Women in Combat
Limitations and Stereotypes
Christopher Perez and Ashley Morice
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History of Military Women

Ever since the first World Wars, many women have enlisted and were not allowed anywhere near the front lines. Women were placed into jobs such as medics, military police and intelligence officers, and if they were lucky to battalions. A woman could not be assigned as an infantryman in a battalion going out on patrol, but she could fly the helicopter, or move in to provide medical aid if troops were injured.

Arguments Against Women In Combat

Main Points

- Women cannot meet the physical requirements necessary to fight.
- Simply do not belong in combat.
- Their inclusion in fighting units would disrupt those units cohesion and battle readiness.

Negative Factors

- Need for male assistance
- Desire of men to protect women
- Inappropriate male/female relationships
- Pregnancy

Combat Exclusion Act

During President Clinton's term in 1994 he issued the combat exclusion policy with no reason or backing. The combat exclusion policy is a main cause in preventing women to serve on the front lines in the military. The policy prevents them from serving alongside their fellow servicemen. This policy is very outdated about women's roles and capacities in today's world. Many people argue that the Exclusion Policy is limiting a women's opportunities based on nothing more than their sex.

Disadvantages Faced by Women

Army/Marine Assignment Policy's

Women in the Army are restricted from certain specialties:
- Infantry, armor
- Cannon field artillery
- Multiple rocket artillery
- Special forces

Women in the Marines are restricted from certain military occupational specialties:
- Infantry
- Artillery
- All tank and AAV(Assault Amphibian Vehicle)units
- Reconnaissance units
- Low altitude air defense units
- Fleet antiterrorism security teams

Conclusions

As of 2012 things are beginning to be revised in regards to the Combat Exclusion Policy. These new revisions are taken place primarily for the women that have been fight in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars in the past decade.

Some recent revisions include:

- The Navy who recently announced that women would be permitted to serve on submarines.
- The Pentagon announced exceptions to the combat exclusion policy for some women serving with combat units at the battalion level.
- The Army and Marine Corps are opening some positions and combat schools that were previously closed to women.

References


