

Preliminary Responses to 2016 CMR Quadrennial Presidential Candidate Survey Updated on January 31, 2016

This is a PDF version of the [2016 Center for Military Readiness Quadrennial Presidential Candidate Survey](#). The electronic version asked each candidate to answer “Yes,” “No,” or “Other,” with space allowed for optional comments. Updates will be issued as responses are received. CMR is a non-partisan educational organization, which does not endorse candidates.

Sen. Ted Cruz: Jan. 28 – Texas Senator Ted Cruz answered “**Yes**” to all questions, and provided additional comments regarding Question #3, regarding women in land combat:

“The Marine Corps request [for exceptions] must be reconsidered. As long as the requirements are fair and universally applied, the military must always place the best person for the job at hand, whether male or female, but we cannot let political correctness compel the military to lower its standards.”

Rick Santorum: Jan. 18 – Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum answered “**Yes**” to all questions, and provided additional comments to each of the six questions. These are excerpts:

1. **Sound Priorities and Social Experimentation** - “I will review and revise military personnel policies that assign higher priority to egalitarian social agendas over military effectiveness. Egalitarian social agendas diminish the United States’ role as a global superpower and guarantor of global peace. . .”
2. **Selective Service & the Draft** - “I will support the continuance of women’s exemption from Selective Service obligations. We respect women in the military, but when we’re talking about direct ground combat, if we start making gender neutrality the most important factor, then we put lives at risk.”
3. **Women in Direct Ground Combat** - “I would reconsider the Obama administration’s decision to overrule the U.S. Marine Corps request for exceptions to women-in-combat mandates. We all respect and appreciate the role of women in the military and recognize their courageous service. Scientific research and empirical evidence put forth by the U.S. Marine Corps shows that women naturally have physical disparities that cannot be ‘mitigated.’ . . .”
4. **LGBT Events & Demonstrations** - “I agree with the plank in the 2012 Republican National Platform and will discontinue divisive special interest initiatives and demonstrations at the Pentagon and on military bases. Flawed policies that impose complicated features on military men and women cannot be switched on and off, depending on the direction of political winds or promises made to LGBT activists of either political party. . .”

5. **Evaluation and Correction of Harmful Military/Social Policies** - “I agree with the 2012 Republican National Platform. The military is no platform for social experimentation that in turn undermines military priorities and mission readiness.”
6. **Religious Liberty in the Military** - “I will defend and protect rights of religious liberty in the military. No place should the right to free exercise of religion be more welcomed and encouraged than in our nation’s military. Attempts to infringe or discriminate against faith-based beliefs cannot be tolerated. . .”

The following candidates acknowledged the survey, but as of January 26, did not provide responses due to campaign time pressures that have made it difficult to confirm the candidates’ responses:

- **Donald J. Trump**: Jan. 25 –According to campaign official, responses will be forthcoming later.
- **Sen. Marco Rubio**: Jan. 10 - a person in the campaign “policy shop,” wrote, “*Given the incredibly busy phase we’re in right now, we don’t plan to submit a response to the survey*”
- **Sen. Rand Paul**: Jan. 19 – A campaign official said he would get back to us as soon as he can confirm responses with Sen. Paul, who has a crowded campaign schedule.
- **Gov. Jeb Bush**: Jan. 18 & 20 – A senior campaign official acknowledged and promised to review the survey and follow up soon.
- **Dr. Ben Carson**: No response to date, but during an interview with CNN, a Carson campaign official was highly critical of Obama military/social policies.
- **Carly Fiorina**: January 18 – A senior advisor called to say that Ms. Fiorina would not be responding to any surveys.

These candidates have not acknowledged the 2016 CMR Presidential Candidate Survey:

- **Gov. Chris Christie**: No response to date.
- **Gov. Mike Huckabee**: No response to date.
- **Gov. John Kasich**: No response to date.

The Center for Military Readiness will continue to press for responses to the 2016 Presidential Candidate Survey and report updated results as they become available.

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The Center for Military Readiness is a non-partisan public policy organization that reports on and analyses military/social issues. CMR does not endorse candidates. More information is available on the CMR website, www.cmrlink.org.