



Center for Military Readiness



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

For Immediate Release

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CMR Releases Special Report: Defense Department “Diversity” Push for Women in Land Combat

*The following comments may be attributed to **Elaine Donnelly**, President of the **Center for Military Readiness**:*

"The **Center for Military Readiness** has released a new [CMR Special Report, titled *Defense Department "Diversity" for Women in Land Combat*](#). The 42-page document provides independent analysis of the Marine Corps research program that was initiated in April 2012, in order to gather information on the prospects for women in direct ground combat (infantry) battalions.

The [CMR Special Report](#), posted on the website www.cmrlink.org, is summarized in this op-ed, published today in the *Washington Times*:

- [DONNELLY: Measuring risks for women in combat](#)
- This is an [Executive Summary](#) of the CMR Special Report

"In April 2012 **Marine Commandant Gen. James Amos** announced a multi-phased research effort that includes the following elements:

- A review of exceptions to current policy and requirements of **ground combat element (GCE)** units, including infantry and Special Operations Forces battalions
- Physical tests of male and female volunteers performing certain "common tasks"
- The opportunity for female officers to attempt training on the Marines' **Infantry Officer Course (IOC)** at Quantico, VA
- An extensive survey of Marines seeking opinions on related issues

"The **CMR Special Report** presents previously unpublished information on factors that may determine the outcome of the research project. It also analyzes the February 2012 Pentagon news conference, during which **Obama Administration** officials endorsed recommendations of the 2011 **Military Leadership Diversity Commission**.

"The largely-civilian **MLDC** called for repeal of all military women's exemptions from direct ground combat, in order to achieve gender-based "diversity metrics" for a few female officers aspiring to three- or four-star rank. None of this is necessary, since Pentagon reports repeatedly have confirmed that military women are promoted at rates equal to or faster than men.

"Defense Department officials and the media have raised expectations that women will be 'allowed' (actually, ordered) into Marine and Army infantry battalions, regardless of the consequences for the majority of women who serve in enlisted ranks, and concomitant legal consequences of concern to every young woman in America.

"Under **Article 1, Section 8** of the **U.S. Constitution**, power to make these decisions resides not just in the Executive branch of government, but in the Congress, which represents the American people. This incremental Defense Department campaign to impose unsupported feminist theories on 'tip of the spear' infantry battalions effectively precludes congressional oversight of far-reaching decisions with a direct impact on the readiness and culture of our military, on which our national security depends.

"As the **CMR Special Report** explains, direct ground combat involves more than the experience of being "in harm's way," which all deployed troops share. It involves deliberate offensive action against the enemy—an environment in which women do not have an equal opportunity to survive, or to help fellow soldiers survive.

"Our women in the military, who have served with courage and commitment before and during the wars since 9/11, deserve better than this."

*For more information or an interview with Elaine Donnelly, contact CMR Executive Director Tommy Sears, **202/347-5333**, or call **734/516-9387**.*

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*The Center for Military Readiness is **an independent public policy organization that specializes in military/social issues**. **CMR Founder Elaine Donnelly** served on the 1992 **Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces**, and was a member of the Pentagon's **Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS)**.*

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