



Center for Military Readiness



Promoting high standards and sound priorities for our military men and women.

For Immediate Release

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CMR Releases Interim Report on Marine Corps Research Findings ***Where is the Case for Co-Ed Ground Combat?***

The **Center for Military Readiness** has released a comprehensive **Interim CMR Special Report** that reveals and analyzes ongoing **U.S. Marine Corps** research on women in **direct ground combat (DGC)** units. These include **infantry, armor, artillery** and **Special Operations Forces** that attack the enemy with deliberate offensive action.

Marine Commandant **General James Amos** initiated multi-phased research projects on **ground combat element (GCE)** physical requirements in April 2012, shortly after former Defense Secretary **Leon Panetta** set in motion incremental steps to repeal all of women's exemptions from direct ground combat units by January 2016.

The following article summarizes information (available as of October 3, 2014) that is analyzed in the newly-released report:

[CMR Releases Interim Report on Marine Corps Research Findings](#)

The comprehensive 64-page **Interim CMR Special Report**, which includes a single-page **Abstract** and four-page **Executive Summary**, is posted here:

[US Marine Corps Research Findings: Where is the Case for Co-Ed Combat?](#)

*The following comments may be attributed to CMR President **Elaine Donnelly**, a former member of the **Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces**, which studied a wide array of issues surrounding women in combat for a full year:*

"Recent proxy tests of physical strength have produced empirical data and inconvenient facts that discredit theories about gender "diversity" in combat. The Obama Administration expects the Marine Corps to find a way to assign women to land combat units such as the infantry, without lowering standards. In CMR's independent view, quantitative research done so far indicates that this cannot be done.

"None of the Marine Corps research findings produced so far support the theory that women can or should be considered interchangeable with men in land combat fighting teams. On the contrary, recent tests confirm how unfair and unrealistic it would be to impose man-sized combat loads on military women's backs.

"Nor is there any evidence that women want to be treated like men in the combat arms units. Orders to serve in that unforgiving environment would disadvantage women and impose on them disproportionate risks of physical injuries. This issue is not about careers – military women are promoted at rates equal to or faster than men, and respect for them has never been higher.

"Civilian leaders in the Pentagon and Congress have the responsibility to be honest about what policies are best for women, men, and combat arms units in all branches of the service. The [Interim CMR Special Report](#) does not fault the Marine Corps or personnel who volunteered to participate in research tests, but it does question the judgment and agenda of administration officials who want to order (not "allow") women into the combat arms by January 2016.

"In the coming months, the **Center for Military Readiness** will continue to follow and report on research still in progress. There is a great need for transparency, independent analysis and diligent congressional oversight to defend the interests of women, men, the **All-Volunteer Force**, on which America's national security depends."

*The **Center for Military Readiness** is an independent, non-partisan public policy organization, founded in 1993, which specializes in military/social issues. More information is available at www.cmrlink.org. To arrange an interview to discuss the **Interim CMR Special Report**, call 734/464-9430.*

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