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All my life I've known that I was different and thanks to my military service and very supportive ex-spouse I finally started getting help. I have been actively transitioning now for almost ten years due to processing requirements as well as lengthy medical waitlists and constantly evolving Army policies. I am still several years away from a procedure that would allow me to update my Florida birth certificate...

However, my results so far have been truly transformative and life-changing, for the better! I've had my name legally changed, all of my personal ID documents updated (including my passport), and three surgeries for medically correcting my body to align with my internal personal sense of gender. I am much happier with my life now and optimistic about my future. Forcing me to renew my US Passport with an incongruous birth sex would conflict with everything about how I live and work and negatively impact any deployment overseas as an active duty Soldier.