Military, Law, and more ...

President Trump revisits history and rechristens Department of Defense with original name of Department of War (DoW)

By Matthew Olay
Dept. of War (DoW)

Pres. Donald J. Trump

"The name 'Department of War' conveys a stronger message of readiness and resolve compared to 'Department of Defense,' which emphasizes only defensive capabilities," the fact sheet reads.
"Restoring the name 'Department of War' will sharpen the focus of this department on our national interests and signal to adversaries America's readiness to wage war..."

Sept. 5, 2025 -President Donald J. Trump signed an executive order today changing the Defense Department's name to the Department of War as a secondary title.

The order — the 200th signed by the president since taking office — authorizes Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and DOD subordinate officials to use secondary titles like "Department of War," "Secretary of War" and "Deputy Secretary of War" in public communications, official correspondence, ceremonial contexts and non-statutory documents within the executive branch, according to a fact sheet released by the White House.

Additionally, the order directs all executive agencies and departments to "recognize and accommodate these secondary titles in internal and external communications," as well as instructing Hegseth to recommend actions — including executive and legislative actions — that would be required to permanently rename the department.

"The name 'Department of War' conveys a stronger message of readiness and resolve compared to 'Department of Defense,' which emphasizes only defensive capabilities," the fact sheet reads. "Restoring the name 'Department of War' will sharpen the focus of this department on our national interests and signal to adversaries America's readiness to wage war to secure its interests," it continues.

Prior to signing the executive order, Trump said, "This is something thought long and hard about; we've been talking about it for months."

He added that, under the original War Department, the U.S. achieved military victories in both world wars; however, victories turned into more prolonged conflicts that often resulted in a "sort of tie" once the War Department rebranded as the Defense Department.

Hegseth concurred with Trump's contention.

"We changed the name after World War II from the Department of War to the Department of Defense and … we haven't won a major war since," Hegseth said.

"And that's not to disparage our warfighters … That's to recognize that this name change is not just about renaming, it's about restoring; words matter," he continued.

The secretary went on to say that the War Department would fight decisively to win and not get mired down in endless conflicts.

"Maximum lethality, not tepid legality; violent effect, not politically correct," he said.

The War Department was originally established by Congress on Aug. 7, 1789, the same year the Constitution took effect. It replaced the Board of War and Ordnance, which was created in 1776 during the Revolutionary War.

The War Department had oversight over the Army and Navy until 1798, when the Navy Department was formed.

The first secretary of war, a civilian position, was retired Army Gen. Henry Knox, who was appointed by President George Washington. Fort Knox, Kentucky, is named after him.

On Nov. 8, 1800, the War Department building in Washington burned down and with it, all of the department's records.

During the Civil War, the department was responsible for recruiting, training, supply, medical care, transportation and the pay of two million soldiers.

The War Department's name remained the same for over 150 years, until it merged with the Department of the Navy and the newly established Department of the Air Force to become the National Military Establishment with the passage of the 1947 National Security Act.

Famous War Department secretaries include James Monroe, who became president; John Calhoun, who became vice president; Jefferson Davis, who became president of the Confederate States; Ulysses S. Grant, a former Union general who became president; Robert Todd Lincoln, son of President Abraham Lincoln; and William Howard Taft, who became president and then chief justice of the Supreme Court.

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David Vergun, DOW News, contributed to this article.

Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) challenges Miller v. Mueller in gun ban for caretakers' right to arm

BELLEVUE, Wash. — Sept. 8, 2025 — Attorneys representing the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) have filed a motion for summary judgment in its lawsuit challenging Illinois law that bans firearms in homes licensed to provide foster or day care.

The Foster Home and Day Care Home Rules and statutes in Illinois ban adults licensed to foster parent or provide day care in their own homes from keeping functional firearms for self-defense, even if they are otherwise allowed to possess them.

"Being a caretaker does not come at the expense of your fundamental rights," said SAF Director of Legal Operations Bill Sack. "The constitutional analysis is no different here than for any other type of gun control. The burden is on the state to prove a historical tradition of similar regulation at the time of the Founding, and that tradition simply does not exist."

SAF is joined in the case, Miller v. Mueller (formerly Miller v. Smith) by the Illinois State Rifle Association, Illinois Carry and two private citizens, Darin and Jennifer Miller.

This case was originally filed in 2022 and it's time for a resolution," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. "The Bruen Supreme Court ruling shoots down the state's arguments, but they continue to spend taxpayer dollars fighting a case they know they'll lose. It's past time to end this case once and for all."

For more information, visit SAF.org.

The Second Amendment Foundation (saf.org) is the nation's oldest and largest tax-exempt education, research, publishing and legal action group dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the fundamental rights of individuals enshrined in the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution. SAF engages in aggressive legal action to ensure the principles of armed self-defense, personal liberty, and the ownership of arms are defended, secured, and restored. Through public education initiatives, SAF teaches the importance of the Second Amendment to promote a society that values and exercises the right to keep and bear arms.

TN State Parks announce additional colorblind viewfinders, including T.O. Fuller State Park in Memphis

Accessible feature furthers opportunity for visitors to experience the most accessible state park system in the nation

NASHVILLE – Tennessee State Parks announced the number of parks with colorblind viewfinders is expanding to 12 to include T.O. Fuller State Park in Memphis and Roan Mountain State Park in Roan Mountain, making it possible for more visitors of all abilities to fully enjoy the beauty of the parks. The announcement comes at the start of International Colorblindness Awareness Month.

Another colorblind viewfinder is on the way at Pickett CCC Memorial State Park Sept. 25, when volunteers will help install one as part of First Lady Maria Lee's Tennessee Serves program.

The viewfinders, designed to alleviate red-green colorblindness, have special lenses to enable people with colorblindness to see a broad range of clear, vibrant colors.

The viewfinder at T.O. Fuller State Park will enable park visitors to view native grasslands and floodplains in color. The viewfinder at Roan Mountain State Park enables visitors to see the beauty of the park's vast lands including the rugged ridge of Roan Mountain.

"All visitors deserve the same experience of enjoying the natural beauty of our state parks," said Greer Tidwell, deputy commissioner for Conservation at the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. "The ability to view colors of the park can be a dramatic moment for a visitor. As the most accessible state park system in the nation, we are thrilled we can provide that experience."

The viewfinder at T.O. Fuller State Park was purchased by the Tennessee State Parks Conservancy. The device at Roan Mountain State Park was purchased by the park.

Colorblind viewfinders are just one of the many accessible features available at Tennessee State Parks to meet the needs of visitors of all abilities.

T.O. Fuller State Park also provides all-terrain wheelchairs, an adult-sized changing table, and an accessible half-mile trail. Some campsites are wheelchair-friendly with an accessible bathhouse. Parking for the viewfinder is at the Shelby Bluff Center.

Roan Mountain State Park provides accessible facilities with wheelchair-friendly parking, wheelchair-friendly picnicking, and some ADA-accessible cabins, and campsites. The Chestnut Ridge Overlook has the

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The 'E' in DEI is for Equity, a Marxist Term.
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