



Female Combat Soldiers Would Strengthen The Military

Monday, April 7, 2014 | William Denn, The Washington Post

Since 1944, West Point has required cadets to pass its indoor obstacle course, a test of agility, stamina and strength that is designed to build a warrior ethos and determine whether these future soldiers can



meet the physical demands of combat. When freshman Cadet Madaline Kenyon completed the course in 2 minutes 26 seconds in October, she scored the equivalent of an A-plus on the *men's* scale and set a new female record. It was a stunning achievement.

Kenyon had planned to become an officer in the Army Medical Corps. After her performance on the obstacle course, the superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy, Lt. Gen. Robert Caslen, asked her: Why not the infantry?

As a woman, Kenyon cannot officially serve in infantry, armor, artillery or other jobs in combat. But her accomplishment comes at an opportune

time, as the services have begun removing the last obstacle to women in the military.

In January 2013, then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta ordered the Joint Chiefs of Staff to study the feasibility of opening all military jobs to women by 2016. This would include more than 200,000 jobs that make up the core of the ground-level combat force in the Army and the Marine Corps. The Joint Chiefs have expressed strong support for this transition. But the success of women's integration into combat units will depend on how quickly and enthusiastically officers and enlisted soldiers embrace it. Many servicemen resist the idea, citing studies that suggest the inclusion of women in combat would imperil unit effectiveness, good order and discipline.

Opponents of women in combat rightly argue that the military's physical standards must not be compromised to expand women's access. The stakes could not be higher: our military's fighting effectiveness. If the Army expects an infantry soldier to walk 20 miles while hauling 50 pounds of equipment, this standard should apply regardless of gender. Fortunately, the Army and Marine Corps have begun establishing job-specific standards that would apply to men and women — and women like Cadet Kenyon are showing they can meet the bar.

As part of a pilot program last fall, four Marines became the first female graduates of the Corps' enlisted infantry training course. All four passed what is considered the most strenuous aspect of the Marines' infantry training: a 12-mile march carrying 80 pounds of gear.

The initial transition is likely to be difficult as our all-male combat units adapt to integration. But my experiences in Afghanistan and Iraq have convinced me that what the military would gain by including women in combat far outweighs any short-term compromises. Our country's most recent conflicts have demonstrated that the military needs women on the battlefield. We need their creativity, insight and empathy, qualities often lacking in male-dominated units.

Recent studies from Harvard Business School and MIT show that "group intelligence" of an organization rises when women are on teams. Women bring a unique level of "social sensitivity," the ability to read the emotions of other people. On today's complex battlefields, social sensitivity is a crucial skill for military professionals.

During my patrols in Iraq from 2007 to 2009, I came to appreciate how much women could have contributed to my mission. Most Iraqi men were reticent to speak with us for fear of retribution from al-Qaeda. Iraqi women, often fed up with the violence in their neighborhoods, could be persuaded to provide information, but first we had to bridge the gender gap, build rapport and earn their trust, all of which took valuable time. Having women in our platoon would have dramatically increased our ability to elicit critical intelligence. This could mean the difference between a mission's success or failure, with lives in the balance.

Since 2011, U.S. Special Operations forces in Afghanistan have embedded all-female cultural support teams in their units. The program has been lauded by commanders for gaining access to the 50 percent of the Afghan population who have previously been inaccessible. Commanders are looking to deploy these teams to support operations in Africa. Army operations will probably require the same skill sets needed in Iraq and Afghanistan that women are adept at providing.

Including women in front-line units would be more than an exercise in social equality; it would be a valuable enhancement of military effectiveness and national security.

When Cadet Kenyon graduates from West Point in 2017, she is likely to have the opportunity to serve in a combat unit. She has her eye on the Army's Armor Corps, she told me, because "tanks are the most intimidating thing on the battlefield."

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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1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the perceived strengths and weaknesses synonymous with of male and female soldiers. Provided extensive research conducted by the academically elite educational institutions Harvard Business School and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, articulate the positive attributes associated with acquiring the services of professional female soldiers on today's complex battlefields. Identify a series of proactive measures leaders may implement to ensure equal opportunity and collaborative working relationships. 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. Cadet Kenyon has embarked upon her first of potentially multiple major overseas Operation Enduring Freedom deployment in the ongoing war on terrorism. Kenyon secures the high ground and proactively patrols from an overhang on the west end of the Hindu Kush approximately 200 feet above the valley. She detects an enemy insurgent armed with a rocket propelled grenade. Mathematical skills are critical to her survival therefore; she concludes the angle of depression from her vantage point to the insurgent is 42 degrees respectively. Prior to initiating air support, she is required to determine the distance between the base of the cliff and enemy insurgent vehicle. Illustrate the triangular configuration and identify the measurements of each side. Reference: <http://sdshs.enschool.org/ourpages/auto/2012/3/28/42660021/Florida%20Focus%20Geometry%20EOC%20Practice%20Packet.pdf> **(MA.912.G.5.1; MA.912.G.5.4; MA.912.T.2.1)**
3. Downtime is a sacred and cherished time honored tradition in the military equating to essential rest and relaxation. Since the closure of popular audio sharing websites comparable to Napster and Kaaza, listeners have accepted one inalienable truth: purchasing music while initially costly is at least legal. In response to massive supply and demand issues, A popular website which sells legal audio files for downloading recently increased its price per song from \$0.99 to \$1.29. Kenyon spent \$15.36 during her first week of deployment. She downloaded an additional four songs at \$0.99 than at \$1.29. The set of equations below represents the situation where x is the number of songs Kenyon downloaded at \$0.99 and y is the number of songs she downloaded at \$1.29. $x = y + 4$ and $0.99x + 1.29y = 15.36$. Upon receipt of her recent charges, she is bound and determined to detect the exact number of songs she downloaded at the original \$0.99 price? Reference: <http://www.ecsd-fl.schoolloop.com/MA912A314> **(MA.912.A.3.14)**
4. Using contextual clues only, determine the most complete and accurate definitions of following italicized terms: *embedded, rapport, retribution, elicit, lauded, reticent, opportune, ethos, feasibility, integration, inclusion, imperil, adept, compromised, and strenuous* 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)**
5. Identify and thoroughly support your reasoning regarding which of the following that best describes the author's attitude toward female soldiers serving in combat roles: 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 soldiers participating in combat operations. Provide an inference aspiring female soldiers may derive from this material. The point of view employed throughout the passage is best described as first person, second person, third person, or a combination of first and third person. Explain specifically how the image above contributes to the validity of the aforementioned passage. **(RI.9-10.1 – 10.6)**
6. **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Provided the fact that the passage is incomplete, create an updated concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above incorporating the italicized term: *Obtuse adj.* Lacking intelligence. Difficult to understand. **(LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5)**

Above And Beyond The Traditional Holiday Season, We At The Daughtry Times Have Found It Feels Good To Give And Have Taken An Intellectual Investment In The Local Populace Through A Product We Ultimately Find Inherent And Overwhelmingly Conducive To Student Learning. We Do So Through – The Daughtry Times. By Accepting Custody Of This Particular Document Voluntarily Or Otherwise You Are Part Of A Time Honored Tradition Group Of Individuals Whose Lives Will Not Suffer In The Likely Event You Utilize These Materials To Your Academic Advantage. It Has Been Statistically Proven That Approximately 9 Out Of 10 Of The Incarcerated Criminally Insane Lack A Deep-Seated Passion For The Daughtry Times. That Is All.

VIDEO - Cadet Breaks 20-year IOCT Record: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94tPO0fGtJo>

Long Urip Ing Daughtry Times. Sing Apa Kabeh | Due Monday, April 14, 2014

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