



**ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1400 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1400**

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MAY 22 2025

The Honorable Deborah K. Ross
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ross:

I am writing on behalf of the Secretary of Defense in response to your letter dated April 4, 2025, regarding the Department of Defense's effort to comply with President Trump's Executive Orders and the Secretary's priority to restore America's Fighting Force.

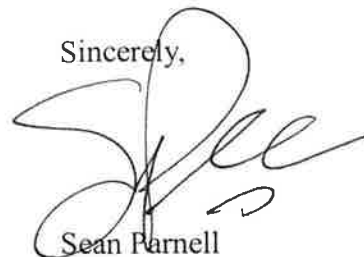
The Department's public affairs guidance memorandum, issued on February 26, 2025, in response to Presidential directives and Secretary of Defense priorities, was intended to refresh digital content and archive content promoting the sociopolitical ideology of "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion." While the guidance was designed to narrowly focus on specific content involving divisive concepts, the digital tools and content management systems (CMSs) the Department and Military Services used to implement the guidance incorrectly categorized and labeled some web pages. This led to the inadvertent removal of content that was improperly "tagged" as DEI in the CMS. Once it became aware of the issue, the Department took immediate action to restore content that was erroneously removed.

I further directed that the Department continue to honor the accomplishments of our warfighters and the content of their character.

Department webpages that featured or highlighted the accomplishments and extraordinary character of the servicewomen in the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion of the Women's Army Corps are available for public viewing.

Americans, past and present, are an inspiration to our Nation and the world. Our strength is now and has always been, our unity and shared purpose. We are proud of our heroes and our heritage.

Sincerely,



Sean Parnell

