



SECRETARY OF WAR  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

FEB - 6 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP  
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS  
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOW FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Rebuilding the Warrior Ethos in Professional Military Education

As part of my commitment to restore the warrior ethos within the Department of War, it is imperative to stay mission focused across the full spectrum of expenditures. This includes maximizing our return on investment when officers and senior enlisted Service members attend expensive civilian universities. Graduates should emerge much more capable warfighters. Unfortunately, America's highly ranked universities no longer live up to their promise to develop critical thinking from multiple viewpoints. Too often, our warfighters are taught what to think not how to think.

Harvard University, where I received a master's degree, is a prime example of what was once a world-leading university becoming an institution that fails to encourage open inquiry and debate. Harvard's partisan faculty negative bias towards military actions and discourages alternative viewpoints, limiting critical thinking. Further, its administration has sponsored troubling partnerships with foreign adversaries. This bizarre and unacceptable bias reduces the return on investment for Service members attending Harvard.

President Trump understands this. Under his leadership, several government agencies issued a letter to Harvard, noting that "Harvard has in recent years failed to live up to both the intellectual and civil rights conditions that justify federal investment."

In the Department of War, we have the mission to best prepare our warfighters for the battlefield, whether in the classroom or on the weapons range. Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, I am discontinuing all graduate level Professional Military Education, fellowships, and certificate programs between Harvard University and the Department of War for active-duty Service members.

This policy only applies to active-duty Service members enrolling in future years. Any currently enrolled Service members may finish their courses of study.

With some exceptions, Ivy League universities have pervasive bias that undercuts our mission and coddles adversaries. By February 21<sup>st</sup>, Components will evaluate all existing graduate programs for active-duty Service members at Ivy League universities — and any other universities that similarly diminish critical thinking and have significant adversary involvement — and determine whether they deliver cost effective, strategic education for future senior leaders when compared to public universities and military master's programs.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "PBW".



OSD001401-26/CMD001840-26