

## **Bradley Manning Says He Will Live as a Woman and Seek Hormone Therapy in Prison**

By Lenny Bernstein and Julie Tate  
Army Pfc. Bradley Manning said Thursday that he will live as a woman and seek hormone replacement therapy while incarcerated, confronting the military prison system with a demand that has prompted state and federal institutions to reluctantly offer similar treatment to inmates. "I am Chelsea Manning. I am a female," the former intelligence analyst wrote in a statement released on NBC's "Today" show just a day after he was sentenced to 35 years at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., for leaking classified documents. The Army issued a statement saying that Manning will receive counseling from mental health professionals at the all-male prison but that the Army does not "provide hormone therapy or sex-reassignment surgery for gender identity disorder." Manning's attorney, David Coombs, was equally adamant that he will try to change that policy, foreshadowing another legal battle between a transgender person and a prison bureaucracy. With Manning's profile already sky-high as a result of his conviction and sentencing, the conflict seems likely to keep the 25-year-old in the public eye for some time.

Manning's statement wasn't a complete surprise. Four hours of testimony in the sentencing portion of the soldier's trial were devoted to mental health issues, including his struggle with gender dysphoria, as the condition is known. Manning received the diagnosis in May 2010, shortly before he was arrested in connection with transmitting hundreds of thousands of classified documents to the organization WikiLeaks. Still, Manning's statement that "I am Chelsea Manning" .