

Extra Credit – Thanksgiving Break Gainful Employment

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Women Marines Break Barrier

Monday, November 25, 2013 | Ben Kesling, The Wall Street Journal

CAMP GEIGER, N.C.—Three women became the first to graduate from a grueling Marine infantry course expanding the push for gender equality in the U.S. military and the possibility of integrating women into



front-line combat units. However, the Marine Corps makes no promises women will be allowed to become infantry troops, saying it needs more time to assess the matter. The three enlisted Marines—Pfc. Julia Carroll, Pfc. Christina Fuentes Montenegro and Pfc. Katie Gorz—completed nearly two months of training that included a 12½-mile hike through the North Carolina woods lugging packs of roughly 80 pounds. They

are the first women in the U.S. armed forces to undergo this kind of rigorous course. "All the training was hard because we had to conform to the male standard," said Pfc. Fuentes Montenegro, 25 years old. "One of the things that kept us going was that we were representing something more than ourselves."

During Thursday's graduation, Lt. Col. David Wallis, the training battalion's commanding officer, paced in front of the graduates and summarized infantry training in his speech by bellowing one of the Marine mantras, "We don't promise you a rose garden!" Older Marines with combat ribbons pinned to their chests waited along the walls to escort male graduates to their new infantry units. But no one was there to escort the women. Although they have completed training, they will be assigned to other jobs until the Marines decide whether to open up infantry units to women—a process that could take years.

The women, along with their male counterparts in the Infantry Training Battalion at the School of Infantry, spent the majority of their 59 training days and nights in the field under austere conditions meant to replicate some of what they would face in combat. Male graduates become full-fledged infantrymen, euphemistically known in the service as "grunts."

During the training, "I was worried there would be a lot of negative vibes," said Pfc. Carroll, 18. Instead, she said she experienced camaraderie between the men and women in the class. "I wasn't worried I was going to drop out. I'm a warrior," she said. The foundation for Thursday's milestone was laid in January, when then-Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, signed a memorandum ordering all military jobs to be opened up to both sexes by 2016 unless reason could be shown to keep those jobs segregated by gender. The order includes an important catchall clause that lets the branches petition the secretary of defense to keep certain jobs and units closed to women with proper justification. A spokesman for Mr. Panetta's successor, Chuck Hagel, said the secretary's position on opening jobs to women and considering exceptions is in line with Mr. Panetta's.

Women have served as combat pilots since the 1990s and over the past decade found themselves under fire on convoys and working alongside men on the front lines of conflict. Women now make up 15% of the military, and more than 280,000 have served in Afghanistan and Iraq, according to the Department of Defense. Nearly 150 women have been killed in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, they have been forbidden from joining units and jobs explicitly formed for front-line combat duties. Now, the Marines are the first military branch to put women through some of their most-rigorous training routines to see if they can perform as well as men.

The Army, the other branch with a predominance of ground-combat troops, has said it plans to integrate women into combat jobs beginning with combat engineers in mid-2014 and aims to open up the infantry by mid-2015. It hasn't yet begun practical testing female aptitude in training such as infantry courses, but soldiers have been surveyed on the question, and the service has re-evaluated standards for physically demanding jobs. The Marines first opened up infantry schools to women last October, when two female officers attempted the Infantry Officers Course, an arduous, 10-week training and screening program to qualify lieutenants to lead troops in combat at the platoon level. The two women, and eight others that followed, all failed to complete that course, which is considered more challenging than the one passed by Thursday's graduates. About 40 women are following Thursday's three graduates in the training pipeline and could complete their training in the months to come.

Until earlier this week, four women had been expected to graduate, but one of the women, who boasts on her Instagram profile, "US Marine. I lift. I like blowing s— up," couldn't complete the final physical-fitness test because of an injury. She is expected to graduate once she recovers and can pass the test.

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards adapted from 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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Many within and outside the ranks still have reservations and worry the Marines' gung-ho push to incorporate women might lead to diluted standards. But top Defense Department officials have said standards won't drop. "The Department's goal is to ensure that the mission is met with the best-qualified and most capable people, regardless of gender," said Defense Department spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen. "There's no indication that there's a predetermined outcome to this question" of whether women are capable of becoming infantrymen, said Col. Jeffrey Conner, commanding officer of the School of Infantry at Camp Geiger. "All of this is intended to gather objective data." So far, women who have done the training "have experienced a higher rate of injury" than men, Col. Conner said, adding that the Marines plan to let more than 250 women attempt the course before making a decision on whether to open up the infantry to both sexes.

1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the pros and cons synonymous with women serving in a front-line combat capacity. Provided the statement Colonel Conner prepared regarding the increased probability of females sustaining increased training injuries identify a series of proactive measures armed forces units may implement to tactfully combat a similar dilemma. Thoroughly explain your reasoning and provide specific artifacts and evidence not limited solely to article above to support your response. Create and illustrate a Venn Diagram 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. Marines.com boasts Education and knowledge are not just highly valued in the workplace, they also help strengthen our nation's communities and economy. That's why the Marine Corps makes sure every Marine has the ability to pursue their educational objectives. During Service: As a Marine, up to 100 percent of your education expenses may be paid by the federal government through programs like Tuition Assistance, the Post 9-11 GI Bill and the Marine Corps College Fund. Select Marines may earn a degree through the College Degree Program, which has both a four- and two-year option. Both options cover the cost of tuition, fees, textbooks and uniforms at certain selected colleges and universities. In 1985, the average annual cost for tuition and fees at public two-year college in the United States was \$584 per year and has since increased about 6.5% annually. The projected cost of a four-year degree at Florida State University has a 47% graduation rate and carries in-state tuition fees, room, board, and books of \$16,237 annually or \$64,948 over the course of a respective degree. Assuming the annual expenses increase at a constant rate of 6.5% annually, write an equation to model the cost of a two-year versus four-year degree for the year you graduate college. **(MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.3.12; MA.912.A.3.13)**
3. Upon graduation of the grueling Marine Infantry Course, Julia Carroll, Christina Fuentes Montenegro and Katie Gorz as well as their male counterparts participated in a formal reception in an educational institution of higher learning administration building which possesses an immaculate marble floor meticulously designed in the shape of a regular dodecagon. Find the reciprocal of the absolute value difference between the measure of an interior angle and an exterior angle. Illustrate the polygon as well as all of its applicable diagonals. **(MA.912.G.2.2; MA.912.G.2.5; MA.912.G.8.6)**
4. Identify and thoroughly support your reasoning regarding which of the following that best describes the author's attitude toward women serving in a combat arms capacity: flippant disregard, mild frustration, passive resignation or an informed citizen. Explain the intended purpose of this article and identify any indicators or supporting evidence, which suggest the author may possess a bias for or against female service members progressing into roles comparable to their male counterparts. What is the central idea and what conclusion might one obtain? Provide an inference an aspiring female Army Ranger may derive from this material as it pertains to the probability of serving in this capacity. The point of view assumed throughout the passage is best described as first person, second person, third person, or a combination of first and third person. How may this article be referenced for an independent student research project addressing gender equality in the United States Armed Services. **(RI.9-10.1 – 10.6)**
5. Using contextual clues only, determine the most complete and accurate definitions of following italicized terms: *petition*, *predetermined*, *gung-ho*, *diluted*, *predominance*, *explicitly*, *undergo*, *catchall*, *camaraderie*, *counterparts*, *euphemistically*, *replicate*, *austere*, *mantras*, *rigorous*, and *integrated* 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)**
6. **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Create a concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above incorporating the following italicized terms: *Fusillade* v. A rapid burst or barrage **(LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5)**

Vive les Daughtry Times. C'est tout. | Due Monday, December 2, 2013

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