

# www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

[www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

**Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites**

[www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

## **Level 5**

### **Debate over US military transgender policy**

**29th July, 2017**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170729-transgender-5.html>

## **Contents**

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

**Twitter**



[twitter.com/SeanBanville](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

**Google +**



<https://plus.google.com/+SeanBanville>

# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170729-transgender-5.html>

Donald Trump's desire to ban transgender people from serving in the USA military has run into problems. Military bosses at the Pentagon have said that there will be "no modifications" to its policy of allowing transgender people to serve until it receives formal notification from the White House. The Pentagon said: "In the meantime, we will continue to treat all of our personnel with respect." It added: "There will be no modifications to the current policy until...direction has been received by the Secretary of Defense and the secretary has issued implementation guidance."

President Trump tweeted on Wednesday that: "The United States Government will not accept or allow transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military. Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail." This reversed a policy that President Barack Obama approved. Republican John McCain said: "Any American who meets current medical and readiness standards should be allowed to continue serving."

Sources: <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/07/27/539760575/joint-chiefs-chairman-says-transgender-policy-wont-change-yet>  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-07-27/pentagon-pushes-back-on-trump-bid-to-change-transgender-policy>  
<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/07/26/politics/trump-military-transgender/index.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170729-transgender-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                      |                           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Trump's desire to                 | a. with respect           |
| 2. run into                          | b. people to serve        |
| 3. there will be "no modifications"  | c. guidance               |
| 4. allowing transgender              | d. problems               |
| 5. until it receives formal          | e. the current policy     |
| 6. treat all of our personnel        | f. ban transgender people |
| 7. There will be no modifications to | g. notification           |
| 8. issued implementation             | h. to its policy          |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. not accept or allow transgender | a. readiness standards  |
| 2. serve in any                    | b. burdened             |
| 3. Our military must               | c. individuals          |
| 4. decisive and                    | d. serving              |
| 5. cannot be                       | e. capacity             |
| 6. the tremendous                  | f. be focused           |
| 7. meets current medical and       | g. medical costs        |
| 8. should be allowed to continue   | h. overwhelming victory |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170729-transgender-5.html>

Donald Trump's (1) \_\_\_\_\_ transgender people from serving in the USA military (2) \_\_\_\_\_ problems. Military bosses at the Pentagon have said that there will be "no modifications" (3) \_\_\_\_\_ allowing transgender people to serve until it receives formal (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the White House. The Pentagon said: "In the meantime, we will continue (5) \_\_\_\_\_ our personnel with respect." It added: "There will be no modifications to the current policy until...direction has been received by the Secretary of Defense and the secretary (6) \_\_\_\_\_ implementation guidance."

President Trump (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday that: "The United States Government will (8) \_\_\_\_\_ allow transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military. Our military must be focused (9) \_\_\_\_\_ overwhelming victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous (10) \_\_\_\_\_ disruption that transgender in the military (11) \_\_\_\_\_." This reversed a policy that President Barack Obama approved. Republican John McCain said: "Any American who meets current medical and readiness standards should (12) \_\_\_\_\_ continue serving."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170729-transgender-5.html>

Donald Trump's desire to ban transgender people from serving in the US military has run into problems. Military bosses at the Pentagon have said that there will be "no modifications" to its policy of allowing transgender people to serve until it receives formal notification from the White House. The Pentagon said: "In the meantime, we will continue to treat all of our personnel with respect." It added: "There will be no modification to the current policy until... direction has been received by the Secretary of Defense and the secretary has issued implementation guidance." President Trump tweeted on Wednesday that: "The United States Government will not accept or allow transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military. Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail." This reversed a policy that President Barack Obama approved. Republican John McCain said: "Any American who meets current medical and readiness standards should be allowed to continue serving."

# TRANSGENDER SOLDIERS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170729-transgender-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about transgender soldiers in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

*Debate over US military transgender policy – 29th July, 2017*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

---

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

