



- Footnotes in a June Marine Corps [report to Congress](#) stated, as occupational specialties are opened to women, Physical Fitness Test and Combat Fitness Test standards will be "*gender-neutral*" with "*gender-normed*" scores that "*account for physiological differences between the genders.*" Incorporating gender-normed scores in infantry training contradicts disingenuous claims that standards will be "gender-neutral" and "the same" for men and women.
- In a Defense Department-sponsored study based on 13,000 confidential interviews of military women, published in the July 2013 [Women's Health Issues Journal](#), female

veterans who were exposed to close combat violence reported sexual assaults at rates **twice as high** as other military women. The same study found that "*Violent combat settings make men **more likely to become aggressive** toward . . . military women.*" In addition, "*a high-stress, life-threatening combat setting may find **it more difficult to avoid high-risk settings for sexual assault and harassment.***" (Navy Times, Oct. 14)

- During a recent congressional hearing, in response to a question from **Rep. Loretta Sanchez** (D-CA), **Marine Lt. Gen. Robert Milstead** confirmed that if women become eligible for direct ground combat battalions, assignments will not be voluntary. *That's why we call them orders,"* said the general.

"In January Joint Chiefs Chairman **Gen. Martin Dempsey** [admitted](#) that high standards beyond the abilities of women will be questioned and modified to achieve a "*critical mass*" of women in the combat arms.

"Members of the House and Senate who want to reduce sexual assaults against women should codify women's exemptions from direct ground combat, stipulating that the policy may not change without an affirmative vote of Congress. This is the only way to show true respect for our courageous women and men in the military."

Elaine Donnelly is President of the Center for Military Readiness, and a former member of the 1992 Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces. To schedule an interview, write to elaine@cmrlink.org or call 734/464-9430.

* * * * *