

The Lamp Post

Shining the light in the dark
for trans service members + veterans



Issue No.

18

JAN 2026



Dear TMH,

The “Addressing the Community” slide has been skipped this issue as Catie (lovingly referred to by Staff as “Mom”) focuses on a few things in her personal life. Know that she is still a DM away, and that you all are still at the forefront of her mind.

That being said, I’ll take a moment to remind everyone to take care of themselves. You are the only unreplenishable resource the community has. No, it’s not a matter of “oh I’m just one person, they can find another one”.

YOU are YOU. We cannot find another person like you. You may have common names, common struggles, common goals and likes and dislikes, but there is not another person on this planet exactly like you. We like it that way.

I can always find more online sources of information, find new photos, find new platforms to utilize for outreach, but YOU make this all possible. I am nothing without my readers. WE, as Staff, are nothing without our community members.

Thank you for being you, and helping us fight the fight.

- *Marcie*
TMH Comms Director

TMH Town Hall



January 2026

General Updates

- Newsletter
- Volunteer Recruitment
 - <https://wkf.ms/4o68Xq8>
- Out & Out submissions
 - Art (preferably written)
 - Contact Corra or Cathrine S.
- Community Survey
 - <https://wkf.ms/4ravbJ8>
- TMH Website -
 - <https://themilitaryhub.org>
 - URL name changed for subtlety
 - militarytransrights.org
 - Coalition Site (TMH, SPARTA, ONS, MMAA, MVA, etc.)

Town Hall Slides w/ Links will be available in the next issue of *The Lamp Post*.

SEPARATION STATUSES

CLOSETED

8.6%

STEALTH

6.0%

INVOLSEP // No Admin Leave

4.3%

INVOLSEP // Admin Leave

3.4%

INVOLSEP // Separated

0.9%

VOLSEP // Still In

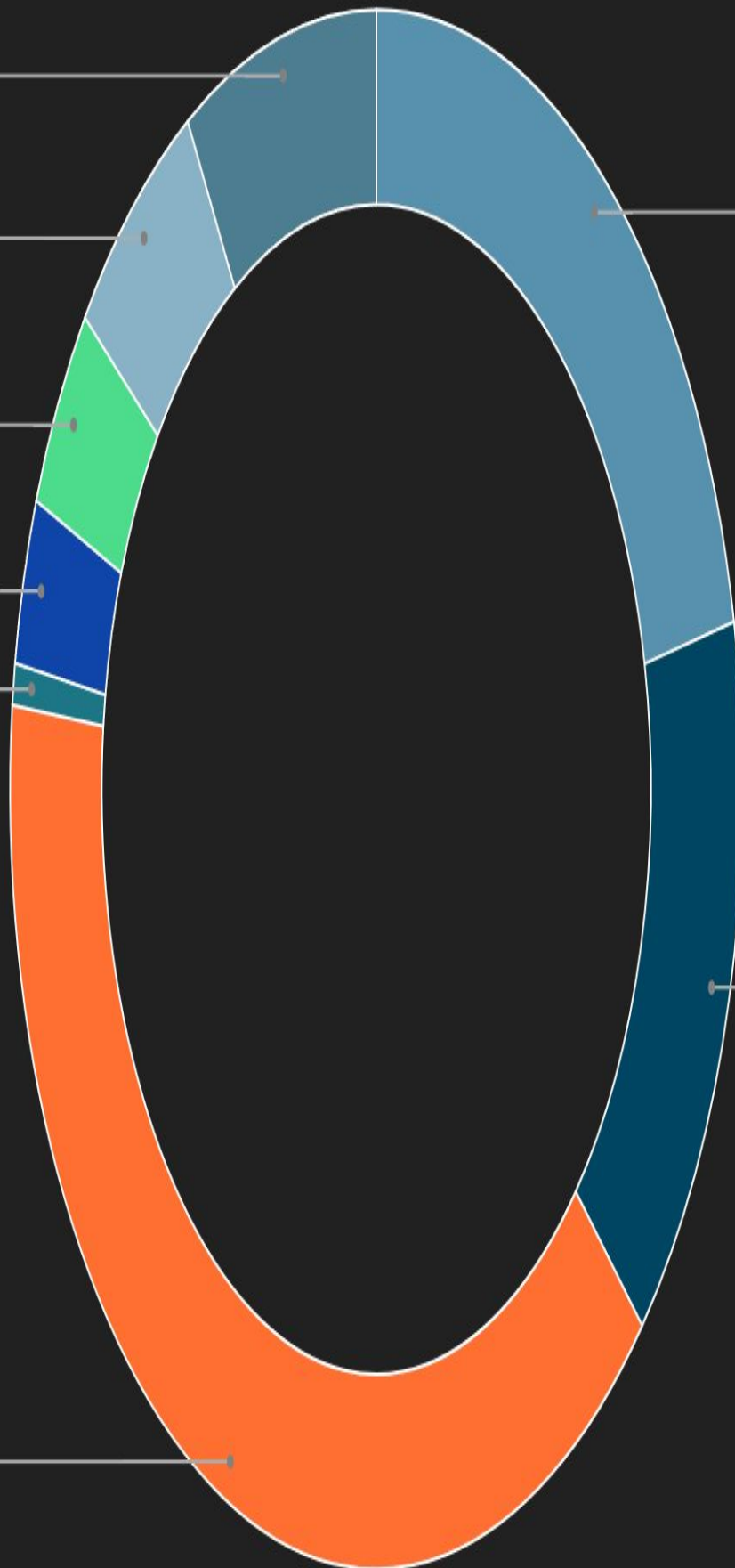
21.6%

VOLSEP // Separated // No Fi...

15.5%

VOLSEP // Separated // Final...

39.7%



J2

- PHA Guidance
 - For any trans member still serving
- ICE Whistleblower Information
 - TLDR: they can enter your house with an administrative warrant, not one signed by a judge
- Talbott v USA Court Case Update
 - Should hear results in 6-8 weeks

Community Events

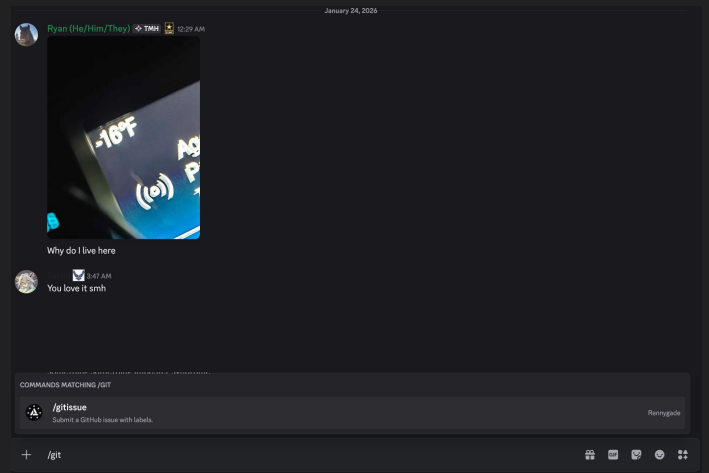
- **Game Nights**
 - Bi weekly to start
 - Need people to host these
 - DM Kilele to host
- **Power Point Parties**
 - Monthly for now unless major interest
- **Jack Box Nights**
 - Monthly for now
 - Looking for any other members who have any Jack Box Games

What other types of events do YOU want?

Tech Development Team

- Bot Bug Reporting
 - Use the /gitissue command in any channel
 - Fill out the form that comes up
 - This will automatically get sent to Ren and the tech team
- QA Testers
 - Looking for more people to help
 - Send a DM to Ren
 - You get a free rare sticker for helping

Screenshot of bug reporting command



CONTACTS/LINKS

Elise, Pathfinders/VA: kelleyt2024@gmail.com

Berry Law: andy.blevins@berrylaw.com

PTSDlawyers.com

Benefits Delivery at Discharge: [BDD - Veteran Affairs](#)

TLP Submissions: marcie.kulp.tmh@gmail.com /
marcie.kulp.tmh@proton.me

Q'mmunity House: [Q'mmunity House](#)

Volunteer Recruitment Form: [Volunteer here](#)

Teepublic Merch Page: [Merch](#)

TMH Stickers/Patches/Coins: [Google Form](#)

Project Ember: [Survey](#)

LinkedIn Skill Endorsement/Matching : <https://wkf.ms/49iGxVH>

Out and Out Anthology
Submissions



Signal Staging Area



Volunteers

With some great goals for TMH in 2026, we'll need more volunteers to help with everything we hope to achieve. If you'd like to help in any way, ping Kilele in the #general-chat channel. She'll get you added to the Volunteer Signal chat.



J2 Messaging

Corra

Morning TMH family, as the new year starts we got some info regarding PHAs for those who are still in. Please reach out to any staff for questions and we will assist where we can.

“If You Are a Trans Service Member Facing the PHA Gender Dysphoria Question

This guide exists because you are being placed in a situation that is not fair, not neutral, and not of your making. The Periodic Health Assessment includes a gender dysphoria question that can trigger serious consequences. This document does not tell you what to answer. It helps you understand the risks so you can protect yourself as best you can.

What You Are Really Being Asked to Do

The PHA question about gender dysphoria is not just a health check. For many trans service members, answering “yes” can immediately start processes that affect deployability, privacy, housing, income, career continuation, and personal safety. Answering “no” or declining to answer can feel safer in the short term, but it carries its own risks if the command later claims a false official statement.

This is not a simple honesty test. It is a forced choice created by policy.

There Is No “Clean” Option

You are likely weighing two competing risks:

- Disclosure risk: loss of privacy, forced outing, administrative processes, separation, harassment, or retaliation.
- Non-disclosure risk: potential discipline if someone later alleges you made a false statement, plus the stress of staying quiet.

Both paths carry real consequences. Choosing one does not make you weak, dishonest, or dishonorable.

What You Can Do to Reduce Harm

You often have more options than the online form makes it seem:

- You can request to complete the PHA in person instead of answering everything electronically.
- You can say you are not comfortable answering certain questions and ask the provider to document “declined to answer” where allowed.
- You can ask who will see the information and how it will be used.
- You can comply with required appointments while still protecting your boundaries.

Flat refusal to attend medical appointments is usually riskier than attending and limiting what you disclose.

About Legal Risk

Knowingly false statements on official military processes can lead to administrative action or discipline. That is why no one should pressure you to lie. If you are ever questioned, accused, or feel cornered:

- Stop answering questions.
- Ask for military defense counsel.
- Do not try to explain your way out alone.

Protecting yourself legally is not disloyal. It is survival.

About Privacy

HIPAA does protect how your medical information is handled, but it does not guarantee that disclosure will stay private inside the military system. You still have the right to:

- See what is written in your record.
- Request corrections.
- Ask about privacy officers and complaint processes if information is mishandled.

The Ethical Reality

This is a right-versus-right dilemma, not right versus wrong.

- Honesty matters.
- Survival matters.
- Dignity matters.
- Safety matters.

Integrity does not require sacrificing yourself to an unjust system. Many people choose the path that allows them to keep housing, income, medical care, and stability. That choice is not a moral failure.

The Only Standard That Matters

Your decision does not need to be brave, noble, or perfect.

It only needs to be livable.

You are allowed to protect yourself.

You are not alone.

What is happening to you is not your fault.

ICE POLICY

Here is a run down of the current whistle blower situation regarding ICE not needing a Warrant to enter your home based on their own internal policy that was changed early last year.

I have provided a TLDR for those that do not want to read the full brief, though I would **HIGHLY RECOMMEND IT.**

TL;DR: An internal May 2025 ICE memo says officers can forcibly enter homes using only administrative ICE warrants (not judge-signed warrants) to arrest people with final deportation orders, a sharp break from past practice that many legal experts say likely violates the Fourth Amendment and will be challenged in court.

ICE Administrative Warrant Policy Brief

Executive Summary

In May 2025, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) issued an internal memorandum authorizing officers to forcibly enter private residences using administrative warrants (Form I-205) rather than judicial warrants signed by a judge. This represents a significant departure from longstanding policy and raises substantial Fourth Amendment constitutional concerns. The memo was disclosed by government whistleblowers in January 2026 and has since been shared with Congress.

The Policy Change

May 2025 ICE Memorandum

Acting ICE Director Todd Lyons issued a directive stating that the DHS Office of General Counsel has determined that the U.S. Constitution, the Immigration and Nationality Act, and immigration regulations do not prohibit using administrative warrants alone for forced entry into residences to arrest individuals with final orders of removal[1].

The memo specifically authorizes ICE officers to use "the necessary and reasonable amount of force to enter the alien's residence" if residents do not permit entry voluntarily[1].

Operational parameters set in the memo include[1]:

- Officers must knock on the door and identify themselves before forced entry
- Operations targeting individuals with deportation orders should occur between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.
- The policy applies specifically to individuals with final removal orders

Key Distinction: Administrative vs. Judicial Warrants

Judicial Warrants

A warrant issued by a judge or magistrate after finding probable cause that a crime has been or will be committed. Judicial review provides a neutral arbiter assessing the justification for law enforcement entry into a home[1][2].

Administrative Warrants

A warrant issued by agency officials (in this case, DHS/ICE) without judicial review. Administrative immigration warrants do not require approval from a judge and are signed by immigration authorities[1][2].

Historical Practice

Historically, ICE instructed its officers that they could not rely on administrative immigration warrants alone to enter people's homes due to constitutional protections against warrantless searches[1]. DHS had not relied on administrative warrants alone for residential arrests of individuals subject to final removal orders[1].

The May 2025 memo represents an explicit reversal of this longstanding practice[1][2].

Whistleblower Disclosure and Congressional Response

Disclosure Timeline

Two U.S. government whistleblowers, represented by the nonprofit Whistleblower Aid, disclosed the memo to Congress in January 2026, making it public through media outlets including NBC News and The Associated Press[1][2].

According to the whistleblower complaint, the memo has not been widely shared throughout ICE but has been used to train officers within the agency[1].

Congressional Engagement

Senator Richard Blumenthal and other congressional members have received the whistleblower complaint and have initiated inquiries into the policy with the Department of Homeland Security[2][3].

Constitutional and Legal Analysis

Fourth Amendment Concerns

The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution has been long interpreted to substantially prohibit searches and seizures without judicial warrants, including in the immigration context[1][2].

Legal experts and civil rights advocates argue that the memo conflicts with established Fourth Amendment doctrine, which generally requires a judge-signed warrant for law enforcement to forcibly enter a home except in recognized exigencies such as consent, emergency, or hot pursuit[2].

Government Legal Position

DHS spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin stated that[1]:

- Individuals affected by the memo have received "full due process and a final order of removal from an immigration judge"
- "The officers issuing these administrative warrants also have found probable cause"

- The Supreme Court and Congress have "for decades" recognized the propriety of administrative warrants in immigration enforcement cases

Expert and Advocate Assessment

Legal scholars and civil rights organizations have disputed the government's constitutional interpretation, arguing that^{[1][2]}:

- Administrative warrants have never been deemed sufficient by courts for forcible entry into private residences
- The memo represents a break from decades of law and DHS's own training materials
- The policy is likely to face legal challenges

Anticipated Litigation

Multiple sources indicate that this policy directive is likely to trigger legal challenges in federal court^{[1][2]}. The outcome will likely depend on judicial interpretation of Fourth Amendment protections in the immigration enforcement context and whether courts accept the DHS Office of General Counsel's constitutional reasoning^[2].

Until judicial review occurs, the legal status of forced residential entry based solely on administrative warrants remains contested, even as ICE leadership has directed officers that such entries are lawful^{[1][2]}.

What to Do if Confronted by ICE

If ICE agents come to your home and claim they have the authority to enter under this new policy, legal experts and civil rights organizations generally recommend the following:

Do not open the door. Ask the officers to pass any warrant under the door or hold it up to a window. Look specifically for a signature by a judge or a court; if it is only signed by a DHS or ICE official (like Form I-205), it is an administrative warrant. State clearly and calmly: **"I do not consent to a search of these premises. I will not open the door without a warrant signed by a judge."** If they use force to enter anyway, do not physically resist for your own safety, but continue to state your lack of consent and ask to speak with a lawyer immediately.

References

[1] CBS News. (2026, January 21). Immigration agents assert sweeping power to enter homes without a judge's warrant, memo says. Retrieved from <https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/immigration-officers-power-enter-homes-without-judge-warrant/>

[2] NBC News. (2026, January 21). ICE says its officers can forcibly enter homes during immigration without judicial warrant. Retrieved from <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/ice-policy-officers-enter-homes-immigration-without-judicial-warrant-rcna255305>

[2] Associated Press / Reuters reporting on whistleblower disclosure to Senator Blumenthal

Advocacy Corner:

Out In National Security released this Transgender Veterans Toolkit to help states, counties, cities, and other areas support transgender veterans. There are great policy frameworks for all aspects of life as a veteran. TMH's own Marcus was a huge part of making this toolkit happen and have a successful launch this month. Share it with as many people as you can to spread the word and get more areas to pass legislation they can.

<https://www.outinnationalsecurity.org/transgender-veterans-toolkit/>

The NDAA should be coming out of conference soon. Please take the time to call your Senators and Representative again and let them know you do not support an NDAA with anti-LGBTQ+ provisions, and to only vote for a clean NDAA. If you're still Active Duty, call for both the location you vote in and where you're stationed.

Who are my Senators and Representative:

<https://www.congress.gov/members/fin-d-your-member>

or

<https://5calls.org/>

Why it matters:

While there have been many anti-LGBTQ+ policies since the start of this administration, they have all been Executive Orders. Including these provisions in the NDAA makes them law which would make it harder to repeal once the administration changes.

Advocacy Corner:

Here's a sample script to use for your call:

Hello, my name is <YOUR NAME> and I am a constituent/military service member/military spouse/veteran living in your district.

I do not support any anti-LGBTQ+ riders in the 2026 NDAA or any appropriations bills. I'm asking you to vote no on an NDAA or appropriations bill that includes anti-LGBTQ+ provisions.

Our military is facing a recruiting and retention crisis. Bills attacking LGBTQ+ service members and families will force tens of thousands of military families to re-evaluate their careers, and puts our nation's security at risk. Tens of thousands LGBTQ+ individuals serve our nation proudly. Please honor their commitment to this country by voting NO on any version of the NDAA that includes anti-LGBTQ+ provisions.

Queer History

January 25, 1882



On January 25th, 1882 Adeline Virginia Woolf was born in South Kensington, England. Her legacy is that as one of the most influential modernist writers who became a well-known queer cultural figure. Her novels, essays, and critiques explored gender identity before it became a question in the modern world, most notably in her novel 'Orlando' which was inspired by her relationship with Vita Sackville-West.

Virginia's life predates the modern queer culture by at least a century, but her works & her experience still resonate within queer culture & feminist spaces across the world. She is still to date celebrated as an icon among these same spaces as her legacy carries on into modern culture & writing & women's rights advocacy.

“No need to hurry. No need to sparkle. No need to be anybody but oneself.” - Adeline Virginia Woolf, 'A Room of One's Own'

Upcoming Events

- Friday Night Gaming
 - **TMH Discord - Every Friday @ 1800 EST**
- Pathfinders T4T
 - Veterans Group | Hang-out Night
 - **Saturdays at 2100 EST**
- TMH Town Hall Schedule
(1530EST)
 - **28FEB26**
 - 28MAR26
 - 25APR26
 - 23MAY26
 - 27JUN26
- The Lamp Post Publications
 - **1MAR26**
 - 29MAR26
 - 26APR26
 - 24MAY26
 - 28JUN26
- Coalition Rallypoint
 - 28-29MAR26 (virtual)
- **TMH Day Activities**
 - **04 January 2027 1500**

Culture

In the 1920s & 1930s homosexuality, cross-dressing and altering of gender identity were still illegal in most countries to include the United States & England. But some venues were more open and allowed the queer culture of the era to thrive especially in the form of cross-dressing & burlesque shows. The Pansy Craze in the late 1920s to the mid 1930s saw a huge fascination with the queer nightlife. Some speakeasies became hotspots of campy emcees & bawdy songs where many different cultures mixed. One of the most popular events in these environments were drag-balls, found most commonly in NYC adjacent to Broadway.

Harlem nightlife was only fueled by these drag-balls, drawing in both queer and straight crowds, eventually creating massive drag-balls that fascinated thousands & mixing famous celebrity names with 'slummers' which only made these venues feel that much more wild.

Among these venues, society began witnessing & experimenting with gender & sexual transgression openly for the first times. But it didn't last long as the prohibition was repealed & put an end to the need for speakeasies and cabarets. But these staples of queer culture never truly went away & defined the LGBTQ+ community.

Art & Literature

Flowers wither and fall away as autumn takes hold,
Such magnificent summer beauty fading away
Falling into the dying grass as I sit and wonder
"Will it come back in the spring?"

Yes, some endure the harsh winter
Gentle seeds waiting beneath the snow,
Waiting for the rainfall and the warmth
The spring sun to come once again.

But they are the ones I expected,
What of the ones that I didn't?
What of the ones I missed?
Will they be there in the spring?

A single flower stands amidst a field,
Wild and vibrant within the fading green.
A petal falls as it begins to slowly wilt.
Does anyone notice?

As winter comes and takes hold,
There is no seed left from the flower.
Nothing returns in the spring
From the flower that braved the autumn
And no one ever saw wilt.

Written by: Sage

Science

Recent developments in the medical field have created a new method of testing for breast cancer & determining which method of treatment is best for the patient. This new test takes the form of a liquid biopsy, a blood test that measures circular tumor DNA (ctDNA) that is released into the bloodstream by tumor cells. These liquid biopsies can shorten the time it takes to scan for tumors & tumor growth and shrinkage from months to a matter of weeks as ctDNA only takes weeks to respond to treatment.

According to a UK Plasmamatch trial, using these liquid biopsies patients with advanced/metastatic breast cancer saw an increase in progression-free survival reported at 10.2 weeks versus 4.4 weeks with only standard tests with ctDNA markers almost undetectable at 10.6 weeks on average versus 3.5 months with up to an 85.7% chance of survival versus 11.4% with standard tests & treatment.