race" stuff. And thank God, because I would have never felt I truly earned it. And while in flight school I had the same requirements as the men to include physical. Yet, the Army was very diversified. A lot of that was thanks to Reagan. Take the best. In the academies you are also preparing for war. A bullet isn't discriminating so to speak."

"Ask any enlisted Navy or Marine personnel and they will quickly tell you it's easy to identify officers who were given preferential treatment in their admission to the Academy."

"Most candidates are unaffected by the consideration of race," lawyers for the Naval Academy wrote in court filings. That's a lie. Every candidate that is admitted and every candidate that isn't admitted are affected by race in the selection process. Those that were admitted all know that someone was admitted because of race



that wasn't qualified and someone wasn't admitted because of race whom was qualified."

"I went to the Air Force Academy back in the early '90's. I'm a white female. The first year that I applied, I was nominated but not appointed. I went to prep school for a year and got in the next year. I only recall one black guy in my basic training flight. I will never forget him. He was a disaster at everything. I'm far from perfect, but this dude couldn't get anything right. Not a dang thing. And it brought all of us down as we tried to help him memorize his "knowledge" or even make his bed correctly. I have not a doubt in the world as to why he was there. And he left after basic training."

"In 1963, I entered the Naval Academy as 1 of 4 non-white guys in the Class of '67. I, an Asian, was proud that I earned my appointment competitively and would not have wanted otherwise."

"Admission should be on merit and nothing else! Race based or DEI is a mistake that will get people killed in combat operations."

"Navy has used racial/ gender preferential treatment in officer promotion boards for DECADES. The section board precepts mandate "X" number of females, blacks, Hispanics and Asians be selected for the rank being considered. It means other, more qualified applicants, will not always be chosen so they can diversify the Fleet ranks. Yet, they don't call this racial discrimination? Go figure."

"When my son applied to the Naval Academy early 90's he was told "we need Hispanics from the Barrio...". My son is blonde."

"Without respect to a person's race, I want the best, most competent, and intelligent people leading our armed forces. That is national security."

"I was glad to see that 2nd to last paragraph. This BS has been going on for decades. While I was an ROTC instructor from 92-95, I was in charge of my unit's Express Scholarship program, which provided students of color a full ride ticket plus a monthly stipend. All they had to do was pass the physical, pass the AFOQT qualification test and maintain a 2.0 GPA...yes, a 2.0 GPA. White students need not apply. The number of very bright engineering, math, computer science and nurses wanting to join the Air Force that weren't eligible for the scholarship was depressing. After several years and coming to the realization that not many of the applicants could pass the test, they gave them extra tries to pass, which no one else received. When that didn't work, they just dumbed down the test. Pretty scary stuff!"

"This is one of the most dangerous, idiotic, woke decisions ever. To think you are going to have 18-20 year old men and women cramped together for 6 months at a time and not have problems. I remember when they put women on surface ships, jealousies, affairs and pregnancies were the results. The performance went downhill. There were transfers of females, court marshals, etc. Now they will be cramped in a cylinder under the ocean. This is a safety issue, you cannot devoid young men and women from being young men and women. Big problems coming on a billion dollar nuclear submarine."

"WOW a DEI submarine now I really feel safe!"

"Gee, I'm sure that's really important, glad that they didn't spend those monies on useless stuff like stealth and weapons...smh"

"They are not really separating them, they are making it more convenient to cohabit and making it so weak people can operate the machinery and levers. And yes, I just retired last month after 36 years in the military. The plug has



been pulled and the military is in the final stages of swirling down the drain.”

“This, I would think shouldn't be a problem with the sheer amount of surveillance in the subs today. It's really the gay and trans people that present a real problem with morale. People I know there say that.”

“As an Iraq war vet who served in a co-ed unit, I can say that going to war with women is one of the worst things you can do. It is a very bad idea. It creates unnecessary problems for commanders and weakens the units overall strength and war fighting capacity. That is just the fact.”

“If you did not decide to go woke you would not have had to retrofit subs and designate washrooms thus saving millions of dollars. Now you are going to have to do that on all new build of subs, ships, etc. Go woke, go broke.”

“My son just retired he said after 20 years you can't even recognize the Military anymore it's changed so much with this nonsense.”

“My husband said the same thing he was so happy to get out. After everything he has learned being in and now being out of the military and he is a 4 generation military family, says he would never ever recommend anyone to go to the military unless they want to be a lawyer or a doctor otherwise stay far away.”

“I still know people who are active duty now and I was active duty for 12 years. None of it will be new it will just be new on a new submarine. I've known junior lady petty officers who made a bunch of money from their shipmates on liberty. They talked it up and got totally free liberty and made \$\$ to boot. There was a female PO1 whose sister let slip she had an abortion immediately after cruise. It is not hearsay and there is a lot more. Human nature

is all you have to understand along with having a very small portion of common sense.”

“I served 20 years in the Navy. When my son asked about serving, I had to encourage him not to. Very sad.”

“I am a US Navy submariner vet. Submarine culture is very different. This project is going to have a lot of problems. You're in your own world on a sub, the stress you're under is immense and in the event of an emergency there is no room for failure. Pregnancy will affect the boat hard because replacing a crew member short notice is close to impossible.”

“I served on a frigate when we first brought females on board. All this issues Mat claimed would happen, did happen. We gained nothing except lots of sexual tension and a general reduction in morale. Well, except for the people who were now getting laid underway.”

“Yep, was on an FFG back in 90-91, went ashore due to an injury and working with female sailors was very different, lots of drama, lots of BS. Females in my rate (Boatswain's Mate) couldn't do the same work and it was disgusting to see them in a working party refuse to carry their load because Navy regs only require them to carry 30 pounds when the cans of paint we hand to move were 50 pounds. Saw female sailors tell others to get pregnant to get out of deployment and the one ship attached to our base with women, was always breaking down and at the time some 50 female sailors and over 100 males were busted for prostitution or soliciting. After Tailhook and the endless sexual harassment stand-down trainings, where a feminazi in shoulder pads lectured us on why men bad, and seeing the writing on the wall, I decided not to re-enlist. There were other reasons, but this was in the mix. And I saw where it was headed back in 93!”



"I was a soldier in the Army back when women were not allowed to be combat arms units. But due to some fluke reason, while we were in Iraq, a female cook was assigned to our artillery unit. Immediately, problems arose. Special accommodations had to be made just for her. Guys were constantly hitting on her. Some guys would go out of their way to "help her out" with work, to curry favor with her. It's human nature crap like that which breaks down unit cohesion and is simply avoided by removing women from the equation. There was zero benefit to her being there but plenty of cons."

"As a Navy submarine vet, this is a terrible idea. It used to be a difficult task of getting your submarine warfare pin (dolphins). There are a number of tasks on board a submarine during any kind of casualty, whether it be flooding, fire, reactor emergency, or any kind of other emergency. Will women be able to perform basic tasks in emergencies, like pulling unconscious grown men out of compartments that are filling up with smoke, or fire, among many other tasks. Operating valves when under tension make it extremely difficult for them to shut or open. Do we expect a 140 pound female to carry or even drag a 240 pound male out of a compartment when necessary? There's a reason why women weren't allowed on submarines since their inception, and it wasn't because the Navy are discriminating, or it wasn't because they were going to come back pregnant either."

"As a Navy Submariner. I want all you non-submariners to know something! Everything you're thinking might happen...has and probably will again."

"It's going to be a massive problem. On surface ships, female sailors get pregnant at alarmingly high rates. Every now and then the press wants to attribute this to "assault," but the reality is most of

these liaisons are consensual. When these female sailors get pregnant, they're taken back to shore, which obviously disrupts the operation of the boat. Everything is worse on a sub. All of the crew (~100) is necessary for operating the boat, which stays submerged much of the time. So when a female sailor gets pregnant in this new regime, the sub must break off its mission, surface, rendezvous with transportation to get the pregnant female off, find some way to replace her in a small crew and then get back to its mission. This is ignoring lack of strength for performing damage control, mood swings on a monthly cycle, etc. It's a disaster waiting to happen."

"My word! Half those girls will wind up pregnant and that's a fact. During Desert Storm they had a hospital ship that had so many pregnancies they called the ship 'The Love Boat'."

"The ship you are referring to was the USS ACADIA (AD-42). It was a destroyer tender with 30% of the crew female. (I know because I was there.) I had three junior females and one male working for me in my division. None of my girls got pregnant during that cruise, but some 56 females in all did, although the command claimed that 42 were married and became impregnated either before deployment or during overseas portcalls when their husbands visited and got a hotel room ashore. I think the Navy made a major mistake in 1978 when the WAVES were disestablished and women were incorporated into the regular Navy to be assigned to sea duty. No one will ever convince me that women belong aboard ships or submarines. If military readiness and warfighting are your aims, then leave the ships to the men..... I was telling you what the command 'claimed.' Yes, I agree that even 14 is a high number. There were 330 women assigned to ACADIA out of a crew of nearly 1200. Yes, there were female berthing (NOT 'birthing') compartments aboard ship. The problem for illicit





couples 'hooking up' was where to find an isolated space where they could consummate their relationship. The ship was more akin to a college campus where the sexual tension was always flying high. Nuts!!!"

"USN vet here. Women have to be carried which degrades the overall performance of the ship. They can't cope with the long periods at sea and break down much faster than the males. I remember the long line every morning leading to medical for morning sick call, all female. There are other issues including discipline which is a nightmare. Women don't respond to male authority the same as other males will. Then there is the pregnancy issue. Going to sea for months at a time sucks. The best way to avoid a deployment is to get pregnant. The Navy will give them a nice easy job on base that used to be filled by male sailors on their much deserved shore duty rotation. Shore duty continues after pregnancy because the mother needs to be with the infant. You will hear the truth from vets, usually after they have been discharged, about the performance of women in all the branches."

"50% of the females will turn up pregnant before deployment, so they don't have to deploy. Since pregnancy is a "temporary" medical condition, their position will not be back-filled, and the ship will deploy short handed. As an ex-Naval Officer, I saw this trend happen again and again with the non-combatant ships (ie. Tenders) when I served. And, I will end with this -- I would have resigned my commission before serving on that boat."

"I met my current wife aboard the USS Holland (AS-32). She was part of the very first tranche of female sailors assigned to shipboard duty. Of the 200 females initially detailed to the Holland, only 2 completed their full tours - my wife being one of them. The other was a lesbian. As you say, when it

got difficult - they got pregnant (even many of the lesbians)."

"I spent six years active duty in the USN, mostly aboard a guided missile destroyer. Three overseas deployments. I am utterly disgusted with this new progressive poison being pushed by "leadership". It has nothing to do with war fighting lethality. Worst of all, on a personal level, instead of looking forward to my sons carrying on a long family tradition of military service, I now discourage them from serving at all."

"Women have been on submarines for a long time. This one was just actually designed with that in mind instead of having converted male quarters and lots of inconveniences as a result. But what a nightmare to call it a win for "inclusivity." That sounds more like a win for politics and a loss for the Navy."

"Retired from the active duty Navy in 2003 when it was a lot less woke. In all my years at sea I only served on one ship with females as crew and it was the only tour that made me want to quit. Gutted it out and moved onto better things but females on ships are NOT physically capable of doing what needs to be done. Yes there are exceptions but the rule is no. In the 80s the Navy gave it a go with an all female crewed frigate. I believe it was declared a failure after just a week."

"My husband was in the Navy for 20 years. He said there were Coed supply ships. 20% of the sailors on these ships were women. He said many of the women came back pregnant. I can only imagine what will happen when being out at sea on a Coed submarine for 6 months."

"I will say this, I was enlisted on a Destroyer. During one of our refueling, the chief in charge decided to have all Female sailors on the refueling line. I was one of those female sailors on the line. It could not



have been more of a crap show. It's funny, looking back on not now, but in the moment you are working the hardest You have ever worked. There were tiny little girls being lifted off the deck. Mind you, If you have never been on a ship during refueling, We were not sitting dead in the water, we were traveling Alongside the bigger ship with the fuel. There's water spray, the deck is wet, Eventually, some male sailors, even the chief had to step in and help because we were not getting the line in place. It's funny now, and I am proud to say I did six years in the Navy. I got to see so much of the world I would have not seen otherwise. Not to mention the camaraderie. I am a lot tougher because of the Navy. I met my husband on the ship. But I cannot imagine being under the ocean, hot racking or not surfacing for weeks. One of my greatest memories of being on a destroyer was going out in the middle of in the ocean and not seeing land or another ship, The sea breeze on my face. You don't have that in submarine. My rant is over, no hate to the men who do this necessary job underwater. But I would not raise my hand as a woman to be the first."

"Thank God I got out when I did! As a former submarine-sailor I can testify to the difficulties that people experience on a sub. These claustrophobic steel cans can break the seemingly-toughest of men; both mentally and sometimes physically. One of the first things that I can think of is proper hygiene. Again it's hard enough for men to stay clean on a sub. Women have even more extreme cleanliness needs."

"As a former US Navy Submariner, I absolutely concur with Matt's conclusions regarding this policy. Unfortunately, you won't find any currently serving members voicing their true opinions. The khaki lifers who've drunk the woke Kool-aid, will claim the force is the "best evarr" now. We used to be unique. Now days, you best watch your back. A

submarine is a very small place to be constantly walking on eggshells. From what I've heard, I'm glad I served then...and not now."

### **Re article on Rep BG Scott Perry on why he retired from the military**

"That is why I retired too. That and an organization that valued diversity over experience. I would never recommend that a young person go into the military today."

"That was one of the reasons, not the main reason, I retired from the service after 24 years. I saw a service member enter the service and came to our unit going through gender reassignment process. They claimed they were a female and started getting therapy sessions. That caused them to be non-deployable. Then they got approved for the surgery to remove parts to make them more female like. That and then the recovery time was over a year and a half. By the time they were fully transitioned and fully able to deploy that service member's service obligation in active duty was up. So they joined, got paid the whole time, got free tax payer paid counseling, surgery, vacation, medical, and 4 years of tax payer paid college funds for what? Nothing."

"I retired in the early 90s before woke was a thought in the US military. I was lucky to be part of a lethal military force. Not today."

"I came from a multi-generational military family. I served in the US Army. I married a guy in the USAF. When our youngest son got to the point of joining the military, we talked him OUT of it. The way our government/military treated our family the last 5 years that my husband was active duty, we knew that it would only get worse. It has. I'm SO glad we talked him out of joining the military!"



“My son retired from the Navy for the same reason. I worked for the AFROTC and saw the waste of \$\$\$ daily.”

“My brother has 37 years in the DoD and he’s retiring for the same reason. He sits in more white privilege classes than he does the required ship maintenance.”

“After 20 + years, I have had a enough and am also retiring. Anyone who tries to convince you we are the best fighting force on the planet are wrong. We have grown where the service members who join to fight to defend this country are not the majority anymore.”

“I retired from the U.S. Army as a senior officer after over 35 years of active duty service for similar reasons cited by BG (Ret) Perry. The current state of our armed forces is woefully unprepared to engage in and win a conventional war with our current advisories, especially if they join forces.

Unfortunately for America, it appears the next war we will be engaged in will be on U.S. soil.”

“Congressman Perry speaks for so many of us that left a career that we loved because we could see the handwriting on the wall. Sad to say but our military has been neutered.”

“I retired at the start of the pandemic as a civil servant in the DoD. I just couldn't take it anymore. It all started to go wonky in 2009...”

“I’m a retired Army officer. I say to BG Perry, you are spot on. Thank you for taking a position that many of us support.”

“You're going to be in charge of enforcing the gender reassignment policy in the command,”—I remember when the U.S. military’s sole objective battle readiness, training & preparedness, not focused on gender, pronouns, feelings and comfort and tax payer funded sex reassignment surgeries.

Call me crazy but until every wounded warrior from Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, has what they need medically and in support—no service member should be getting sex reassignment surgeries. For the love of God go back to this policy US Military—Life, Liberty and the pursuit of all who threaten it before we get hit hard like at Pearl or on 9/11.”

“I retired in 1997 after 20 years in the Army, this is not my Military and I'm sorry the Best of the Best are retiring or just getting out. We truly need a change the Military is for National Defense we need War Fighters! Warriors! not someone unhappy the way they were born or confused if they should stand up and pee or sit down.”

“I know a young man who graduated West Point and wanted to make the Army his career. He has since resigned his commission for the very reason General Perry did. The Pentagon has become way too woke.”

“\$2,633.70 a month for an E4 .... when I was in the Army I got \$860 as a sgt in combat. there are perks figured in from time to time . Right now your options ain’t out there and I will tell you the woke is driving dedicated soldiers out faster than the pay.”

“This is happening a lot and when I talked to people who wanted to go into the military and ex-military they have children coming of age to enter they both are negatively impacted by the woke Division Eradication and Indoctrination policies and programs of the left and the left leadership in the military. People are getting out in large numbers and people are not coming in by large numbers due to these programs and these leaders that will not stand up to their heads and the DoD Sec in their destructive policies that don't help readiness, training or equipping the services and their members. This is a major failure to their core duties, responsibilities and oath.”





"I served in the Army. My brother and son were Marines. None of our grandkids plan to go into the woke military of today."

"I retired In 2010 after 30 years. I was a master sergeant and I saw this coming. It kept creeping in, more and more since the 80s. I stuck it out to thirty years and retired. The shame of it all is that the average soldier knows this is crap and dumps it out of their brain as soon as the instruction is over. The only people who care about this are people who develop a gripe about their assignment and want to punish their first line supervisors."

"He was talking about a trend toward progressivism that he saw as antithetical to a military that was designed to strip soldiers of their individual wants and needs and rebuild them into one fighting force." He's right. There is also another casualty of this progressivism. That casualty is morale. A lack of morale in a fighting force is extremely dangerous. Extremely dangerous to lives as well as the security of this country and its interests."

"As a 30 year veteran of the Marine Corps I think that most West Point officers would freely admit West Point was just the beginning of their education. Assignment to a tactical unit is where the application of a formal education is tested by juniors, seniors, and peers. Melding a unit into a cohesive, combat ready team, is an art that takes many skills that no period of formal education can fully develop. Installing preconceptions like DEI in the minds of future leaders is almost certainly destined to inhibit the skills of dispassionately figuring out what you've got so that you can mold it into a battle winning team. I recently finished David Hackworth's book "Steel My Soldiers Hearts" and as much as I admire the Colonel I think he would have been the first to admit there is no such thing as an instant solution or a "by the numbers"

checklist to run through. Four years at the Point is the primer and goes by fast. Every single minute should be devoted to the science and art of war. Cow towing to political correctness is madness. The civilian DEI and CRT advocates won't be the smelling the blood, policing up dead comrades or crossing a hot LZ so it is easy for them to push these insane ideologies. Just like McNamara and his whiz kids destroyed my generation of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines the same fate awaits those who are serving right now. Thanks to the leftist academics deciding what is important precious time in warfighting skills is being squandered."

"I spent 20 years in the Army:1968-88 and was commanded by many West Pointers. In general I always found them to be highly professional, with great personal integrity, and Sharp-good officers to serve under and some even became my friends. Well worth the investment our country made in them. Sad to see such a Great institution decline over the injection of politics which I believe began during President Obama's 2 terms. We will pay a price for this in future conflicts."

"I'm an old tax payer too and an Army Vet. Just wondering why West Point needs as part of its curriculum race baiting and divisive courses? Why is that necessary to become a West Point officer? The original course curriculum was a civil engineer curriculum. How switch out the CRT courses for war history and strategy courses that are a little more applicable to what any Army officer should know in the battlefield. Back in the day, West Point officers were always the best leaders. I had two in my command and they were great leaders, great people and great to serve under. Would hope that is still the case. But I wonder."

"Ok the military oath requires to defend the constitution. Yet DEI/CRT teachings seem to violate





the equal protection clause by advocating antiracist racial discrimination, see page 19 of Kendi's book. The protagonists of DEI come from the leftwing spectrum antithetical to the political neutrality professed by DOD which got Lt Colonel Lohmeier fired for expressing conservative views. Promoting DEI at West Point, its military advocates are betraying their military oath. The Supreme court needs to take a look at this."

"The wussification of our military is a (if not the) predominant reason enlistments are so far short of what the services require. I'm retired Navy. I used to urge some kids to consider enlisting. No more! When asked I tell them "forget about it."

"It's not like there aren't literally dozens of books out there detailing how to raise, train and nurture a competent military. Sociologists Moskos and Janowitz on recruiting and leadership still apply. Selecting leaders by identity instead of merit is absent from all of them, because it's unthinkably stupid in such a high-stakes endeavor."

"OUTSTANDING articles. Lentini, STARRS and the MacArthur Society are shining a light on the corruption. USMA is lashing-out and responding in anger. The types of responses are what one can only expect from corrupt officials who are exposed. When the word "homophobic" is used by USMA, I can see where they are going. Ad hominem smears are typical of their official responses when they do not want to discuss the real issues. My father graduated from USMA. He, like a majority of his class, served in WWII. I graduated from USMA at the end of Vietnam. My experience was much closer to my father's than my son who went at the advent of DEI / CRT implementation. There are so many things that need to be fixed. I don't know if the service academies can recover because the superintendents are EXTREMELY political. The

political influences are killing all the service academies."

"I was in the marines and my kids grew up hearing about it (I loved my time in) and were very favorable towards the military in general and Marines in specific. My son came to me to talk about going in and asked my opinions on enlisted vs officer, plc vs ROTC vs academy, etc. I strongly urged him not to. Why? We don't win wars, we are focused on nonsense instead."

"I've spoken to a 18 year enlisted guy. Hates the Military right now because of the woke agenda. To much training on bullshit that doesn't belong, while not teaching enough combat readiness. He gets deployed about every 4 years. Why are they turning off our Soldiers?"

"I myself am a vet, working at a Va-linked transition home for other veterans. Most have been out for at least a decade but our common consensus is that we can't believe what the hell has happened to our military. We are dismayed, to say the least. Many of us, myself included, are glad we got out before this garbage started."

"I'm an AF veteran & work DoD for SF and it's all over the place. They promote it above the mission. We are beholden to whatever woke policies the DoD demands, just like mandating the jab. I'm sick of it and have refused to participate. My job is the mission. PERIOD"

"I have to take 5 hours of DEI training every year. My takeaway is do not promote or higher straight white men."

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"I live around Eglin AFB. I've been here since '76, and have been connected to military personnel even after my dad and sister retired. They are everywhere with all the bases around Eglin. There is a STINK in the air. Troops are disheartened and disgusted. They need your help."

"Just retired last month. I wish I could have saved some training ppt. As soon as survived the unlawful mandate, I started the process to get out and avoid this LGTB training. It's happening as I'm typing this. I hope the current service members speak out."

"I decided to get out when my values no longer aligned with the top brass. I'm glad I did but feel bad for the people who stayed in and have had to endure all this woke nonsense."

"Man, I'm glad my husband retired before all of this crap took hold deeply in our military. No wonder he said he would be OK retiring as an LTC. He would have made an amazing general, but he would not have been on board with this. We have got to get back to our roots."

"I don't want anything injected, no trans rainbow mafia, just merit and an opportunity to serve."

"As a Marine, I want our military to be Lethal, Loyal, Highly trained and willing to pack heaven with lots of fresh souls. This social engineering bullshit needs to go, the only thing our military needs is strong leadership & a strong fighting spirit, everything else is gravy."

"My 17 year old loves everything military but won't go in under this admin. He also sees how his relatives that served are treated as veterans."

"As a GWOT veteran and military "retiree" who visits an installation quite often, I can tell you that standards have become very lax within the last four years. I can't tell you how many military police I've seen who need a shave but they have some sort of wokester excuse that lets them off the hook. Not to mention female troops with outlandish hairstyles and colors. Plus so many service members walking around talking on their cells in uniform. That may all seem trivial to some of you but it's indicative of a supposed leadership that doesn't give a damn. And that does not win wars. The US military exists to break stuff and end our adversaries to protect this nation, NOT to be some social experiment."

#### **WSJ Article: DEI Crushing Recruitment**

"Relatives in the Armed Forces right now are counting down the days until they can escape. It is just oppressive."

"I have plenty of friends who have left the military over the past 3 years because of its politicization."

"The grandfather I'm named after KIA in France early 1945. His purple heart is prominently displayed on my mother's living room mantle. My other grandfather flew the Hump during WWII. My father-27 year US Army vet with a tour in Vietnam. Me-41 years total service. Reported to bootcamp as an E-1 in 1983 and retired as an O-6 in 2024 after three command tours. My disillusionment began with the mandatory extremist training in March of 2021 during my second command tour. My Exec and I led the training because that's what leaders do-lead from the front. My Exec, first generation Puerto Rican grew up in NYC project, a real tough as nails kind of guy. Loved America



though for all the opportunities it has afforded his family. After we finished the training, he turned to me and said of the training: "Key take-away, whitey is a bad dude". I have not recommended military service to a particular demographic since :(

"My college roommate, a retired 22 year Navy Captain tell me that DEI has changed the military to the point he would not recommend it as a career to anyone."

"A colleague of mine, a West Point graduate who served as a captain in Iraq, recently resigned from the Army. The reason: he was assigned to teach at West Point and discovered that the black cadets routinely insulted/ignored officers and upper classmen because they knew that as black cadets there would not be any negative repercussions. My colleague understood that as far as future promotion was concerned, the DEI writing was on the wall and so he resigned."

"I am one such veteran. My son just left a unit and ets'd due to this nonsense. I no longer advise young folks to enter, as much as that pains me. They are ruining the military with this nonsense. Perhaps that's intentional."

"When I was in the Navy in 2022/2023 during the BLM riots, the DoD made all military personnel recite the oath, as they told us white supremacists were rife in the armed forces and we needed to let them know we were still loyal. Nothing has made me hate the government more than when I had to do that, and the enlisted in charge told me it was the lowest point in their career having to carry out this insane task."

"The majority of Veterans are older, but a survey of all Veterans would have included me shortly before my 19th birthday. I am a Millennial. Prior enlisted Marine and former Army officer. Iraq vet. I have not recommended the service to anyone since the

pathetic and incompetent withdrawal from Afghanistan. It's not just the old guys that have a problem with the DEI initiatives, and it is way bigger than just women and gays."

"Many veterans today would be disgusted knowing what goes on in today's military. My dad, husband, and eldest son all served. My youngest recently wanted to serve and was met by all with a hard "no, do not do it." This country is in a world of a mess and anyone who is not a DEI hire working in the government knows exactly why."

"I am a retired Naval Commander, and agree totally with this, I would never recommend family members to serve. I am active in many military functions and listen to many speeches of leading Admirals and Captains. It takes usually less than a few words before they start expressing their DEI accomplishments. It's astonishing, how naive. I can't say DEI is a Chinese plot to destroy our military, but if it wasn't their doing, they at least appreciate the culprit."

"When my son enlisted in the Navy, he envisioned being a "lifer". But, after 15 years of service, he had enough. Even after taking the Petty Officer First Class exam several times--and getting excellent grades, he was told that there was a long list of people in front of him. Many of those people, it turned out, were DEI enlistees. The military has long used seniority over quality for advancement. Now, they are adding DEI to the mix. It's no reason veterans have a negative view of the service. Our military needs to use merit over seniority and DEI so that we will truly have the best and the brightest defending our country. We don't need a military that "looks like us" unless they are the best at killing people and breaking things."

"I come from a military family. My father was Army for 31 years, I was Army for 14 years, and two of my sons are currently Navy. My sons are tired of



the crap and talk about getting out. My wife's family a lot of military too. Anyhow I don't promote military service as much as I did in the past. And if we get involved in armed conflict, I pray we don't lose a lot of our young men and women because of all this DEI and woke crap."

"Next we'll be spending millions on camouflage lipstick, .... but really I'm a 11B Vietnam vet, and crawling thru the jungles I didn't care what color, race, language spoken, or anything else as long as that person I could trust with my life. To put people in positions just for diversity is senseless, it weakens our military and it happens just for politics, votes, and not for our country. It's the downfall of our society, self-centered politics."

"The woke & DEI pervasive military is gutting our military. As a veteran, son of a veteran, father of veteran sons, and with all of my brothers as veterans, we will no longer suggest that our family join the "woke military". Political leaders espousing that we need more transsexuals to bolster our military is ridiculous. Telling all white recruits that they are racist and need to have their brains washed is tragic. Any wonder why white males (the vast majority of recruits) are declining to participate?"

"As someone who has spent the last 41 years in the military (27 years active duty, the rest as a DoD civilian), civilians like myself are retiring in droves because of the shift in DoD. Immediately after Biden took office, we were forced to go through extremist training because the current administration was convinced the ranks were full of right wing extremists. The administration directed a study be performed and then buried the results when the study showed that there were less extremists in the military than the general population. The Army I served in was nearly 50 percent minority, with black Soldiers accounting for

three times the Army population than the general populace. The Army was a meritocracy where no one gave a crap what your race, creed, or color was. The only thing that mattered was performance. Not a shot in hell I would recommend joining this military, which I'll soon be leaving for good."

"West Point, class of 1968 here. Bingo! Right on target. And the Academies are no better."

"My dad was a US Army veteran, I'm a US Army veteran, my son is a Marine Corps veteran. I can't see a scenario where I'll have a grandchild that is a veteran. That goes for all the veterans I know. It's a sad state of affairs."

"My son was so disappointed in his basic training experience 10 years ago because they had reduced the physical and psychology testing rigor to accommodate more female recruits. I expect with DEI that there is even more decline in that rigor only to be replaced by woke sensitivity training."

"We live in a small Navy town in San Diego. There are 3 bases within our city limits. We have neighbors who have retired because the Navy no longer operates on merit or excellence, but on gender, sexual orientation, and skin color. Our retiring friends are frustrated by their commands who place more value on having a woman and/or a person of color in command rather than the best person for the job."

"Those of us who have actually had their butts in a combat situation know damn well why having a DEI person next to us increases the likelihood of getting killed. no thanks."

"I know a guy that was enlisted. He got his college degree at about the 10 year point. He applied for a commission. He was denied. A black female in his chain of command that only had a GED and joined on a waiver, applied too. She was approved and





commissioned. You can guess his race and why he exited the service. When the cards are that stacked against you, why even try?"

"I witnessed first-hand the demise of the military's meritocracy. My experience aligns with Mr. West's. I've read the Air Force memorandum Mr. West references. Though one of my sons is a Marine, I am one of dozens of former military in my circle of friends who all advised our children to seek career options other than the military. Colonel, USAF (Ret)"

"Three generations of my family have served in the military; 3 of us are retirees. No one is encouraging any of the next generation to join."

"The Left is the most racist group of people on the planet. When they look at a group of military members their brain automatically starts calculating the racial breakup of that group and then complain when there aren't the proper percentages. I served 24 years and never saw racial issues. The best thing about back then was that if you saw someone in leadership, you knew they had earned it regardless of sex/color/creed. Today that is no longer true the higher up in rank you go."

"Having served 31 years in the Army and Army Reserve, I was always impressed with how successful the Army had been in integrating black and white soldiers. Several times in my military career, I found myself reporting to black officers and NCOs. They were every bit as good as their white counterparts in their leadership skills. The only important color in the Army back then was green camouflage. Everyone wore it. It was a system and culture that did not need fixing. So, naturally, the ardent social engineers in the Pentagon today feel compelled to apply a "fix" — DEI — that will absolutely break the military for years to come. Today's crop of young, white military age males aren't likely to join an

organization that stacks the deck so blatantly against them."

"Especially in the officer and very senior enlisted ranks, you have to look at your odds of making those higher ranks (O-5 and above, E9). If you are a white male, you will be at a disadvantage and its well known. Because its well known, a lot of good officers and NCOs are gone after their first tour which is sad."

"The author is spot on. I can only speak for myself but all I dreamed about as a young boy was to attend West Point and serve in the Army. I did so proudly for 30 years and one of my sons followed me to West Point and between us we served multiple tours in Iraq, Kosovo, and Afghanistan. Sadly at this point I cannot recommend military service to my grandchildren. It has been disheartening to see the military's focus shift from warfighting to becoming a test lab for the country's social experiments. I will never forget Mark Milley (national disgrace) thundering before Congress that "white nationalism" was the greatest threat facing the country just a month before the Afghanistan debacle when 13 service members were killed and dozens more wounded. I have lost faith in both our political leadership and general officer corps and I know many of my fellow veterans share those sentiments."

"I'm a retired Air Force officer and I have indeed advised people not to join for the very reasons described above."

"Also retired, I have help stop four young men and a women from going into the military. They are all now successful in other endeavors. Sad."

"I retired after 27 years in the navy. I have three sons under the age of 21. THIS is why I haven't pushed it and don't care if any of them ever serve."



"24 year veteran of the US Naval Submarine force who has deployed over 20 times, Honor, Courage and Commitment are the core values, not DEI. DEI will destroy the military and lead to increased casualties in battle."

"Every male in my family up to the current generation has served proudly in the armed forces. No more. There are consequences to poor leadership, losing wars, and calling all straight white males deplorable white supremacists."

"As a former Marine, I like many of the Marines I served with, would discourage my family members from joining any branch of the military. Part of it is the wholesale incompetence of the national command authority, with the military fighting wars under politically correct ROEs, and politicians losing the peace. However, the environment they are likely to encounter in the military today puts their lives at greater risk. 20 years ago the preferences being given to select demographics were annoying. Now they are potentially catastrophic. Selecting leaders to fulfill a DEI mandate will lead to more bad strategies and tactics, which will get people killed."

"I'm a Veteran and there is no way I would recommend that my grandsons serve in the military. DEI policies and effectual leadership would get them killed."

"My father is a devout Democrat & 40-years Army intelligence, my brother is a Republican & former Captain-Army 101st Airborne Ranger (Petraeus was his XO) and I'm former U.S. Coast Guard leaning Libertarian and we are all in agreement to not promote The Life to the kids and grandkids."

"My son also served as an airborne infantryman in the 82nd Airborne. And my goddaughter is currently serving on active duty (Army). All that said, the current state of the woke/left Army

leadership has resulted in poor morale, diminished lethality and a recruiting crisis. I now recommend against enlistment, which is a position I never thought I would hold."

"In the 70's I served with the 82nd Airborne. Most of my chain of command was Black from Corporal up to Captain (I have little knowledge of those above Captain....I was a private). They were at their rank and in their positions because of how good they were as soldiers and men, not because of the color of their skin. I respected them and had confidence in them. They did not need DEI programs to succeed."

"I'm a female veteran of the US Army (JAG Corps). The mission of the military is to fight and win wars in defense of our nation. That's it. What I most appreciated about being in the service was the meritocracy. If you wore an Airborne badge, it meant you had jumped out of the same airplane and at the same height as everyone else who wore that badge. You did not jump from an airplane designed for your gender or flown at a lower altitude to "compensate" for something unrelated to the mission. If you scored well in marksmanship, it meant you had aimed at the same target at the same distance as everyone else had, with the same weapon used. Your uniform was your resume. Implementing DEI policies negates the very *raison d'être* of the military, i.e., putting the mission first. We do that at our peril."

"I'm a 3rd generation Marine. I would not want either of my sons to join the military under the current general officers who are worried about "white rage", DEI and trans-recruitment. The focus of an effective military organization is being capable of making your enemies die for their country, not hookie leftie unicorn wimpy nonsense."



"40 yrs in the AF - active duty + civilian. I feel like I wasted my life. Would never recommend or allow anybody I care about to get near the military now. Left 7 yr ago when it was all 'diversity'; can't imagine how much worse woke is."

"I retired from the U.S. Navy after serving 37 years. Included were 3 combat tours, the first of which was the last war that the United States actually won (Desert Storm), the last being our most recent loss (Afghanistan). I have an 18 year old son set to graduate from high school at the end of this academic year and already committed to play a sport at college next year. Do you think I'm talking to him about joining the service? Any service? Absolutely not! If he expressed an interest in joining, I would attempt to dissuade him. We have abused the privilege presented by our all volunteer force. Time to reinstitute conscription (to include women) and force our feckless leaders to persuade the American people where our vital strategic interests lie and why they're worth American blood and treasure."

"This has been going on for quite a while - probably in higher gear in the past decade as the whole DEI movement gained momentum. In the late 80's, I was at a training rotation in the Army (had the bad luck of reporting in early so I was assigned to be platoon leader.) The Army had just started experimenting with integrating females in combat oriented training and I had 3 in my platoon. I was called in a meeting with the Battalion Commander and his CSM - they explained that I'd have 3 females, what an honor it was, how important it was, etc. Then, to make sure I understood the situation, the BC said loudly "Russell, if they fail, you fail!" Nothing against females serving - maybe the vetting process is better these days for combat oriented training - these three were not ready or able. You can probably guess what I told my Platoon Sergeant and Squad Leaders - "If they fail,

you fail!" The platoon got them through, at times literally carrying them or their gear They just were not ready, but they passed. Very bad for morale - everyone knew it would be a disaster to actually put these people in combat roles, and no one would be comfortable serving with them in that capacity. I'm convinced the experience set back future officers, who might otherwise have been more accepting of expanding service opportunities for females, as they went about their careers. Tough, fair standards motivate people. This practice was a demotivator. If DEI is emphasized over standards, it will too."

"When I enlisted in 1975 the Army was the most racially diverse organization in the country. Great pride was taken in that fact and rightly so. My base commander was African American as were a healthy and representative amount of the NCO and Officer corps. I made my first black friends which greatly broadened my perspective. So what happened? Why fix what was not broken with these so-called DEI initiatives? I will say that what was most difficult for many of us, to be real, was when the first female troops joined us in our advanced training. Under those conditions of hardship and stress, to have a beautiful blond right next to you was very distracting. I don't know how you manage the gender issue but it was a complication that made focusing on the mission difficult."

"My wife and I both retired as Army colonels. I spent 30 years on active duty, and my wife spent 26. Then we both continued to work for the Army as federal senior civilians for another twelve years. We retired completely in 2018. All this DEI toxicity is just a continuation of the equal opportunity poison that started with Jimmy Carter and Clifford Alexander the SECARMY at the time. From the outset, it was just a quota-based scheme that doubled as an avenue for junior soldiers and



civilian employees to bully the system into unearned promotions or to harass their bosses for money. By 2018, it was already unbearable. Our military culture is worse than toxic these days. We have actively discouraged any young people we care about to do any time whatsoever in the DoD. We knew a lot of these generals in positions of power or on TV as they were progressing through the ranks. Barry McCaffrey started the political weaponization of the GO/Flag ranks under Bill Clinton. Today, all Service GO/Flag Corps are totally weaponized with woke, Bolshevik social justice causes as they climb Jacob's ladder after retirement to lucrative jobs pushing weapons system acquisition, HR, and -- yes -- DEI. Lloyd Austin has been a token since his appointment to USMA. It is so rotten the entire structure would need to be completely destroyed then rebuilt. Very sad for our nation and our national security."

"DEI is naked racial discrimination. Racial discrimination is evil, immoral, and in this country, illegal no matter who practices it. It always creates an innocent victim. It is never justified nor justifiable. It always creates resentment in its victim and in those who care about the victim. At war, an incompetent superior "who looks like me" can get you killed just as fast as an incompetent superior who does not "look like me." Dead is dead. Everyone should advance in the military based solely on merit. Racial discrimination in advancements in the leadership and in the ranks destroys unit cohesion."

"Amen. "Looks like us" to mean skin color is absolutely anti-American. The people who "look like me" are those who have similar *values, character, decency*, etc. I as a white man share very little with someone like Joe Biden, but I'm a kindred spirit with Lily Tang Williams and Xi Van Fleet, two Chinese women who understand and appreciate America and the threat it is under far

more than most. DEI is absolutely foolish and destructive. Our leaders are destroying us with it. And for NO benefit even, it's just because they're too weak and wimpy to stand for anything. They'll say whatever will keep them in good graces with the wokenuts in power."

"I can only imagine the military leadership in China, North Korea, Iran and Russia unbelief that any military person would swallow the DEI line and fervently praying that we continue that insanity. We are losing the next war before it even begins."

"As an OEF vet- and I hate to say this- we're going to have this nonsense continue until we get into a major conflict and lose substantial assets and lives. That is the only way Americans will finally wake up and demand a military that is laser-focused on its only true mission: Defending the country."

"Well, imaging a good kid from a good family being forced or "encouraged" by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to attend a transgender festival. And you wonder why veterans are saying not with my kid?"

"I am an Army Veteran. I served from 1994 -2000 Active Duty, and then 3 more years in the Army National Guard. I am also a child of a Army Veteran, who served for over 20 years as well. Why bother stating any of that? I know that I have some inherent bias based on where I came from. But I can share that throughout my childhood, and my military career, that I didn't really know much about color or gender. It was a merit based society based on the people who were competent continued to move upward in ranks. The Army (and I think most branches) were a melting pot of people, in many cases who had options, but choose the military due to financial needs, perception of the benefits, or desire to serve. The competent rose to the top, usually by the time they reached E-5 or O-4, most of the poor performers were filtered





out. I worry that by mandating % ratio's, the merit based leveling is thrown off, and introduces new ways for people to manipulate the system. Promotions should be based on merit, not just based on skin color, gender, or ethnicity. We should really try to avoid the idea of the best hispanic candidate, or we can't promote Jim because we need another female. This will create a vicious cycle of disillusionment, while also potentially promoting someone other than the most qualified - adding more risk to an already dangerous profession."

"The military's job is to kill people and break things. I don't want anyone I know to join a military where that is not their overriding principle. After watching Biden withdraw from Afghanistan, and men who think they are women military leaders being elevated and celebrated, I can't recommend it in its current state. Good luck getting all of the pajama man-bun boys from NYC to defend you."

"I want the baddest of the badasses defending us. Not a cross-section of the public."

"You can get away somewhat with DEI in the workplace. The company may be less competitive and profitable but can still survive, function, and make money. Obviously, you can't get away with DEI in sports, unless you don't mind perennial losing teams. It should be even more obvious that DEI has NO place in the military where LIVES ARE AT STAKE."

"Thank you for mentioning both the failed wars and DEI. Conservatives usually focus on DEI in this analysis, but during my time as an infantry officer (2010-2015) that stuff was pretty easy to ignore. I'm sure it's much worse now. For me it was the realization that our cowardly political class, which had no skin in the game, had mired us in two unwinnable wars. I always tell young people that if there is a real war, a war for national survival, there

will be plenty of opportunities to serve. Until then, don't sign up for fight these wars of choice."

"A draft will accelerate the degradation of the military's capability to fight and win wars. There has been a degrading of the military's combat capability as senior military and civilian leadership more focused on percentages than combat capability. DEI was just another distraction from combat capability. There is no longer a merit system for selection and promotion. Division Commanders use to select the Regimental and Battalion Commanders-they had first-hand knowledge of the leadership and combat capability of the Commander . Now a committee in Washington DC does-to ensure the percentages meet the goals-no concern for combat capability. The draft will only make it worse!"

"Majority of employees of any defense firm or majority in the military will tell you that DEI is out of hand, not some media creation. DEI is nothing but racism with a nice shiny coat over it."

"It's become bigger than DEI, as disgusting as that is. It's disdain and outright contempt for our country. It's complete lack of patriotism. I know several kids in their 20s, some excel, some don't, all that. But it's striking to me how little patriotism they collectively have. None care about the country much, only what they can get from it. Even those who are more with it. It just isn't something they seem inclined to participate in. The Ivy League mentality has spread like a plague across many "normal" universities, too. The fact that antisemitic garbage at Columbia isn't decried by this White House and the National Guard sent in is disgusting in its own right. The fact this White House supports it, though? You get where I'm going. This White House is a terrible example for all our kids on every level. Hopefully we turn it around. But it's often hard to recapture the magic when nobody's



headed that direction. Or, it may take a serious event (attack on our country, et ) to bring people together. As it stands now, most kids don't feel it's worth fighting for. The leftist mindset has badly damaged an entire generation, even some of the more moderate ones."

"I'd like to add why this DEI woke none sense is so dangerous. Its premise is that America is a racist nation that was established at the expense of innocent people. Its premise is that slavery existed and therefore all the good things America has brought to the world. Anyone who joins the military and wants to undertake a combat role, the tip of the spear if you will, has to be willing to die for country. If young men are told their country is not worth dying for, why put yourself in jeopardy. This is, in my opinion, the heart of the matter."

"The sad thing is, until this started the military had been viewed as one of the most successful institutions in creating a race-blind meritocracy where there was also real diversity (not just race, but also class) in its senior ranks. It wasn't perfect, but it was better than anyone else. It will be a shame if defective ideas from the civilian world permanently destroy that, as they seem to be on the path of doing."

"I thought the statement about installing diversity officers throughout the ranks is interesting because it reminds me of how the old Soviet Government would install political commissars throughout the Red Army to maintain control.

Another point that the article does not touch on is the reaction of competent men and women who get passed over for promotion because of their gender, skin color, or political correctness. I spent most of my career in management and have observed that when you put a glass ceiling over the head of intelligent and ambitious people (the very kind that most organizations want to promote),

they will quit and seek to move their careers forward elsewhere. So while the military is having trouble recruiting, I suspect that the overall quality of its officers is deteriorating."

"As a former serviceman, I would not recommend serving as the ascending leadership is not worth you risking your life. Not to mention, what are you actually defending? A country that jails and/or terrorizes its political opponents, rigs elections, and suppresses free speech, I wouldn't offer a drop of blood for that."

"Why would anyone enlist in the army and potentially lose their life while illegals seep into the country and obtain benefits someone in the military can only dream of? It's not worth it."

"This is a feature not a bug of the progressive project to gut the military. It should surprise no one."

"This article fails to mention another aspect of DEI in the military: you can be courtmartialed for non-compliance in DEI group think. Why would anyone with conservative values want to serve in an organization that can ruin your future or even put you in jail because you don't agree with their social values? You can be coerced to violate your conscience in any number of ways--starting with something as simple as what pronouns you use."

"Recruiting is one thing. Retention is another. Maybe start conducting serious exit interviews. Young soldiers and sailors don't ask for much and they don't get much. All they want is to be part of something bigger than themselves and do work they can be proud of. Slap that DEI on them and it's four and out. Then you have to deal with the negative recruiter, speaking from experience, 24/7, don't make the same mistake as me."

"DEI is definitely undermining the military, especially the Academies. It's obvious the



Academies and services have race and sex quotas, which I thought was illegal and discriminative. The military and civilian leadership is obsessed with DEI and woke politics. Its no longer about war fighting but a social experiment.

“My son will graduate in 2026 and wants to be a pilot. This is one of our biggest concerns about the Academies.”

“The DEI purge through business and academia is deeply problematic. Excellent people have been fired, leaving their employers poorer and less competitive. A DEI purge through the military is worse: it's lethal.”

“Destroying military recruiting is a feature, not a bug, of the left's strategy for "re-inventing" America.”

“Unfortunately this article is correct. The military is not what it once was. I was a Warrant Officer in the late 60's and early 70's serving as a helicopter pilot in both Vietnam and Germany. I was proud to serve my country and for the most part had a good opinion of the military and its ability to protect our country. Those days are gone. I would never recommend military service to kids today. Too much woke nonsense. Leaders I have no confidence in and a commander in chief that is a sad joke.”

“Just imagine if we imposed DEI on professional sports teams. (ha)! Let's not draft the best players, let's balance the team based on skin color and gender, etc... Imagine how valuable the sports franchise would be then!”

“With political winds changing every four years, the military has attracted political chameleon generals who spend more time hiding under rocks than leading. They don't inspire competence, and most of the young officer core can smell their career fear.

I left after 26 years having been enlisted and later an officer.”

“Cold War Naval Officer here. The military (mirroring all of society) has done everything it can to exorcise the male warrior mentality in order to appease "modern" sensibilities. This started with the fall of the Berlin Wall and continues today. Can't say I am surprised that young men have little interest in defending a society that frankly doesn't like or respect them all that much.”

“Finally this story reports what I and others have been saying for a few years now. The Democrats are hell bent on destroying our country and destroying our military is a big part of that. I know several 'kids' who are or recently were in the military and I have to say, these experiences were not good. When an organization loses its focus, it falls apart. The military should be focused on protecting our nation and killing the enemy. Nothing else!”

“Navy vet here. I would never recommend my sons join up. Reasons 1) no faith in civilian leadership. Our political leaders at the highest level use the military as tool to implement their vision of the world, not to defend the nation. 2) DEI. The deck will be stacked against them because of their demographic profile. 3) no faith in the military leadership: Austin, Milley. Need I say more 4) Lack of commitment of nation to maintain a strong military. 5) Contempt of military demonstrated by certain politicians (and no, don't say Trump. We all know that story was made up. 6) on a purely selfish level, why sign up for the benefits like GI bill when Biden is giving free college to EVERYONE. 7) Forever wars.”

“Retired Marine, OIF & OEF veteran here with four scholar-athlete sons who, on my recommendation, will not be joining the military--well, maybe the USCG, but only after they've completed their



studies. I would not trust the current administration (or a continuation thereof) with the lives of my children. The ill-conceived and poorly executed pullout of Afghanistan affected me deeply."

"Funny, but couldn't find DEI theory in any of the volumes written by Tzu, Clausewitz, Marshall, Rommel or others... The commanding heights must have a hidden work on the operational art that we are not aware of."

"You haven't read Clausewitz's "On DEI?"

"There's a new book by Joe Tzu based on the premise: 'Surprise your enemy by retreating in the middle of the night while abandoning your arms, munitions, and equipment.'"

"DEI destroying the military is "a feature, not a glitch". it operates the same in every institution that takes it in. more generally, the body of the republic is infiltrated by a terminal mind-virus. antibodies have finally awakened, but the patient remains in critical condition."

"The vast majority of recruits volunteer to join the military out of duty to country. Or, as Ronald Reagan keenly observed, "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don't have that problem.""

"As a former airborne infantryman/Ranger/Green Beret, I can attest no one does it for the money."

"I am a senior citizen and disabled veteran. Last week I was at a VA medical contractor for a physical exam where I was asked what pronouns they should use in addressing me!"

"As a veteran who is part of the family business model, all three of my kids are serving. That being

said, the changes since 2021 have caused many folks to reconsider service. I have seen the army in good times and bad. We are in very bad times right now. However, I told my son, an infantry officer, that the Republic needs an army and anyone who sticks it out now is probably doing the most patriotic thing they will ever do in their life."

"DEI has done more harm than good to the military. A refocus on war fighting will help restore the trust of our veterans." Thank you for this article. With all the noise on abortion and threats to democracy, troop recruitment is not getting much attention. As a former Air Force Vet who served over 40 years ago, I can say DEI in the military is not needed. A long time ago nobody cared about your race, gender, where you were from, etc. If you wore the uniform you were respected and accepted. There were opportunities for all to succeed and achieve higher ranks, regardless of where you came from or what you looked like - and all people were able to succeed. The mission came first. I immensely enjoyed my time in the Air Force and it was instrumental to my future success in life. I still believe that the military is an excellent path for young people to commit to their country, learn a ton and serve a great cause. However, it should not be tainted by shallow DEI initiatives that cause more harm than good. We need to get the recruitment up and should focus on the greatness of our country as the core of the recruiting pitch. It is a noble cause."

"As Sun Tzu wrote so many centuries ago- "The opportunity to defeat the enemy is provided by the enemy himself." This preoccupation with DEI is providing that opportunity."

"So . . . if you wanted to take down the United States . . . you'd *kinda sorta* want them to have a weak military . . . right? Makes you wonder





whether China is helping fund organizations behind the DEI push.”

“Nobody ever mentions that the military was already plenty diverse before this DEI garbage was even a thing with minorities over represented all thru the ranks.”

“I am a veteran of two combat tours as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, and I cannot honestly counsel someone to join our DEI-focused military under the Biden/Obama (recall this is Obama's third term) and Austin gang. We must focus on the mission, i.e., defeat of our enemies should war arise. At our local base, they even conducted DEI confession "struggles" mimicking a part of the Chinese Cultural Revolution until our local Congressman shut it down after a call from a constituent.”

“No military for my boys. Too much DEI. Breaking a family military tradition. Military is for fighting wars not social justice. I'm going to put them to work in my shop instead.”

“As a retired veteran of Cold War/Gulf War 1, I absolutely would not recommend any of my family to join the Military. We always had mandatory training on equality and race relations to put us all on equal footing. Now you can't even get a promotion based on merit, only gender/color of your skin. I find it repulsive, and actually divisive. I visit my local Base for BX/Commissary privilege's, and many people I see are physically unfit for conflict. I hope we don't go to war, because I worry we have lost our edge.”

“Historian Will Durant got that one right... “A great civilization is not conquered from without until it has destroyed itself within.”

“A sliver of the American people have served or are serving in the US military and many of them come from families, like mine, where it is a tradition to serve - not for a career but for a season. I consider

my fellow veterans of all branches to be my brothers and sisters in arms regardless of their politics, religion (or lack of), race, ethnicity, or even who they cheer for at a Football game. We all served and most of us volunteered to serve. I would not counsel a young adult to not join the military but would make sure they entered clear eyed. The politicians in Washington make the rules and appoint the leadership, and our country is well off course - and it shows. That means a newly minted Private or Lieutenant will have to navigate waters unfamiliar to previous generations of troops. Hopefully the DEI grifters will be driven out after this election, never to be seen again near the corridors of power. US Army 1982-1990”

“Who wants to salute a transgender--or indeed any person who wasn't promoted solely based on merit?”

“I had two children looking to join the military, and I talked them out of it - specifically pointing to the DEI nonsense new recruits are subjected to during initial training and while serving.”

“Screwed up leadership yes, especially with field grade officers and above, partially due to DEI initiatives. Lowering of standards to accommodate DEI targets in various schools. Recruiting incentives targeting specific groups for no reason other than DEI.

The recruiting numbers speak for themselves and weren't this bad even at the peak of the Iraq war when casualties were relatively high and the economy was decent (shortly before the crash). White conservative males, traditionally the largest pool from which the military draws, are not signing up as they once did. Until things change, I will continue to discourage those around me from serving. The country doesn't deserve their sacrifice at this time.”:



"I was not in the military. Many of my friends were career military, now all retired. Nearly to a man they cite profound concern over the military having become a jobs program and social experiment laboratory. Merit is out the window, as is fitness. The common opinion is that DEI has ruined combat effectiveness and has seriously damaged competence within the ranks. One sent me an ad for the Coast Guard that said something to the effect of: "Think you're too fat and old for the US Coast Guard? Think again!" Let's please reinstate Powell's colorblind policy and merit in general, and let's eliminate DEI within the ranks today. And for the love of God, let's pay them a living wage. Apparently, vast swaths of the enlisted ranks qualify for low income food assistance."

"I am a retired veteran of 26 years who recently recommended to a nephew that he not join. It all comes down to trust in the citizens of the country and the people they elect, but specifically: below average national leadership (I served in Afghanistan multiple times and the way we left was a preventable stain on the entire nation - all for a 11 September 2021 photo op); former-general offices and senior cabinet members who now believe it is their duty to weigh-in on national political elections - Kelly is just the latest (this increases the likelihood that future GOs will be excluded from key decisions that future presidents make, increasing the chance that a bad decision will be made); and DEI - how can I tell my white nephew that he will have a successful career based on his hard work and dedication to the institution ("we all bleed red" isn't applicable anymore). It hurt to make the recommendation I did, but his life is worth more than the almost half that country that put people we currently have in the highest levels of government. There is the potential that a draft may be necessary to counter the current state of the world, maybe that will wake us up."

"DEI is absolutely crushing military recruitment. I have family who have chosen not to go into the military for identity politics reasons. Young white men see a country where every facet of government and pop culture labels them the oppressor - would you sign up to fight for that?"

"I believe that fewer young hard chargers want to join because of the woke nature of today's armed forces. I base this on regular interactions with military age young people, especially the men. Our country needs some of our best and brightest to volunteer, and it breaks my heart that the overly political flag officers (e.g., the current CJCS), the current SECDEF, and the current National Command Authority have made DEI and wokeness so important."

"I've dissuaded about a dozen young men from joining today's woke joke of a military. I don't even really like to admit I served at this point."

One commenter told the Senator, "This is why my son abandoned his plans to go to the Academy, or service at all. He's "wait and see" for the incoming admin while working on a degree." Sen. Lee replied, "**Sad and I fear increasingly common.**"

"Same. It was my son's dream to fly in the military. Now he says not a chance."

"Mine too, he's 16 and has wanted to be in the military since he was 4. Sadly, he's now decided on a different career."

"I know!! My dad served 20 years Air Force, "best time of his life" He told my 17 year old son NOT to enlist since our mighty military went soft. It breaks my heart. We are a patriotic family, but under the past admin my son would be in danger. Pete, Make Military Great Again."



“He’s the product of good parenting. As a veteran, I wouldn’t recommend the military at the current time.”

“Mine too, he’s 16 and has wanted to be in the military since he was 4. Sadly, he’s now decided on a different career.”

“As the mom of two Veterans from the Navy, my youngest left because he got tired of the political environment. The DEI and other racists classes that they were taking and having to listen to. The issue is real. He was in 12 years as a Navy Nuke and hoped to make it 20 years.”

“I’m currently in the Air Force, it’s the most woke of the branches by far. It’s all the generals, upper civilian leadership hires like Wing DEI made up positions and a few woke chiefs. Mr Hegseth will be a god send.”

“Way to go – Pete – As the son of a Vietnam Vet who retired as Chief of Staff of the 8th Air Force, he was despondent and disgusted with our military leaders. We have had great conversations about you and are praying for your success. There are a lot of great families depending on you. Thank you for your service in the past and future. I am very proud of you.”

“The Air Force is still mandating Covid jabs before deployment. My family member stationed in Florida and scheduled for deployment in March is holding out for Pete!”

“I worked DoD for 1 year, pronouns GALORE! they actually give classes to Airmen to inform and have them select their pronouns.”

“I almost cried today. Happy/proud tears. I went to Albertsons to pick up a few things . A few shops down, in the same strip mall, is a Marine recruiting center... There was a line of 18 yo’s and up, waiting

to enlist. All because Trump won and then appointed you. Oh happy day!”

“Amen to that Pete. Time to clean house. As a Marine I am 100% behind turning back the clock to get our military back to one singular mission. War-Fighting. Period. Semper Fi Pete! Get some.”

“When we joined the military, we conformed to its standards. Now it’s the other way around, with identity politics forcing the military to bend to every social trend. Obama started this, Trump slowed it down, but Biden accelerated it again. We need to restore the military’s focus on strength, discipline, and readiness. Not social experiments like lowering physical standards or pushing divisive ideologies. In 2000, if recruiting ads had featured social agendas over military strength, I might have thought twice about enlisting. Let’s return to building a force that values merit and mission above all else.”

“Pete, retired USAF, combat vet, and current DoD Civilian here, I am looking forward to the change. Please let me know if I can help in any way. I would be happy to be of service. Thank you.”

“Almost canceling my retirement from the Air Force to be around this epicness!”

“God Bless you! If you’d come a year early my nephew, a Naval Academy Grad trained in nuclear Subs wouldn’t be leaving. He just couldn’t take another seminar on microaggressions.”

“I work on an Air Force base every day, retired USAF in 2009. What I see daily is so discouraging. The Air Force is a shell of what it used to be...quality, character, appearance, everything. Shameful.”

“The US Army attempt to implement the Congressionally-mandated gender-neutral physical fitness standards by military occupational specialty



failed because so few women could meet the "neutral" standards. The Army returned to gender-based standards awaiting clarity from Congress. The experiment with women in combat arms and its impact on recruiting and combat standards must be evaluated and is the most salient DEI issue."

"First all, it is a good article and I agree with the author's point. As a USNA grad with a B/W mixed son who is also a USNA grad, I think I have a bit of an insight into this. They absolutely should get rid of any racial impact on the admissions, it doesn't do anything positive for anyone or specifically for the military. It probably is not impacting very many of the candidates, because there is enough demand to generate a decent list of candidates and enough hoops to jump through that not many who are not qualified are going to make it through. Having it as a possibility though, does potentially taint those who are get in whether they benefited from any bias or not. There is no way that it is worth it for a few marginal extra candidates. The other thing to note, is that the admissions for women probably get tweaked as much or more as for race. There are not nearly as many HS girls who want to go to the military, so they are pulling from a much more shallow pool for those slots. They should address that at the same time. In the end, make the standard the standards and tell anyone who does not make them to work harder (or do something else). Bending standards is not a good idea."

"In any endeavor, merit must be the guiding principle. Ditching merit only begets mediocrity. Would the NBA survive if they signed mediocre 5'9" high school players? That would end the NBA as we know it. Same for any professional sport. Our military academies are playing for much higher stakes than the NBA, MLB, and the NFL, yet this notion that diversity makes for a stronger military is an absurdity."

"Served 27 years and retired last year. Really got sick of having DEI jammed down our throat. Let's focus on the best and brightest, the most qualified, and being the most lethal and effective military in the world. Sorry if that offends some of you. Grow up."

"Please do it ASAP. We who have been serving for 10 years or longer can SEE the DEI and it's negative effect on capability...."

"The public would flip their lid if they found out how much wasted time is spent on meetings about this subject."

"Now I'm starting to understand why my son went to a Summer Program at the Air Force Academy, then decided he didn't want to join anymore."

"Friend of mine in the AF told me that a person in his shop got kicked out for calling the 1sgt sir. All because one day the 1sgt decided he is now a she and going to dress as such."

"My son, an active Duty straight white male was told to keep his head down, mouth shut and NEVER be alone with a female, black or gay soldier no matter what. Peace time or war. His senior NCO's told him this the day he became an NCO. THAT is today's Army."

"Retired USAF here. Get this crap out my beloved Air Force, start over and get back to basics....Fly, Fight, Win! Air Power! Come on 20 Jan. Hegseth, get confirmed and fix it!"

"10 years as a Navy officer and now I'm ashamed to tell anyone."

"My Honduran son in law is getting out after ten due to this stupidity."

"This is the kind of sh!t that's making me get out after my contract is up. One more year; and will be nearly 9 years of service by the time it's up; it's





time to start a new chapter: they killed any hope for a fair experience, at least in my lens."

"Spent 30 years in the Army Infantry, (finally) leaving active service in 2022. Four generations on my side of contiguous service, a few skips here and there all the way through the Civil War to the Revolution. Her side is three generations back to WWII, including Korea, Vietnam, and a goodly chunk of the Cold War. I will not support my kids going into any branch of the military after what I witnessed and was forced to participate in the last 12 years of progressive democrat "leadership." "Hope and Change", my eye teeth. Praise God I was only a Joe and Jr. NCO during the majority of the Clinton years...I did what Sergeant said, and had no perspective higher than my 1SG. Earning a commission robbed me of that innocence."

"DEI is the polar opposite of the merit system. Only someone looking to intentionally weaken or subvert any institution would want a system where they can install useless political allies instead of competent leaders."

"DEI is the least of the threat. I'm amazed at the changes I've seen at my local base. Men in uniform with facial hair, women with hair below the collar and often in sneakers and not combat boots, unzipped coats, a man in uniform with long hair although he may have been foreign service. DEI isn't necessarily a lack of discipline and standards but those two qualities seem to have taken a hit."

"I served 18 months in Vietnam in an infantry unit, '70-'71. In the field we were all army green. Once we returned to the states everything changed. Racial walls immediately went up. The troops lacked discipline and purpose. It was disgraceful."

"Retired in 22 after 27 years in the Army. How? Non-select PZ and AZ. 2 tries and although having more to give with a stellar record of service...yea.

Do I actually believe I was in the bottom 17% of those officers considered? Ridiculous. Promotion system favors non-white male officers eligible for consideration. The DoD has had this horrible system for years. How do I know about this promotion system? I was stationed at Ft. Knox, elbow rubbing with other Sr. Officers quartered on 5th Ave. DEI has been long practiced in our military which by the way is against the Constitution."

"We cannot expect the Americans to jump from capitalism to communism. But we can assist their elected leaders in giving Americans small doses of socialism until they suddenly awake to find they have communism." -- Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, 1959

"I served from 1972-1999 in Marine Corps aviation. Back in the 70s we had to go through Human Relations seminars where we sat in sessions with all ranks and had to talk about our backgrounds and prejudices, ad nauseum. In the 80s it was resurrected as "Leadership Training"; same crap, different name. None of it, absolutely none, contributed to warfighting skills."

"I served our country for 21 years and I am a combat veteran. I never really got involved in people's personal lives nor was wokeism alive enough for anyone to notice back then. now, I have a son that is 27 and on his 8th year and he has the morals and hard-working principles that our family was brought up with and the values that go along with that. he says that any one that is outspoken about the way they feel or their beliefs against DEI are basically targeted by the progressives that are in the military. he says he will stand his ground and I believe him because he's from Texas. he will not be pushed around and he will do whatever he has to do to make sure that his unit and others like it are prepared for what we know is coming to



America in the world because of this administration."

"I entered the active duty Army in 1982. Many of my leaders were Vietnam veterans. The "hollow" Army of the 70's was full of 0 defect morons who falsely reported everything was good to go, 100% readiness across the boards. Through institutionalized training and the development of Officer and NCO professional development curriculum and better accountability through the 80's we eradicated much of that mindset. Although I still recall a few draftee SGMs who had GT scores of 85 or so (morons) causing problems. (Project 100,000 recipients). I retired in 2004 knowing full well the Army was starting down a slippery slope as a result of social scientists meddling with the force. I stayed connected to SOCOM as a contractor for 20 more years, watching big Army go to hell and hoping the SOF bubba's could avoid the madness. Jury is still out on that, but I've hung up my spurs for good. I wish Pete Hegseth and all those in harms way Godspeed. But I fear the Biden years and social scientists have laid the groundwork for another "hollow" Army. It may take generations to undo this insanity."

"The mid level (CPT -MAJ) are the ones who are punching out and cutting sling early. If we can't keep them we have issues later. It's a multi faceted issue that will take some creativity to correct. Further exacerbated by the newly minted butter bars who've been indoctrinated at Hudson High and various institutions around the country via ROTC and the leftist / Marxist professors found therein."

"Navy nuke who entered the Navy in 78. First day of nuke school the Chief said, "Gentlemen look to your left, now look to your right. Odds are one of them won't make it through this program." and he was right. 50% attrition rate was the norm. You

can't sacrifice the standards without hurting the program. It really is that simple."

"The damage from DIE indoctrination runs deep. You can't just wave a finger and tell them to go away. Woke Point cadets must comply or they are removed from the ranks. There are no exceptions and there is no defense. Once you are stamped as a racist, your career is over and there is no defense or support to fight the DIE cult. DIE has damaged the brain cells required to return these young Americans to normal. — Class of 81 grad"

"I joined the US Navy in 1978. When I joined, it was my intent to go at least 20 years. At the end of my first 4 year enlistment, I declined to re-enlist. Why? Because they had begun to put women into combat units. Before you start calling me 'sexist'; understand that it wasn't because I thought that women couldn't do most of the jobs found in such units (except special forces units), it was because I understood how much of a detriment their presence would be to the military as a whole and how they would be treated differently than men. I was right. Women in today's military are held to a different standard than male counterparts and they comprise a disproportionately greater number of complaints as a ratio of the percentage of their numbers."

"Suggest you look at the Marine Corp Times article "Mixed Gender teams come up short in Marine's infantry experiment" Sept. 10, 2015 Hope Hodge Seck. It spells it out very clearly that we endanger everyone by forcing woman into combat rolls by lowering standards. Every metric the all male unit outperformed the mixed gender unit and suffered fewer casualties in doing so. But damn the science, Obama wanted equity and now our military is paying a heavy price for such absurdity."

"DEI is like a woke IED" Incorrect. An IED blows up once, where as DEI is more akin to cancer. Just like



cancer, DEI can be cured. DJT has the treatment for the patient to survive, and like chemo, it will affect the body, but have faith, and America can, and will be cancer free."

"I had twins that joined the Marines, one left after his first 4 years because he did not like what he was seeing, the other stayed in for 12 yrs and was deciding whether to reup or get the hell out, he loves his country and made the decision to stay in hoping DJT would become his Commander in Chief again. Now he is glad he did stay in because our military will have a real Commander in Chief and will put our military first, build it up again, always protect them and men and women will now become part of our once great military to be part in the rebuilding. God Bless them all."

"I work in a position where I encounter many of the O-5s and E-9s in that group. An alarming amount of them seem low-key dreading facing the "weaponized investigation" culture that is currently pervasive. Combine that with the paltry manning (but perception from higher that everything must still get done as if they were 100%) and it is absolutely not surprising to me that the command opt-in is down."

"So many ways to "Get the Old Man!" He used the wrong pronoun! He yells too loud. He disrespects "us". (Whoever US is at the moment.) Command is a setup for failure and suspension."

"It's not that today's officers are shirking duty, it's that they are disillusioned with our senior "leaders". They know that they won't be allowed the LEAD their own units, but will be micromanaged and scolded every step. They're not happy being staff-o's, but it's better than being used for target practice by unscrupulous ladder climbers."

"I'm just wondering if all of the Regulations and DA Pams were updated to reflect all of these weird DEI policies. A good example would be the wear and appearance of the military uniform. How on Earth do you navigate through the day with all of the special cases where transgenderism in smack in the middle of the platoon level?"

"When my MAJCOM commander told me I was a racist because I wasn't anti-racist as he waived Ibrahim X Kendi's intellectually garbage work? Brother, I was done."

"Why would one want to command? I'm guessing even hard charging officers know they'll be held hostage to the insanity that grips the Army these days. Future commanders might get the title, but they won't actually get to command; it's the zampolits (both unofficial and semi-official) who will do the actual "commanding."

"As a non-commissioned officer, my ultimate career goal was to achieve the rank of Command Sergeant Major. At the age of 23, holding the rank of E6, I seriously contemplated pursuing this path. However, the perceived prioritization of political maneuvering over merit in promotions beyond E7 ultimately dissuaded me."

"We're probably making officers who are like that – and even for some who want to be war fighters, commanding a battalion these days probably involves navigating a minefield of career-ending woke bullshit. I mean, think about it – the soldier causing all the trouble now announces he's trans...WTF are you gonna do?"

"Most are marking time till retirement and want out now with all that has gone on such as DEI."

"This cancer has spread through every command level on the active duty side as well as the GS system that's supporting the warfighters. A white male either bends the knee and walks on egg shells



or accepts the end of their career. Leader's decision are guided by fear of the system instead of truth and integrity."

"I imagine command is now less about leadership than it is about trying not to step on any DEI landmines."

"I suspect that many of them realize the power of DEI to destroy them if they reach for that brass ring. It is abundantly clear that Pentagon policy intends to advance the careers of minorities, women, and the LGBTQ crowd, and that policy uses the carrot and the stick."

"It's the weaponization of the complaint process (IG, EO, SHARP). Good commanders who hold people to a standard end up under investigation often and now ALL officers who have any substantiated investigation (no matter how minor) have this information reported in a data basis and is made available to promotion boards. It's risky to be in command."

"I'm aware of several dedicated career leaders, O5/O6 that ultimately chose the command of self and family, would have to change personal (and traditional) principals to continue; bend the knee to the political-DEI patronage system. Max out without kneeling and move on to retirement and civilian world; sad for our country, but making tremendous impact on the companies they are currently leading."

"Many things have happened. The promotion system has become decisively less meritocratic degrading the meaning and status of command but most of all the nature of command has changed. A lot more time is spent managing the vast amount of social-experiment driven admin tasks."

"Leaders deference to accusers and the whole "me too" crap are huge factors in this."

"Perhaps you don't understand the bullshit that COMES w/ those ranks these days. They want people they can turn into commies & DEI sycophants. If people are TURNING DOWN those roles, this says nothin but GOOD things to me."

"THIS is why the loser Military Brass embraced DEI insanity. It's a helluva lot easier to get rewarded for mandating Chinese Cultural Revolution seminars than developing measurable excellence in military skills. Subsidizing troop gender surgery fits the new model perfectly."

"FemiCommies & social justice. Too dangerous, not worth it."

"Wonder if it has anything to with being held accountable but given no real authority to hold personnel accountable? The "helping" agencies have been weaponized against leadership. One wrong look or word has you relieved and investigated, career over."

"Maybe the Commissars of DEI will get you cashiered or get your command wiped out."

"Maybe it has something to do with the CINC the last four years... those on active duty may not want to stay in for the same reasons veterans are not encouraging civilians to enlist."

"You could be right that this generation does not have the esprit de corps and the desire to lead that was prevalent when I retired 24 years ago. But there may be another reason. The upcoming batch of O-5s that would be in line for BNCO likely joined 20 years ago when you weren't required to deal with the bullshit DEI/gender criteria that appears to be needed for promotion in this age. So, they might just despise it enough that they don't want to participate in the command structure and would rather just be staff officers until they retire."





“It’s on par with the Soviet and PRC commanders having a political officer in their command.”

“Boards are DEI rigged so officers they KNOW are inferior to themselves are chosen. Why be humiliated participating in rigged process – and then hearing “I’m better than you” from DEI morons? WON’T get fixed until EVERY DEI selected in last four years is DEMOTED or GONE. Question is WILL Donald Trump and Pete Hegseth demote EVERY DEI selectee from last FOUR years if they won’t apply to retire before 20 Jan 2025? Better believe the Soldiers we need to stay are watching to see if we will actively rid DOD of every DEI mistake made.”

“DEI did that, now they want no part of it. Simple.”

“An O-6 who works in the DC area tells me they’re all terrified of some E-4 just feeling mean one day and ending their careers with a false accusation.”

“When I retired we could no longer hold female officers to the same standard as their male counterparts. I had young female officers who were grossly out of standards, could not qualify their primary watch station, & we could not give them a poor evaluation.”

“I recall asking a deck chief (sub tender) why the males appeared to be doing twice the work as the females. He told me some of the females would manufacture harassment claims if they were assigned undesirable jobs.”

“My son told me horror stories of the Army he was in, which was unrecognizable from the Army I was in.”

“My middle son is an Army Sergeant. He finally made it to BLC, where he wasn’t allowed to graduate because he sang “Colors of the wind” and someone decided that it was racist. The rot is deep,

down to the very bottom of the ranks. The officer corps of every service needs to be razed.”

“Also explains why so many DEI zealots ARE taking those O-5 positions, instead of qualified, verified leaders.”

“It’s important to point out that the vast majority of minority soldiers don’t benefit from the DEI bullshit at all. The last NG unit I served with was about 90% black (since the area it was in was 90% black, and NG reflects the region), and the majority who didn’t play the DEI games were just as hurt by the handful who do. What’s a black, female private to think when she sees her purple-haired, black, queer-but-married-to-a-man female captain slap a black, female E4 and threaten an EO complaint against either of them if they say anything? I mean, to me the O3 was wrong from the moment she dyed her hair a non-natural color, and if that standard isn’t being enforced, how is anything else going to be?”

“I have a family member who was relieved from her command over a BS issue such as what you’re describing. A warrior and incredible soldier, I almost couldn’t even believe my ears when I heard about it.”

“It’s even worse when you realize there is review authority of everyone up the chain from each of these O-5s. And it’s been happening for a while now. even if you beat an allegation and keep your CoC from reprisal, nothing stops more new allegations.”

“It’s actually worse than that. I know an O3 who has spent his career in SO. He turned down a rotation to a standard infantry unit because word is out that if soldiers don’t like the CO, they will make an DEI allegation that ruins the CO’s career. Why take the risk?”



“Kids quitting pilot training for this shit. Further, flying training quality has gone way, way down. It’s a shit show, as are most all the services’ “cool guy” specialties.”

“A big part of the problem is they start sending O-5s and up to get their masters degrees at woke schools like UNC-Chapel Hill, where they are indoctrinated in cultural marxism and then return to post with that mentality. Saw that happen to my buddy who was an SF LtCOL.”

“Roger. My 2 CG O-3 sons are separating soon; they have no desire to become what they see above them.”

“Had this happen as a DoD contractor when a poor performing coworker was faced with a very poor performance review, he threw out the gay card. Our manager was the one the one who got in trouble and we were left with someone who did not have to do anything.”

“That’s why my nephew (O-3) bugged out. He realized as a white male he could not make a career in the military.”

“24 years, retired Air Force. I can’t adequately express my horror, outrage, rage, and disgust at what Clinton started, and Obama massively expanded in our armed forces. Civilians have zero fucking clue just how gravely dangerous Woke/DEI in our armed forces is to our security.”

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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/>

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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, 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.”

“Work/Fought 19 years 11 months 3 weeks 6 days with 1 day retirement pension ahead but kicked out by not taking an experimental shot, changed a few minds to join. That and woke attitudes!”

“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 Job 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 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 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."

"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."

"When you force out over 8000 troops because they won't take an experimental useless

injection.....then you wonder why people distrust the military?"

"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."

"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 ppl on the chopping block and kicked one out just before the Ohio lawsuit. And



the funny thing about the readiness part... the ppl 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. Its 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."

"The warrior class join the military for their own reasons. If others think they aren't smart enough to figure it out on their own, then they don't understand the warrior mindset. No warrior wants to be associated with woke ideology or identity politics. Forced vaccinations devastated enlistments as well. The jab is killing young men in astounding numbers -- far more than all military conflicts this century combined. The vaccine "hesitant" were right and the authoritarians were wrong. The DoD is screwed."

#### **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 it 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."

"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."

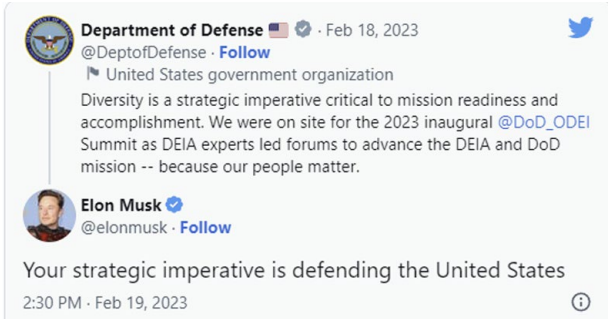
"As a retired Army officer, I can say that let's hope we don't have to be involved in another major military operation like Iraq or Afghanistan. Their lack of leadership and moral courage is on display for the entire world to see what they did to our soldiers. If I were in these soldiers' shoes, I'd tell them in no uncertain terms I have lost complete faith in Army leadership."

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## 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.”

“The only strategic strategy is to ensure the readiness and defense of our great nation. That’s it! Diversity weakens, not strengthens. Do your job!”

“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.”

“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.”

