

Defense Department "Diversity" Push for Women In Land Combat

Executive Summary

The ethos of the Warrior Culture of the Marine Corps, superiority in combat, is at risk. The Military Leadership Diversity Commission (MLDC), a mostly-civilian Pentagon advisory group with expertise in "diversity" and not combat, has recommended that women be assigned to infantry units at the battalion level, primarily to promote career opportunities and promotions for a few female officers to three- and four-star rank.

Since ground combat experience often (but not always) improves chances of promotion to general officer and senior enlisted ranks, the MLDC is recommending that female officers and enlisted personnel be ordered (not allowed) to serve in "tip of the spear" units involved in direct ground combat.

Marine Commandant General James Amos is conducting a multi-phased research effort to test the consequences of assigning women to ground combat element (GCE) units. The project is designed to (a) Monitor and analyze the results of certain exceptions to current policies; (b) Survey the opinions of Marines on current policies regarding women in combat; (c) Compare the physical capabilities of men and women performing common tasks; (d) Test female volunteers on the Infantry Officer Course (IOC) at Quantico, VA; and (e) Review the requirements of closed military occupational specialties (MOSs).

The research tests are well-intended, but objective results could be disregarded or misinterpreted. The survey of Marines seeks opinions on a "volunteer" option for women in combat that does not exist. Some of the common task tests measuring physical strength and endurance already have been scaled back and adjusted to reduce physical demands and improve women's achievement scores. Tests of female volunteers on the IOC could be in conflict with laws and regulations mandating ethical procedures for human experimentation.

The administration's pressure for more "career opportunities" for women in close combat units, motivated by MLDC demands for gender-based "diversity metrics," assigns highest priority not to military readiness, but rather to social/political goals associated with an unprecedented, radical concept—what former Joint Chiefs Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen has called "diversity as a strategic imperative."

Liberal media and feminists are trying to use the military as a laboratory for the testing of a controversial twentieth-century social science theory—that men and women are interchangeable in all roles, and any differences that do exist are primarily, if not exclusively, due to socialization. We are watching Pentagon-based ideologues using "perception management" (PM) techniques to achieve pre-determined results; i.e., implementation of the MLDC agenda and affirmation of beliefs that should be called Amazon Warrior Myths.

To shed light on the situation and to deter these consequences, the Center for Military Readiness has prepared the following analysis. It explains why each of the research plan components, and the underlying drive for gender-based "diversity" taken to extremes, must be evaluated objectively and without pre-conceived conclusions.