



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on May 7, 2021

Published in the May 24, 2021 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 37, No. 10

Biden Has Ordered the Military to Recruit “Transgenders” What Could Go Wrong?

When President Joe Biden lifted his predecessor’s ban on “transgenders” — persons who mistakenly believe they are “trapped” in a body with the wrong “gender” — during his first week in office, Corporal Max Klinger of television’s *M*A*S*H** stopped being a joke.

An hirsute man of Lebanese extraction, Klinger wanted to be home in Toledo watching his beloved Mud Hens, not serving in Korea. And so he dressed like a woman to get a Section 8 discharge, a separation for mental illness. The running gag was that he failed because he was faking it, everyone knew he was faking it, and he knew they knew he was faking it. He only *pretended* to be a woman, and wasn’t crazy enough to believe he was one.

But now, men who really *do believe* they are women — a sign of mental illness — will be flitting around the Pentagon, as will women who mistakenly think they, too, were “misgendered” at birth. Pretenders such as Klinger will have their place, too, of course.

Biden’s decision, followed by new policies that took effect on April 30, was not surprising. He promised he would upend just about any good President Donald Trump did for the country, from building a border wall to protecting the military from the latest experiment in sexual revolution. Thus, Biden is doing his level best to wreck other agencies beside the Pentagon.

He installed Richard Levine, who calls himself Rachel and wears long hair, dresses, and jewelry, for instance, as No. 2 at the Department of Health and Human Services. The decision means that a mentally disturbed man, who thinks pre-pubescent kids should get hormone shots to block puberty, will help supervise health policy for 340 million Americans.

But targeting the Pentagon elevated Biden’s attack on the normal to a whole new level. Individuals as disturbed as Levine will serve in the fox hole and on submarines, and fly fighter jets and helicopters. They could affect and might control everything from the military’s recruitment and training to multi-million-dollar weapons systems and nuclear launch codes.

Nor was Biden’s order to recruit and promote the mentally ill a sneak attack. Anyone could have predicted it based on the social experimentation that had already taken place, beginning in the 1990s with the push to put women in combat.

Such has been the success of that dangerous idea, even conservative Republicans, in keeping with their



AP Images



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on May 7, 2021

Published in the May 24, 2021 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 37, No. 10

disposition to defend the last leftist revolution, no longer oppose it. They won't even discuss it. But that truth is immaterial to how the radical Left transmogrified the military from a war-fighting machine into a siege engine for their culture war on Americans.

Women in Combat

The subversion began 30 years ago with the push by the Defense Advisory Committee for Women in the Services, a feminist beachhead inside the Pentagon, to put women in combat. Military women were not requesting such assignments, but that didn't matter to the feminists who would never suffer what will someday be the result of their batty idea: *mandatory* combat assignments, and then the draft.

In 1992, the Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces, for which this writer served as media liaison, studied the idea. Commissioners heard testimony that showed the strongest woman is only as strong as the weakest man. They heard about the problems of pregnancy and hygiene in the field. They heard that men would have to be trained to ignore the abuse of women if women received combat assignments. They heard from combat veterans such as Marine Corps hero Colonel John Ripley, a Navy Cross recipient, who testified that assigning women to combat was unthinkable — and un-American. They heard that a survey of retired flag officers found that a vast majority opposed the idea.

The sum total of the argument against women in combat was this, as one commissioner said: Men are not big women, and women are not little men.

Nonetheless, egalitarian superstition prevailed over science and good sense. And so the commission published a wishy-washy report that recommended women for limited combat assignments. Ground combat and fighter jets, though, were out. Conservative commission members produced a minority addendum, *The Case Against Women in Combat*, which conclusively demonstrated that assigning women to combat units was not only militarily and culturally dangerous, but also a galactically foolish proposal that would harm the military *and* women, particularly military women, the vast majority of whom were not seeking combat assignments. But again, few if any of the feminist promoters of the idea would see combat.

Still, in 1994, the military banned women from combat units, a decision that President Barack Hussein Obama shamefully reversed under pressure from angry feminists who argued that women can do anything men can do, only better.

As this writer wrote for *The New American* in 2013, Marine Corps Captain Katie Petronio unsparingly attacked that egalitarian hooey. "Get Over It!" shouted the headline over her piece for the *Marine Corps Gazette* in 2012. "We Are Not All Created Equal."

Petronio, a top-flight college hockey player, scored 292 of 300 on her Marine Corps fitness test. Yet "five years later," she wrote at the time, "I am physically not the woman I once was and my views have greatly changed on the possibility of women having successful long careers while serving in the infantry."

Long, grueling deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan compromised her health, she wrote:

By the fifth month into [Afghanistan] deployment, I had muscle atrophy in my thighs that was causing me to constantly trip and my legs to buckle with the slightest grade change. My



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on May 7, 2021

Published in the May 24, 2021 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 37, No. 10

agility during firefights and mobility on and off vehicles and perimeter walls was seriously hindering my response time and overall capability. It was evident that stress and muscular deterioration was affecting everyone regardless of gender; however, the rate of my deterioration was noticeably faster than that of male Marines and further compounded by gender-specific medical conditions.

Though Petronio called her combat tours a success, she lost 17 pounds and her fertility. “There is no way I could endure the physical demands of the infantrymen whom I worked beside,” she concluded, worried that her career would end not with retirement but medical separation.

Other military women would suffer similarly, which is not surprising given what members of the presidential commission learned: Women are injured more easily than men and endure the same grueling physical punishment that combat entails. The vast majority of women routinely fail sex-neutral physical-fitness tests; that is, they cannot meet the same standards as men.

None of that mattered, though, because “diversity is a strategic imperative,” a Navy admiral said. Women had to have “equal opportunity.” Most military women and women in general didn’t want the equal opportunity to get killed, but the feminists certainly wouldn’t listen to that simple truth.



G.I. Jane no more: Marine Corps Captain Katie Petronio, who excelled at her Marine Corps fitness testing, was physically exhausted and suffered health problems after serving combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2012, she came out against women serving in combat. *(Photo credit: CNN.com screen grab)*

At about the same time, homosexuals, banned with good reason from the service since the 18th century, began agitating to plant the Rainbow Pride flag in the Pentagon. In 1993, Congress passed and President Bill Clinton signed the “don’t-ask, don’t-tell” policy that permitted homosexuals to serve if they kept quiet about their “lifestyle.” In 2010, a federal judge ruled that law was unconstitutional because it was “discriminatory,” which scared Congress into repealing it. Congress then scrapped the military’s law against homosexual sodomy.

Morale, good order, discipline, and unit cohesion were tossed out the window. Normal military men and women would have to sleep with one eye open.



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on May 7, 2021

Published in the May 24, 2021 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 37, No. 10

Indeed, the data on homosexual sex assault in the military are staggering. In 2014, the Rand Corporation reported that 12,000 military men reported a sexual assault. In 2015, the American Psychological Association stated that the number of sex assaults on men in the military was 15 times higher than reported. In 2016, the Defense Department found that men were 42 percent of sex-assault victims in the military. In 2018, 7,500 military men experienced penetrative homosexual rape.

Yet uniformed military personnel openly march in “gay pride” parades these days. The Lavender Legion had scaled its Gay Suribachi.

Biden’s Order

But that was just the beginning of the war against discipline and good order — and common sense.

Having prevailed in the culture war to send women into a role for which nature did not prepare them, and homosexuals into a target-rich environment, the Left advanced on its next objective: permitting the sexually confused and mentally ill to serve. Biden obliged. So now the military, as the song goes, will be a cabaret, old chum.

“Gender identity should not be a bar to military service,” Biden opined in the order he signed five days after taking office. “There is substantial evidence that allowing transgender individuals to serve in the military does not have any meaningful negative impact on the Armed Forces.”

In other words, people who live in a disordered, dangerous fantasy world, such as the proverbial mental case who thinks he’s Napoleon, will now fill the ranks.

And so the military’s new policies on “transgenders” took effect, the most significant of which is that the Pentagon has *completely* surrendered to “transgender” ideology. It won’t just permit “transgenders” to serve. It will go along with their charade, and purposely abuse and mutilate service members with “medical care,” meaning hormones and “gender reassignment” surgery.

“Service members with a diagnosis that gender transition is medically necessary will receive associated medical care and treatment from a medical provider,” Pentagon policy says:

Medical providers will provide advice to commanders in a manner consistent with processes used for other medical conditions that may limit the Service member’s performance of official duties.

Any medical care and treatment provided to an individual Service member in the process of gender transition will be provided in the same manner as other medical care and treatment.

Nothing in this issuance will be construed to authorize a commander to deny medically necessary treatment to a Service member.

In other words, the Pentagon is now in the business of amputating breasts and penises on physically healthy but mentally disturbed service members.

To justify this madness, Biden had to ignore what psychiatrists have always known about “transgenders” who wish to mutilate or have mutilated themselves. When the “tranny” craze began a few years ago, renowned psychiatrist Paul R. McHugh explained this at length.

“The idea that exchange of one’s sex is possible ... is starkly, nakedly false,” the retired Johns Hopkins



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on May 7, 2021

Published in the May 24, 2021 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 37, No. 10

psychiatry professor wrote. “Transgendered men do not become women, nor do transgendered women become men. All (including Bruce Jenner) become feminized men or masculinized women, counterfeits or impersonators of the sex with which they ‘identify.’ In that lies their problematic future.”

That future is often suicide, McHugh explained. A study in Sweden of mutilated “transgenderers” found they had condemned themselves to “lifelong mental unrest.... Ten to fifteen years after surgical reassignment, the suicide rate of those who had undergone sex-reassignment surgery rose to twenty times that of comparable peers.”

That suggests that these poor, confused people desperately need a psychiatrist to help rid them of the fantasy that they are “trapped” in the “wrong body,” as opposed to what “transgender activists” want: hormone treatment and surgery to put them in the “right” one.

Though many “transgender women” such as Caitlyn Jenner “come to their disordered assumption through being sexually aroused by the image of themselves as women,” most teenagers — the real victims of what McHugh calls the “transgender meme” — “are utterly different from Jenner. They have no erotic interest driving their quest.”

Instead, “they come with psychosocial issues — conflicts over the prospects, expectations, and roles that they sense are attached to their given sex — and presume that sex-reassignment will ease or resolve them,” he wrote. McHugh continued:

The grim fact is that most of these youngsters do not find therapists willing to assess and guide them in ways that permit them to work out their conflicts and correct their assumptions. Rather, they and their families find only “gender counselors” who encourage them in their sexual misassumptions....

What is needed now is public clamor for coherent science — biological and therapeutic science — examining the real effects of these efforts to “support” transgendering. Although much is made of a rare “intersex” individual, no evidence supports the claim that people such as Bruce Jenner have a biological source for their transgender assumptions. Plenty of evidence demonstrates that with him and most others, transgendering is a psychological rather than a biological matter.

That’s because so-called gender dysphoria, the feelings that one is “misgendered,” meaning the opposite of one’s real sex, “belongs in the family of similarly disordered assumptions about the body, such as anorexia nervosa and body dysmorphic disorder.”

Continued McHugh:

Its treatment should not be directed at the body as with surgery and hormones any more than one treats obesity-fearing anorexic patients with liposuction. The treatment should strive to correct the false, problematic nature of the assumption and to resolve the psychosocial conflicts provoking it. With youngsters, this is best done in family therapy.

In other words, the military will do the exact opposite of what it should do. It will harm the very Americans it has recruited to defend the country by validating their “misgendering” fantasy. And when



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on May 7, 2021

Published in the May 24, 2021 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 37, No. 10

the harm is done to “transgenders” before they enlist or enter a service academy or officer training, the military will *recruit* them.

Indeed, the recruiting has begun. As one “transgender man” said when the new policies were announced, the Army, Marines, and Air Force contacted her almost immediately.

Ultimate Import

Let’s sum up what the decision means: Biden will put weapons, from small arms to multi-million-dollar missile systems, into the hands of mentally-disturbed people who are prone to suicide. The suicidal are not unknown for trying to take someone with them.

But suicide aside, other consequences abound.

“Transgender men” — women who wrongly believe they are men — will serve in combat units and weaken them, hormone shots regardless. “Transgender women” — men who wrongly believe they are women — will share quarters with real women and threaten them, hormone shots regardless.

Given Petronio’s testimony, one must ask how hormone treatment and “gender reassignment” surgery will affect the combat performance of a man who is “transitioning.” Will a once-capable combat soldier become weaker and less effective? Can a woman who wants to become a man ever become as strong and physically fit as the men with whom she will serve?

The answers are obvious, but the real import of what Biden has done is this: In a few short years, the military has moved from accepting patently crazy *ideas*, such as women in combat and homosexuals in the squad bay, to recruiting crazy *people*.

If President Joe Biden gets his way, someday the secretary of defense might be a man who thinks he is a woman, prancing around the Pentagon in Manolo Blahnik heels with a Louis Vuitton purse dangling from his arm. Maybe he’ll wear a feather boa, too. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff could well be a woman who pretends she is a man, but is so confused and depressed after “gender reassignment” that her decisions get service members killed.

This latest lurch to the cultural left won’t end well for the confused, mentally ill men and women whom the Pentagon either recruits or mutilates and permanently disables, if not drives to suicide, with the taxpayers’ money. Nor will it bode well for those who must serve with them. But worse still, it won’t end well for the country. The radical Left has finally prevailed in its battle to change the military’s principal purpose — fighting this nation’s wars and defeating its enemies. Its mission now is fighting for egalitarian ideology.

Corporal Klinger is no longer a joke. What could possibly go wrong?



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on May 7, 2021

Published in the May 24, 2021 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 37, No. 10

Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative, non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



[Subscribe](#)

What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.