

SEVEN SHOWER GUIDELINES

A distinguished commission that included three retired General Officers and leading scholars and experts on military gender issues has carefully studied privacy concerns related to transgender military service. The Commission's findings, published in the *Report of the Planning Commission on Transgender Military Service*¹ in August 2014, concluded that these privacy concerns would not impact readiness and were manageable under the same principles used to maintain privacy for men and women who are not transgender:

Management of privacy concerns in military facilities has traditionally been a matter of command judgment and discretion, and the military has extensive experience in addressing those concerns when men and women live and shower in close quarters. Similar issues that arise as a result of transgender service may require resolution on a case-by-case basis, and commanders should not be constrained by across-the-board policies. No regulatory changes are needed.

When they address privacy concerns, commanders should adhere to the following guidelines: (1) Upon beginning the process of transition, transgender personnel should use the accommodations of their target gender; (2) When practical, facilities should have some private, enclosed changing areas, showers, and toilets for use by any service member who desires them; (3) Temporary, reasonable compromises may be appropriate for transitioning individuals; (4) However, transgender personnel should not be required to use separate facilities; (5) Commanders should not create separate, new bathroom facilities or living quarters for the exclusive purpose of accommodating or segregating transgender personnel, because this would have the effect of formally setting up discriminatory systems; (6) However, commanders should have the discretion to modify bathroom and shower schedules as well as berthing or billeting assignments on a case-by-case basis if necessary to maintain morale, good order, and discipline; (7) Service members should be given the opportunity to wear shower shorts and/or shirts during compulsory group showers. All members of the military should be reminded that privacy is not guaranteed and that such minimal privacy is not a bar to mission accomplishment.

¹ Major General Gale S. Pollock & Shannon Minter, Report of the Planning Commission on Transgender Military Service (Palm Center 2014), 13, <http://www.palmcenter.org/files/Report%20of%20Planning%20Commission%20on%20Transgender%20Military%20Service.pdf>.