

Women in the Army Point Paper

- Department of Defense policy (1994) prohibits the assignment of women to units below the brigade level whose primary mission is direct ground combat. Army policy (1992) further prohibits the assignment of women to positions or units which routinely collocate with those units conducting an assigned direct ground combat mission.
- Units that are conducting an assigned direct ground combat mission intentionally engage an enemy on the ground with individual or crew-served weapons, while being exposed to hostile fire and a high probability of direct physical contact with the hostile force's personnel.
- Units assigned a mission of direct ground combat include Infantry, armor, Special Forces, Cannon Field Artillery, and Combat Engineer companies. Female Soldiers may not be assigned to these units.
- The new Brigade Combat Team, Unit of Action, which is currently being established as a part of Army Transformation, remains consistent with the Army's division restructuring studies of 1980 and 1998. As a result of these studies, women may be assigned to units called Forward Support Companies. These companies provide supply, maintenance, and medical support to units performing direct ground combat. In addition, women are assigned to transportation companies, which like Forward Support Companies, do not have a mission of direct ground combat or are not routinely collocated with those units conducting an assigned direct ground combat mission.
- Notwithstanding these policies and corresponding assignments, all Soldiers, while performing their assigned duties, may come into harm's way and, consequently, must defend themselves. For this reason, all Soldiers regardless of gender are equipped, trained and prepared to defend themselves.

3rd Infantry Division Heavy Unit of Action Forward Support Company (FSC)

- **MISSION:** Provide logistics support for a Brigade Combat Team (Unit of Action) and other units located in a brigade support area.
- **Parent Unit:** 703rd Support Battalion
- **Authorized 225 Soldiers**
 - 6 Officers, 219 Enlisted
 - 201 positions are coded male only Soldiers
 - 24 positions are open to female Soldiers

3rd Infantry Division Heavy Unit of Action Forward Support Company (FSC)

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>COMPOSITION</u>	<u>REQUIREMENT</u>
Company Headquarters	Command and Control	2 Officers, 5 Enlisted	Positions can be Male or Female
Field Feeding Section	Prepare and Feed Meals	25 Enlisted (Cooks)	Male ONLY
Distribution Platoon	Manage the Distribution of Supplies	1 Officer, 4 Enlisted	Male ONLY
Class III Section	Fuel Operations	28 Enlisted (Fuel Handlers)	Male ONLY
General Supply Section	Distribute Supplies	14 Enlisted (Vehicle Drivers)	Male ONLY
Class V Section	Handle and Distribute Ammunition	14 Enlisted (Ammo Handlers)	Male ONLY
Maintenance Platoon	Manage Maint. Operations	1 Officer, 1 Enlisted	Male ONLY

3rd Infantry Division Heavy Unit of Action Forward Support Company (FSC)

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>COMPOSITION</u>	<u>REQUIREMENT</u>
Maintenance Control Section	Control Maintenance Operations	2 Officer, 10 Enlisted	11 Positions Male ONLY 1 Position can be Female (Maint Control SGT)
Maintenance Section	Conduct Routine Maintenance	46 Enlisted (Wheeled, tracked, generator, commo repair specialists)	30 Positions Male ONLY 16 Positions can be Female
Service and Recovery Section	Scheduled Maintenance Services	15 Enlisted (Mechanics and welders)	Male ONLY
Bradley Maintenance Section	Bradley System Maintenance	20 Enlisted (Mechanics)	Male ONLY
Tank Maintenance Section	Tank System Maintenance	28 Enlisted (Mechanics)	Male ONLY
Maintenance Support	Perform maintenance on engineer and general equipment	9 Enlisted (Mechanics)	Male ONLY