

## Pentagon Removes Ban On Women In Combat

Friday, January 25, 2013 | Ernesto Londoño, Washington Post

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta announced a lifting of the ban on female service members in combat



roles, a watershed policy change that was informed by women's valor in Iraq and Afghanistan and that removes the remaining barrier to a fully inclusive military. An assertion that stunned female veteran activists who assumed that the brass was still uneasy about opening the most physically arduous positions to women. The decision comes after a decade of counterinsurgency missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, where women demonstrated heroism on battlefields. It dovetails with another seismic policy change in the military, the repeal of the ban on openly gay service members.

Critics of opening combat positions to women have argued that integration during deployments could create a distracting, sexually charged atmosphere in the force and that women are unable to perform some of the more physically demanding jobs. Advocates and experts say women are unlikely to flock to those positions, such as roles in light infantry and tank units and Special Forces. More substantively, lifting the ban will go a long way toward changing the culture of a male-dominated institution in which women have long complained about discrimination and a high incidence of sexual assault.

Sen. James M. Inhofe, the leading Republican on the Armed Services Committee, voiced a measure of concern, saying last year's study raised "serious practical barriers" that, if ignored, could jeopardize the "safety and privacy" of service members. Sen. John McCain, said he supports the decision, but he alluded to some of the thorny implementation issues that have yet to be addressed. "It is critical that we maintain the same high standards that have made the American military the most feared and admired fighting force in the world — particularly the rigorous physical standards for our elite special forces units." The senior defense official said the Pentagon expects to have gender-neutral standards for combat jobs.

1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the pros and cons synonymous with women service members actively engaged in combative roles. Do you support this monumental decision of the Defense Secretary? Thoroughly explain your reasoning and provide specific artifacts and evidence limited solely to passage above to support your response. Create and illustrate Venn Diagrams to effectively explore relationships and patterns and to make arguments about relationships between sets. **(LA.910.3.2.2; LA.910.1.6.2; MA.912.D.7.2; MA.912.A.10.1)**
2. SAME-DIRECTION TRAVEL: An industrial strength High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) departs a forward operating base (FOB) at 1300 at an average rate of 35 miles per hour. Once it became evident that they neglected inadvertently to secure their essential Night Vision Goggles, a secondary vehicle was dispatched to provide support. An hour later an IAV Stryker departs base at 50 miles per hour along the same route on a path parallel to the first. How long before the Stryker catches the HMMWV? **(MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.3.5)**
3. ROUND-TRIP TRAVEL: Private Backwash painstakingly navigates through an Iraqi desert. Because of an insurmountable unforeseeable sandstorm, she averages 2 miles per hour. On her commute back to post, she averages approximately 7 miles per hour. If the total travel time is 3 hours, how long did it take her to initially navigate through the desert? Design a table and explain your reasoning. **(MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.3.5; MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.3.2)**
4. OPPOSITE-DIRECTION TRAVEL: While participating in a joint operations force, a female Army Sergeant coupled with a Marine Corporal are patrolling in opposite directions on a straight path. The corporal is travelling 3 miles per hour faster than her colleague and after 2 hours they 4 miles apart. Write and solve an equation to determine the rate of the Sergeant and Corporal. **(MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.3.5; MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.3.2)**
5. A conjecture is an unproven statement based merely on observations. You can show that a conjecture is false, however, by simply identifying one counterexample. Make and test a conjecture based solely upon numbers identified in the passage above. Identify a counterexample. Write a conditional statement or a logical statement, which contains a hypothesis and conclusion in if-then form, the converse, the inverse, and the contrapositive. Decide whether each statement is true or false. **(MA.912.D.6.2; MA.912.G.8.2; MA.912.G.8.4)**
6. Using contextual clues only, define the following italicized terms: *alluded*, *substantively*, *dovetails*, *seismic*, and *arduous* as obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. **(LA.910.1.6.3; LA.910.1.6.1)**
7. **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Create a concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above using the following italicized word: *Elocution* (el oh KYOO shun) (n.) The art of public speaking. **(LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5)**

**Next Generation Sunshine State Standards** adapted from [floridastandards.org](http://floridastandards.org). Standards specifically addressed in this edition are strategically aligned with state standards and annotated adjacent to the respective inquiry.

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