



## CONTENTS

- ◆ AIR FORCE TRANSGENDER POLICY
- ◆ KEESLER FIREARM POLICY
- ◆ TAX CENTER NOW OPEN
- ◆ IMMIGRATION REP AT KEESLER ON 19 MAY
- ◆ CONTACT US



# Dragon Legal Digest

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## Air Force Transgender Policy

On Sept. 30, 2016, the DOD released a handbook designed to provide guidance about the new policy allowing transgender members to serve openly in the military. On Oct. 6, 2016, the Air Force released its implementing policy outlining the roles and responsibilities for commanders, military medical providers, and transgender Airmen in developing and approving a transition request. There are seven main takeaways from the policy memo:

1. Service members must be diagnosed with gender dysphoria by a military medical provider (MMP), stating that it is medically necessary to be treated in order to fall within the new policy. A diagnosis from a civilian provider that has been validated by an MMP is also sufficient.
2. Airmen are expected to use facilities and meet all requirements, including uniform, dress & appearance, and physical-fitness requirements, that match their gender designation in DEERS.
3. Airmen may request an exception to policy to their commander to be treated as a different gender for AFI and other requirements. Commanders should consult with JA on all exception requests.
4. Airmen requesting to transition from one gender to the other must work with their medical provider to draft a treatment plan and send it to their commander for approval.
5. After reaching the change period of a treatment plan, the individual must obtain “legal” documentation of their new gender, such as a birth certificate, court order, or U.S. Passport. The MMP must also provide written confirmation to the individual’s commander that the transition is complete.
6. The individual must get written approval from his or her commander to change the gender marker in DEERS.
7. Gender dysphoria is not an authorized reason for separation, discharge, or denial of reenlistment.

For additional information, the DoD handbook can be found at [http://www.defense.gov/Portals/1/features/2016/0616\\_policy/DoDTGHandbook\\_093016.pdf?ver=2016-09-30-160933-837](http://www.defense.gov/Portals/1/features/2016/0616_policy/DoDTGHandbook_093016.pdf?ver=2016-09-30-160933-837) and the Air Force memorandum at [http://static.epublishing.af.mil/production/1/af\\_a1/publication/\\_afpm2016-36-01/afpm2016-36-01.pdf](http://static.epublishing.af.mil/production/1/af_a1/publication/_afpm2016-36-01/afpm2016-36-01.pdf).

## Keesler Firearm Policy

On Nov. 18, 2016, the DOD issued DOD Directive 5210.56, *Arming and the Use of Force*, about military members carrying privately owned firearms on DOD property for personal protection not related to the performance of an official duty or status. The Air Force and AETC are currently reviewing the policy but as of now, no changes have been made to previous guidance.

That means that until further guidance is released, Keesler personnel **are not authorized** to carry personal firearms onto the installation for other than official duties. For personnel who wish to carry a personal firearm during their commute, they can work with the 81st Security Forces Squadron to store their weapon in the armory and retrieve it at the end of the day.

### Keesler Tax Center Now Open

The Keesler Tax Center is now open in room 229 of the Sablich Center. Service is by appointment only, and appointments are available Monday thru Friday from 0900 to 1530 by calling 228-376-8141.

On non-training Fridays the tax center operates in the Levitow building from 0900 to 1530.

### Citizenship or Immigration Questions?

A representative from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services will be at the Legal Office on Friday, 19 May to answer questions and provide specific guidance for Airmen and their dependents. Call 376-8601 for more info or to make an appointment.

## CONTACT US



### **81 TRW/JA**

Sablich Center  
2d Floor, Suite 227  
Phone: 376-8601

For will worksheets or Powers of Attorney please visit our website below.

Don't forget to send us or bring in your ticket number!

<https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>

### **Wills Appointments**

**By Appointment Only**  
**Tuesday (9-10 a.m.)**  
**Thursday (2-3 p.m.)**

### **Legal Assistance By**

**Appointment Only**  
**Monday (1:30-3:30 p.m.)**  
**Wednesday (9-11 a.m.)**

### **Powers of Attorney & Notaries**

**WALK-INS**  
**Mon-Fri (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)**