

12/3/2024

To: Pete Hegseth, President-elect Trump's nominee for Secretary of Defense

RE: Returning our military to excellence by removing woke ideologues

Dear Mr. Hegseth,

As you are aware, the woke takeover of the military is a major threat to our national security. Military leaders should be focused on cultivating excellence, cohesion, and lethality in our armed forces. Wokeness, on the other hand, seeks to institutionalize promotions based on race rather than merit, turn our troops against each other, and prioritizes ideological purity. As global tensions rise, with Iran on the march, Russia at war, and China in midst of a massive military buildup, we cannot afford to have a military distracted and demoralized by leftist ideology. Our nation's security is at stake.

Purging the woke from the military is imperative, but just revering woke policies would not be enough to bring our military to peak preparedness. Those who were responsible for these policies being instituted in the first place must be dismissed. As you, sir, eloquently put it, "Any... General, Admiral, whatever that was involved in any of the DEI woke sh*t has got to go."

We applaud your mission to root out woke military leaders and write to you today to share the names of some woke individuals that you can show the door on day 1. Please see the following:

Air Force General Kevin B. Schneider:

- Vocally discusses and supports the DEI agenda in a YouTube [interview](#), claiming that:
 - "We're trying to eliminate the barriers, open the doors and make sure that we can have the best most capable force that our nation can provide."



- Schneider says we will know we've made considerable gains with respect to diversity, equity, and inclusion when it becomes "part of our DNA"
- He says DEI is an issue for leadership at all levels that we're going to have to continue to have conversations about

Navy Vice Admiral Shoshana Chatfield:

- Made [two separate](#) LinkedIn posts supporting the 2022 CNAF DEI Summit she attended
- Gave [speech](#) at Women's Equality Day event in 2015
 - She mentioned that 80% of the legislators in Congress are men which means that most of the issues that become bills and laws are only important to men, saying "it seems a bit unequal what issues go forward."
 - Quoted saying "our diversity is our strength"
 - Concluded her discussion on the importance of equal rights by quoting Slide 35 of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute's informational presentation on Women's Equality Day: "Investing in gender equality and women's empowerment can unlock human potential on a transformational scale."

Air Force Maj. Gen. Elizabeth E. Arledge:

- Multiple woke posts on her X (Twitter) profile ranging from intersectionality to white privilege to LGBT rights:
 - Posts about [intersectionality](#)
 - Posts about "[whiteness](#)"
 - Retweet about [LGBTQ rights](#)
 - Retweet about honoring [Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#) on a stamp

Air Force Maj. Gen. Jody A. Merritt:



- Served as a [panelist](#) for a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion panel on Aug. 23, 2021

Army Lieutenant General Laura A. Potter:

- While [explaining](#) the four priorities of Army military intelligence, Potter noted that the personnel effort is also focused on promoting diversity and inclusion
- Potter said that over her 32-year long career she has been able to witness many [changes](#) in support of diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Touches on the importance of DEI in [interview](#) (14:05-14:40)

Air Force Maj. Gen. Stacy Jo Huser:

- Gave [talk](#) spotlighting DEI in leadership at Ole Miss
- Joined the NNSA's DEIA effort and [prides herself](#) as a member of the group
- LinkedIn [post](#) about underrepresented women of color in military

Air Force Maj. Gen. John R. Edwards:

- [Member](#) of the Pacific Islander/Asian American Community Team for the The Department of the Air Force Barrier Analysis Working Group (DAFBAWG) which aims to identify barriers in civilian and military workplace policies to equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion, and devise plans to eliminate them
- Shared [post](#) on LinkedIn linking an [article](#) outlining drastic DEI policy implementations
- [Co-leads](#) the Asian-Pacific Islander subgroup with the Air Force Diversity Task Force

Army Lieutenant General Anthony R. Hale:

- Hale [visited 14 HBCUs](#) to diversify the Military Intelligence Corps
 - Quoted saying “And as we look at diversity, equity and inclusion, getting after and doing something about the diversity within our M-I Corps just makes us better.”



- “I have been visiting Historically Black Colleges and Universities for the last year of my command of Fort Huachuca because I made it my objective to get on a campaign to recruit more minorities in the Intel Corps,” [Hale said](#).
- Made a [Pride Month statement](#) in 2021 and shared it to his Twitter

Air Force Col. Benjamin R. Jonsson:

- Published an [article](#) entitled: "Dear white colonel ... we must address our blind spots around race"
 - Quoted in the article saying "Defensiveness is a predictable response by white people to any discussion of racial injustice"
 - Says white colonels are "largely blind to institutional racism"
 - Recommends Robin DiAngelo's "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism" at the end of the article
- Helped lead diversity and inclusion [panel](#) in 2021
- Serves as the [Vice Superintendent](#) of the Air Force Academy which has come under fire recently over radical DEI indoctrination

Army Maj. Gen. Ronald R. Ragin:

- [Spoke](#) about #ProjectInclusion to cadets during a panel discussion about diversity and "Why Representation Matters"
 - "We're gonna work hard and we're gonna continue to strive to make sure that we're the most diverse force in the Army, and that will allow us to dominate and win on future battlefields" says Ragin
- According to their official webpage, "[Project Inclusion](#) is the U.S. Army's new initiative to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion across the force and build cohesive teams...this holistic effort will listen to the Soldiers, Army Civilians and Family Members, and identify practices that inadvertently discriminate."



- During the ruck march on April 1, Ragin [spoke](#) with a lieutenant about the importance of today's youth seeing their gender, ethnicity or culture represented by someone in uniform.

Navy Vice Admiral Brendan McLane:

- [Spoke](#) at first-ever Naval Surface Force Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Symposium
 - “We have to take the notes from this symposium out to the fleet,” said McLane. “We have to spread the word. This is just like maintenance; it needs to be done 100% of the time.”
 - ...the Navy needs to do whatever it can to keep top performers around to serve as tomorrow's leaders. In some cases, that means [building an inclusive environment](#) where all sailors can feel welcome, as well as perhaps giving some sailors additional mentoring or training so they can achieve their full potential and help create a diverse leadership team down the line
 - “Retaining the very best people that we have and promoting them, that I think is an individual inside-the-lifeline task that each captain has to take on,” McLane said. “And that's the reason we're having this conference

Navy Vice Admiral Jeffrey Hughes:

- Gave [presentation](#) at controversial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion summit in Suffolk, VA, on April 23, 2022 where he "emphasized the three pillars of DEI in the Navy going forward"
- Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael Gilday [failed to answer](#) how much the summit costed and what its purpose was when questioned by Rep. Jim Banks
- [Spoke](#) about seeing success in flexible career progression, education during a webinar sponsored by #NatSecGirlsSquad



- #NatSecGirlsSquad is a start-up [organization](#) that “builds and supports competent diversity in national security and defense through its professional development community and strategic advisory services”
- Made [opening remarks](#) at Naval Recruiting Command's inaugural "Diversity Awareness Day" during which he was commander of the NRC (meaning he likely spearheaded the event)
- [Received award](#) from Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers that celebrated NRC's endorsement initiatives... as well as Hispanic diversity efforts by the Navy.
- In [Dec. 2016 issue](#) of Navy Recruiter magazine, Hughes states "We recently realigned the diversity team, including city outreach, from the headquarters N3 (operations) department to the headquarters N9 (marketing and advertising) department. This move allows us to more effectively focus our diversity related resources to the most impactful parts of the recruiting process."

Air Force Maj. Gen. Scott A. Cain:

- Published ["unity message"](#) to Eglin AFB after George Floyd's death
- Cain appears in a [video](#) with DEI director Cecil Williams discussing the importance of "having conversations" in the aftermath of George Floyd
 - Says, "We really need to take a critical examination of what the truth is about diversity in our ranks...we celebrate diversity for its strength, but we need to have a conversation about what it really means”
 - "Everyone on our team is coming from a different place, coming with a different perspective, and some people are coming with a **bias** whether it's a **conscious bias or not.**"
 - DEI director Cecil Williams mentions the importance of "**unconscious bias training**" which is "now more critical than ever”



- Cain oversaw the [implementation of a DEI office](#) at Eglin AFB (under the leadership of Cecil Williams), **one of the first in the Air Force**, after Floyd's death
 - Cain called the creation of the DEI office his "most long-standing and significant accomplishment" in [exit interview](#)
- Participated (and maybe spearheaded?) a [Black Health and Wellness Panel](#) at Eglin AFB in which he is quoted saying “whether it’s race, discrimination or sexism issues, these issues are being more recognized. I hope for more evidence those behaviors are decreasing or going away. I want to see evidence that the fact we are all talking about those subjects more, leads to change.”

Army Lieutenant General Andrew M. Rohling:

- Made [opening remarks](#) at Project Inclusion in Italy
 - “Project Inclusion is aimed at enacting Army-wide initiatives that promote diversity, equity and inclusion. As America’s most respected institution, we must lead on these issues. We must work to end bias and prejudice in all its forms, and ensure equal opportunity, dignity, and respect for all.”

Air Force Brig. Gen. Corey A. Simmons:

- [Oversaw](#) the creation of a Diversity and Inclusion Task Force at Vance AFB
 - Discusses the importance of diversity and inclusion in a [video](#) entitled “Diversity and Culture Message”
 - “Travis leadership team is 100% dedicated to the four principles foundational to diversity and inclusion”

Navy Admiral Lisa Franchetti:

- [Delivered](#) a video message at the 2023 Naval Surface Forces Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Summit, where she harped on the importance of “connectedness” as a military value



- The Summit's [objectives](#) were to:
 - Educate – Develop awareness on bias, mentoring, and psychological safety.
 - Listen – Identify blind spots in outreach (accessions) and equity/inclusion (retention) across the Surface Enterprise.
 - Network – Initiate and cultivate relationships, connections, and cohesion to increase learning.
 - Resolve – Propose recommendations for improvements and subsequent actions
- Liked [LinkedIn post](#) about gender bias and inequality

Navy Rear Admiral Neil A. Koprowski:

- Worked with [group on Kearsarge that addressed supposed “systemic racism”](#)
 - Koprowski finished his comments, making mention of the Navy’s ‘Task Force One’ initiative, established to combat discrimination and other destructive biases, in the Navy. ... Nearly 30 Kearsarge Sailors participated in the special task force. According to the Department of the Navy, this work done by Sailors and members of leadership throughout the fleet will seek to promptly address the full spectrum of systemic racism, advocate for the needs of underserved communities, work to dismantle barriers and equalize professional development frameworks and opportunities within the Navy.

Navy Rear Adm. Amy Bauernschmidt:

- Promotes diversity over merit as reason for promotion in [interview](#) regarding assuming Lincoln commanding officer duties.
 - “You know, I think the interesting thing as captain, we talked earlier about the different perspectives that are brought to an organization by those with a diverse background. It could be race, religion, what part of the country you grew up in, you know, there’s sooo many ways you can



slice into the diversity concept....It really makes us all better and stronger as an organization.

- Cites diversity as leading criteria for good leaders
 - While aboard Stockdale and San Diego, he asked the ships' leadership and Sailors what they think could be improved throughout the fleet. 'He is focused on diversity and resiliency of the crew, and I believe him when he asks how can D.C help,' said Capt. Amy N. Bauernschmidt, USS San Diego's commanding officer. 'He will be able to enact new policies and changes in order to make the Navy a better place for all Sailors.'

Rear Admiral Robert Nowakowski:

- Actively partners with DEI committee in civilian position at Qualcomm
 - Qualcomm Veterans (QVets) employee network (in coordination with Qualcomm's [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Team](#)) proudly hosted the 15th annual Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony
 - [Working at Qualcomm, Incorporated](#) (QCOM) is incredibly rewarding and fun! A pleasure to participate in a Fireside Chat with Akash Palkhiwala (Chief Financial Officer) titled "The Path to Leadership". [Hosted by QCOM Diversity, Equity and Inclusion \(DEI\) Emerging Leaders Group](#), Akash provided attendees an overview of his career journey and the leadership skills he utilized and leveraged along the way and will continue to implement into the future.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Rebecca J. Sonkiss:

- Shares divisive content on [social media](#) promoting DoD LGBTQ agenda:
 - "It was so great to speak with Atomic Pulse on my experiences being an LGBTQ+ person in the nuclear and national security space. Mentorship, outreach, and representation all matter! 🏳️‍🌈🇺🇸"
- Authored [article](#) focusing on diversity's benefits noting, "Beyond gender, diversity covers every aspect of our lives - from the beliefs we were raised with to the obvious physical differences among us."



These individuals' open commitment to DEI and enforced "diversity" reveal them to be clearly disqualified from leading our brave men and women into battle. We look forward to their swift dismissal.

Sincerely,

Thomas Jones
President
American Accountability Foundation

