



Center for Military Readiness



Promoting high standards and sound priorities for our military men and women.

For Immediate Release

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Memo to Secretary Mabus: Marines Lives Matter

CMR Supports Rep. Duncan Hunter's Protest Against Affront to Marines

Elaine Donnelly, President of the Center for Military Readiness, published an op-ed in the *Washington Times* today that criticizes Navy Secretary Ray Mabus for announcing [his intent to disregard](#) the best professional advice of the Marine Corps.

Donnelly: [Marines Lives Matter](#)

The Center for Military Readiness appreciates the efforts of **Rep. Duncan Hunter** (R-CA), a member of the **House Armed Services Committee**, who has stepped up to protest Secretary Mabus' insult to the Marines:

Marine Corps Times: [Congressman Says SecNav's Stance on Women in Combat Insults Marines](#)

Secretary Mabus sparked a [growing backlash](#) when he announced in an interview that he would not support any request for exemption of women from direct ground combat units, including the **Navy SEALs**. Mabus is willfully disregarding scientific data in a 4-page [Executive Summary](#) of extensive research findings that the Marines released last week.

Mabus [doubled down](#) in a [September 14 speech](#) in Cleveland, in which he insisted that the study — including a near-1,000 page document yet to be submitted — wasn't relevant to the debate. Mabus claimed sole authority to “make the call,” even though **Juliet Beyler**, the Defense Department's director of officer and enlisted personnel management, stated in a January 2015 DoD [news release](#): “...a **military department secretary or service chief** can request an exception to the policy to keep a position closed.” (emphasis added)

Beyler continued, “But any exception is going to have to be rigorously justified and will have to be based on the knowledge, skills and abilities required to perform the duties of the

position.”

Said Donnelly, “How is it that a service chief asking for exceptions has to ‘rigorously justify’ that position, but a service secretary who refuses to even look at data on the subject gets to ‘make the call?’ ”

CMR has been reporting and analyzing detailed information relevant to this issue. Links to previous CMR Policy Analyses are here:

- CMR Policy Analysis: [Co-Ed Combat Tests Hazardous to Women’s Health](#)
- CMR Policy Analysis: [New British Report Shreds Case for Women in Ground Close Combat \(GCC\)](#)
- [Interim CMR Special Report, Sept. 2014, U.S. Marine Corps Research Findings: Where Is the Case for Co-Ed Ground Combat? -- Executive Summary](#)
- CMR: [Israeli Defense Force Decides: Armored Tanks Will Stay All-Male](#)

The Center for Military Readiness is an independent public policy organization that researches and reports on military/social issues.

Elaine Donnelly founded CMR in 1993 following her service on the 1992 **Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces**. To arrange an interview – Mrs. Donnelly can be reached at **734/464-9430**.

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More information is available on CMR’s web site, www.cmrlink.org.

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