



## DACOWITS: Articles of Interest 28 August 2015

### WELLNESS

#### [Army releases results from July courts-martial](#)

*(21 Aug) Army Times, Staff Report*

The Army on Friday released the results of 36 courts-martial held in July, including 10 cases in which the accused soldier was acquitted of all charges. In those instances, the service does not release the name of the accused.

#### [Senior master sergeant faces court-martial for sexual harassment](#)

*(25 Aug) Air Force Times, By Phillips Swarts*

A senior master sergeant at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, faces charges that he repeatedly sexually harassed a fellow airman, including groping her and telling her she couldn't get a man because she can't cook.

#### [Navy announces court-martial results for July](#)

*(25 Aug) Navy Times, Staff Report*

The Navy has released results of special and general courts-martial verdicts for July. The cases are listed by the Navy Region in which they were tried.

#### [Court overturns rape conviction involving JBLM soldier](#)

*(26 Aug) The Olympian, By Michael Doyle*

The soldier's belated testimony helped convict ...but now, an appeals court has dismissed [the] rape conviction, citing evidence problems as well as a politically infused command climate that deems military sexual assault an epidemic.

### ASSIGNMENTS

#### [First Four Of Enlisted Women Tapped For Silent Service Start Sub School Monday](#)

*(22 Aug) New London Day, By Julia Bergman*

The first four of the 38 enlisted women tapped to serve in the silent service will start their training at Basic Enlisted Submarine School on Monday.

#### [Women's Journeys To Navy SEALs Likely Would Start At Great Lakes](#)

*(21 Aug) Chicago Tribune, By Lauren Zumbach*

A top Navy officer said he's open to letting women join the ranks of its elite SEAL teams – and if the secretary of defense agrees with the admiral's recommendation, some of the first female SEAL candidates will likely start the journey at Naval Station Great Lakes in North Chicago, Navy officials said.

#### [New Army chief ponders momentous decision on women in combat](#)

*(22 Aug) Associated Press, By Robert Burns*

The Army's new chief of staff, Gen. Mark Milley, is taking a calculated approach to arguably the most consequential decision of his early tenure — whether to recommend that any all-male combat roles remain closed to women.

#### [Warrant courses linked to assignment eligibility](#)

*(24 Aug) Army Times, By Jim Tice*

A directive designed to ensure that warrant officers receive the appropriate military schooling before being assigned to key leadership and staff positions has been issued by Army Secretary John McHugh.

#### [Bias In Battledress: Fixing The Hidden Problems Of Military Prejudice](#)

*(25 Aug) War on the Rocks, By Bryan Coughlin and Katey Van Dam*

Gender bias in the U.S. Marine Corps saps its effectiveness as a war-fighting organization. It is time to recognize the problem, bring men and women into the conversation, and demand more from military leadership.

#### [Retired Gen. McChrystal says doors opening for female soldiers](#)

*(25 Aug) Ledger-Enquirer, By Chuck Williams*

Retired Gen. Stanley McChrystal, who commanded the 75th Ranger Regiment in the late 1990s, said if it were up to him, he would take the two female soldiers who graduated from Ranger School in his regiment.

### **The Cost of Lower Standards for Women in Marine Recruitment**

(25 Aug) *The New York Times*, By Kyleanne Hunter

The more women who are willing to speak about the way in which the ingrained hyper-masculinity hinders progress toward integrated forces, the closer we will come to an honest conversation about the true hurdles to gender integration.

### **Women's Roles In Special Operations: Breaking Barriers**

(26 Aug) *San Diego Union-Tribune*, By Gidget Fuentes

In recent years, female soldiers have accompanied special operations forces, including Army Rangers and Special Forces, attached as “cultural support teams” to better interact with local women in Afghan villages. But whether U.S. Special Operations Command will agree to any lifting of the exclusion to allow women assignment as Rangers, or Green Berets or Navy SEALs or Marine Raiders waits to be seen. Sentiment within the community is mixed.

### **Ranger Chaplain's Endorsing Agency: Women in Combat 'Contrary to Nature,' 'Biblical Duty of Man to Defend Woman'**

(26 Aug) *Huffington Post*, By Chris Rodda

Much has been said by those opposed to gays in the military and same-sex marriage about chaplains allegedly being forced to violate the rules and religious beliefs of their ecclesiastical endorsing agencies, but there is another belief held by many of the anti-gay, and sometimes blatantly homophobic, endorsing agencies and their chaplains that hasn't gotten nearly as much attention -- they are also opposed to women serving in combat.

### **Women Don't Belong In Combat**

(27 Aug) *USA Today*, By Anna Simons

We all know what happens when young men and women spend intense time together in close proximity.

## **EXTRA**

### **As First Women Graduate Army Ranger School, Women Veterans in Congress Celebrate**

(21 Aug) *Defense One*, By Molly O'Toole

The four women serving in Congress who are veterans of America's post-9/11 wars take particular pride in the accomplishments of these women, having blazed their own trails in the military, and now in office.

### **DoD plans to send more officers to civilian grad schools**

(24 Aug) *Military Times*, By Andrew Tilghman

The Pentagon wants to send more officers to earn graduate degrees at top-notch civilian universities, a key piece of soon-to-be released personnel reforms that could fundamentally alter the career tracks of senior military leaders.

### **Air Force increasing support for civilian sexual assault victims**

(24 Aug) *Air Force Times*, By Jeff Schogol

Air Force civilians who become victims of sexual assault will now have the same resources available to them as uniformed airmen.

### **Squad Leader Development Program to expand beyond infantry**

(24 Aug) *Marine Corps Times*, By Hope Hedge Seck

The new talent management program for Marine grunts will return next year with bigger bonuses and wider eligibility — and similar programs are now in the works for enlisted leaders in non-infantry fields.

### **Meryl Streep writes to every single member of Congress to demand gender equality**

(24 Aug) *The Independent*, By Heather Saul

The Oscar-winning actress' letter urged Congress to revive the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) which was written in 1920, passed by Congress in 1972 and ratified by 35 states. However, it fell short of the 38 needed in order for it to be enshrined in the Constitution and has lain dormant ever since.

### **Military transgender ban set to end next May**

(25 Aug) *USA Today*, By Tom Vanden Brook

Pentagon officials will consider a pilot program that would allow transgender troops under medical treatment to take a sabbatical from service, returning to the ranks after they have made their transition to the other gender.

### **Why I Taught My Daughter How To Throw A Punch**

(25 Aug) *Task & Purpose*, By Fatherly

A Navy vet explains why he taught his daughter how to put up a fight.

## Army releases results from July courts-martial

(21 Aug) *Army Times, Staff Report*

The Army on Friday released the results of 36 courts-martial held in July, including 10 cases in which the accused soldier was acquitted of all charges. In those instances, the service does not release the name of the accused.

The verdicts, sorted by judicial circuit.

### *First Judicial Circuit (Northeast and mid-Atlantic states)*

#### **Fort Knox, Kentucky, July 10:**

**Name:** Pvt. Collins N. Nyangau

**Conviction:** By a judge, pursuant to his plea, of one specification of larceny. Contrary to his pleas, of one specification of false official statement and one specification of sexual assault.

**Acquittal:** One specification of sexual assault.

**Sentence:** Forfeit all pay and allowances, confined for five years, dishonorable discharge.

#### **Fort Campbell, Kentucky, July 20:**

**Name:** Not provided (specialist)

**Acquittal:** By a military judge, of two specifications of rape.

#### **Fort Campbell, July 22:**

**Name:** Not provided (specialist)

**Acquittal:** By a military judge, of one specification of attempted larceny and one specification of conspiracy to commit larceny.

### *Second Judicial Circuit (Southeast)*

#### **Fort Bragg, North Carolina, July 10:**

**Name:** Spc. David L. Benitez

**Conviction:** By a judge, pursuant to his pleas, of three specifications of sexual assault of a child and one specification of larceny of military property of a value of more than \$500.

**Sentence:** Reduced to the grade of E-1, confined for 25 years, dishonorable discharge. As part of an offer to plead guilty, a pre-trial agreement limited confinement to 10 years.

#### **Fort Bragg, July 10:**

**Name:** Pfc. Jonathan P. Morales

**Conviction:** By a panel of officer and enlisted members, contrary to his pleas, of one specification of abusive sexual contact, one specification of wrongfully viewing the private area of another person and one specification of wrongfully photographing the private area of another person

**Acquittal:** Two specifications of sexual assault and one specification of obstruction of justice.

**Sentence:** Confined for 18 months, bad-conduct discharge.

#### **Fort Bragg, July 13:**

**Name:** Not provided (specialist)

**Acquittal:** By a military judge, of four specifications of sexual assault.

#### **Fort Bragg, July 29:**

**Name:** Not provided (sergeant first class)

**Acquittal:** By a military panel of officer and enlisted members, of one specification of sexual abuse of a child.

#### **Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, July 29:**

**Name:** Not provided (sergeant)

**Acquittal:** By a military panel of officer and enlisted members, of two specifications of abusive sexual contact and one specification of assault consummated by a battery.

### *Third Judicial Circuit (Southwest and Midwest)*

#### **Fort Riley, Kansas, July 1:**

**Name:** Spc. Marcos A. Bustamante

**Conviction:** By a military judge, pursuant to his plea, of one specification of possession of child pornography.

**Sentence:** Reduced to the grade of E-1, confined for 23 months, dishonorable discharge.

#### **Fort Hood, Texas, July 7:**

**Name:** Pvt. Charles A. Dorsey

**Conviction:** By a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of two specifications of absence without leave.

**Sentence:** Confined for five months, bad-conduct discharge. As part of an offer to plead guilty, a pre-trial agreement limited confinement to 120 days.

#### **Fort Riley, July 13:**

**Name:** Not provided (specialist)

**Acquittal:** By a military panel of officer and enlisted members, of one specification of rape and one specification of forcible sodomy.

#### **Fort Hood, July 13:**

**Name:** Staff Sgt. Antonio G. Salazar

**Conviction:** By a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of one specification of disobeying a lawful order, one specification of cruelty and maltreatment, and one specification of assault consummated by a battery.

**Sentence:** Reduced to the grade of E-1, confined for 60 days, bad-conduct discharge.

#### **Fort Sam Houston, Texas, July 17:**

**Name:** Master Sgt. Raimondi A. Cummings

**Conviction:** By a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of two specifications of false official statement and two specifications of larceny.

**Sentence:** Reduced to the grade of E-5, confined for two months, \$22,000 fine (confined for four months if fine is not paid).

#### **Fort Riley, July 20:**

**Name:** Staff Sgt. Antoine Charles

**Conviction:** By a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of two specifications of assault consummated by a battery and one specification of child endangerment.

**Sentence:** Reduced to the grade of E-4, confined for 165 days.

#### **Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, July 21:**

**Name:** Sgt. Gordon K. Coffey

**Conviction:** By a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of one specification of false official statement and two specifications of larceny.

**Sentence:** Reduced to the grade of E-4, forfeit \$1,000 pay per month for five months, confined for three months.

**Fort Hood, July 31:**

**Name:** Pfc. Matthew R. Strempler

**Conviction:** By a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of one specification of possession of child pornography and one specification of failure to register under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act in the state of Florida.

**Sentence:** Confined for one year, bad-conduct discharge. As part of an offer to plead guilty, a pre-trial agreement disapproved the confinement.

*Fourth Judicial Circuit (Far west and Far East)*

**Fort Bliss, Texas, July 1:**

**Name:** Sgt. Torie A. Cash

**Conviction:** By a military judge, contrary to his plea, of one specification of sexual assault.

**Sentence:** Reduced to the grade of E-1, confined for six months, dishonorable discharge.

**Fort Wainwright, Alaska, July 2:**

**Name:** Pvt. Emilio J. Schlemetty

**Conviction:** By a military panel composed of officers, contrary to his plea, of one specification of attempted sexual assault.

**Acquittal:** One specification of sexual assault and one specification of underage drinking.

**Sentence:** Reduced to the grade of E-1, forfeit all pay and allowances, confined for four months, dishonorable discharge.

**Camp Red Cloud, South Korea, July 3:**

**Name:** Spc. Joshua M. Snow

**Conviction:** By a military panel of officer and enlisted members, contrary to his pleas, of eight specifications of sexual abuse of a child.

**Sentence:** Reduced to the grade of E-1, forfeit all pay and allowances, confined for 11 years, dishonorable discharge.

**Fort Wainwright, Alaska, July 10:**

**Name:** Spc. Nicholas S. Marcum

**Conviction:** By a military panel of officers, contrary to his plea, of one specification of forcible rape of a child.

**Sentence:** Reduced to the grade of E-1, forfeit all pay and allowances, confined for 20 years, dishonorable discharge.

**Camp Red Cloud, July 13:**

**Name:** Spc. Joshua L. Parham

**Conviction:** By a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of two specifications of selling military property, two specifications of larceny of military property of a value of more than \$500 and one specification of burglary.

**Sentence:** Reduced to the grade of E-1, forfeit all pay and allowances, confined for 30 months, bad-conduct discharge. As part of an offer to plead guilty, a pre-trial agreement limited confinement to 24 months.

**Fort Bliss, Texas, July 14:**

**Name:** Pfc. Mitchell A. Brown

**Conviction:** By a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of one specification of assault consummated by a battery, one

specification of housebreaking, one specification of drunk and disorderly conduct, and one specification of child endangerment.

**Sentence:** Reduced to the grade of E-1, confined for 28 months, bad-conduct discharge.

**Fort Irwin, California, July 14:**

**Name:** Spc. George B. Wakhungu

**Conviction:** By a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of four specifications of willfully disobeying a superior commissioned officer, two specifications of false official statement, one specification of larceny, two specifications of assault consummated by a battery and two specifications of adultery.

**Sentence:** Confined for 28 months, dishonorable discharge.

**Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, July 14:**

**Name:** Spc. Jason S. Westfall

**Conviction:** By a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of one specification of desertion, one specification of false official statement and one specification of wrongful use of marijuana.

**Sentence:** Reduced to the grade of E-1, confined for six months, bad-conduct discharge.

**Fort Irwin, July 15:**

**Name:** Pfc. Zachary S. Richardson-Hoeg

**Conviction:** By a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of two specifications of failure to obey a lawful order, three specifications of willfully damaging military property, one specification of aggravated assault, one specification of assault, and three specifications of drunk and disorderly conduct

**Sentence:** Confined for 18 months, bad-conduct discharge.

**Fort Shafter, Hawaii, July 16:**

**Name:** Spc. Michael A. Barry

**Conviction:** By a military judge, contrary to his pleas, of two specifications of insubordinate conduct toward a noncommissioned officer.

**Acquittal:** One specification of failure to go to his appointed place of duty.

**Sentence:** Reduced to the grade of E-1, hard labor without confinement for three months.

**Joint Base Lewis-McChord, July 16:**

**Name:** Sgt. 1st Class Joseph K. Felton.

**Conviction:** By a military panel of officer and enlisted members, contrary to his pleas, of one specification of false official statement and three specifications of sexual assault.

**Acquittal:** One specification of obstruction of justice.

**Sentence:** Reduced to the grade of E-1, confined for three years, dishonorable discharge.

**Fort Bliss, July 17:**

**Name:** Not provided (specialist)

**Acquittal:** By a military panel of officer and enlisted members, of one specification of failure to obey a lawful order and one specification of sexual assault.

**Joint Base Lewis-McChord, July 21:**

**Name:** Not provided (sergeant first class)

**Acquittal:** By a military judge, of two specifications of sexual

assault.

**Joint Base Lewis-McChord, July 22:**

**Name:** Pfc. Mario J. Laraguillen

**Conviction:** By a military judge, pursuant to his plea, of one specification of sexual assault of a child.

**Sentence:** Reduced to the grade of E-1, confined for 20 months, dishonorable discharge. As part of an offer to plead guilty, a pre-trial agreement limited confinement to 18 months.

**Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Presidio of Monterey, California, July 23:**

**Name:** Not provided (specialist)

**Acquittal:** By a military panel of officer and enlisted members, of two specifications of rape and three specifications of assault.

**Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, July 29:**

**Name:** Second Lt. Kyle A. Damman

**Conviction:** By a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of two specifications of desertion and one specification of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

**Sentence:** Confined for 12 months, dismissal from service.

**Joint Base Lewis-McChord, July 31**

**Name:** Sgt. Derek J. Fortin

**Conviction:** By a military judge, pursuant to his plea, of one specification of absence without leave.

**Sentence:** Reduced to the grade of E-1, confined for 40 days, bad-conduct discharge.

## Senior master sergeant faces court-martial for sexual harassment

*(25 Aug) Air Force Times, By Phillips Swarts*

A senior master sergeant at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, faces charges that he repeatedly sexually harassed a fellow airman, including groping her and telling her she couldn't get a man because she can't cook.

Court records show that Senior Master Sgt. Rashaun Fleming is also accused of throwing a dodgeball at the airman's buttocks, and on another occasion calling her into his office and ordering her to "dance for him."

According to Air Force personnel records, Fleming works with airfield management and is part of the Commanders Action Group.

A court martial has been set for Jan. 5. Capt. Bradley Sauer, Fleming's military legal counsel, declined to comment on his client's case.

According to documents filed with the Judge Advocate General's office, between May 2013 and May 2014, Fleming allegedly harassed the female airman, sending her a message that he was "too sexy to stay to myself" and telling her she should "stop messing around with little boys."

The incidents are alleged to have taken place at Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina and in the United Arab

### *Fifth Judicial Circuit (Europe and Southwest Asia)*

**Vilseck, Germany, July 1:**

**Name:** Not provided (staff sergeant)

**Acquittal:** By a military judge, of two specifications of maltreatment, one specification of false official statement and one specification of abusive sexual contact.

**Kaiserslautern, Germany, July 1:**

**Name:** Pvt. Andrew M. Viera

**Conviction:** By a military panel of officer and enlisted members, contrary to his pleas, of one specification of robbery and one specification of dishonorably failing to pay a debt.

**Acquittal:** One specification of a sexual assault and one specification of larceny.

**Sentence:** Forfeit \$1,546 pay per month for six months, confined for six months, bad-conduct discharge.

**Weisbaden, Germany, July 17:**

**Name:** Chief Warrant Officer 4 Scott R. Ricks

**Conviction:** By a military panel of officers, contrary to his pleas, of three specifications of false official statement, one specification of larceny and one specification of wrongful appropriation.

**Acquittal:** One specification of false official statement and one specification of larceny.

**Sentence:** Forfeit \$2,000 pay per month for five months, confined for three months, reprimanded.

<http://www.armytimes.com/story/military/crime/2015/08/21/army-releases-results-july-courts-martial/32123197/>

Emirates, where the unit — the 20th Operations Squadron — deployed.

Sometime between January 2014 and May 2014, Fleming was at the squadron's Airfield Management front desk when he allegedly threw a dodgeball at the airman's buttocks, JAG records show.

And in an incident in May 2014, Fleming allegedly groped the other airman, kissed her on the neck and placed her hand on his crotch, according to court documents.

Fleming also faces charges for indecent exposure, and allegedly trying to pressure the other airman into having sex and asking her what her "favorite position" was.

The 20th Fighter Wing takes accusations of harassment very seriously, said spokeswoman 2nd Lt. Jenny Hyden.

"Sexual assault and harassment degrade the trust between airmen and directly impact our mission readiness, and we take every accusation seriously," she said. "We have great confidence in the military justice system, which is critical to establishing and maintaining good order and discipline in the ranks, while protecting the constitutional rights of all military members."



According to Air Force personnel records, Fleming entered service July 1997 and has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

<http://www.airforcetimes.com/story/military/crime/2015/08/25/senior-master-sergeant-faces-court-martial-sexual-harassment/32331349/>

## **Navy announces court-martial results for July**

*(25 Aug) Navy Times, Staff Report*

The Navy has released results of special and general courts-martial verdicts for July. The cases are listed by the Navy Region in which they were tried:

the panel of members returned a verdict of guilty and sentenced her to a reprimand, to forfeit \$1,020 per month for 4 months, reduction in rank to paygrade E-1, and confinement for 4 months.

### **NAVAL DISTRICT WASHINGTON**

#### **General court-martial**

- In Washington, D.C., Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Derek B. Hahn was tried for sexual assault. On July 20, the panel of members returned a verdict of guilty and sentenced him to Dishonorable Discharge, to forfeit all pay and allowances, reduction in rank to paygrade E-1, and confinement for 6 months.

#### **Special courts-martial**

- In Washington, D.C., Yeoman 1st Class Keithan Smith was tried for unauthorized purchases with his government travel card, fraudulent claim, and failure to pay debts. On July 1, the panel of members returned a verdict of guilty to all charges and sentenced him to a reprimand and restriction for 60 days.
- In Washington, D.C., Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Tyler J. Zarozinski pleaded guilty to false official statement and wearing unauthorized ribbons. On July 24, the military judge sentenced him to a reprimand, to forfeit \$1,031 per month for 2 months, reduction in rank to paygrade E-1, and confinement for 60 days.

### **NAVY REGION MID-ATLANTIC**

#### **General Court-Martial**

- In Norfolk, Virginia, an E-5 was tried for sexual assault and assault consummated by a battery. On July 24, the panel of members returned a verdict of not guilty.

#### **Special Courts-Martial**

- In Norfolk, Virginia, Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Cassi L. Leonard pleaded guilty to unauthorized absence, failure to obey a lawful order, and wrongful use of a controlled substance. On July 16, the military judge sentenced her to a bad conduct discharge, reduction in rank to paygrade E-1, and confinement for 4 months.
- In Norfolk, Virginia, Cryptologic Technician (Technical) Heather B. McCrea was tried for wrongful use of a controlled substance. On July 29,

### **NAVY REGION SOUTHEAST**

#### **General Courts-Martial**

- In Pensacola, Florida, an E-4 was tried for abusive sexual contact. On July 15, the panel of members returned a verdict of not guilty.
- In Mayport, Florida, Missile Technician 2nd Class Jonathan M. Ashby pleaded guilty to violating a lawful general regulation. On July 23, the military judge sentenced him to reduction in rank to paygrade E-1 and confinement for 4 months.
- In Pensacola, Florida, Lt. Jason R. Panos was tried for attempting to violate a lawful general order, violating a lawful general order, making a false official statement, abusive sexual contact, and assault. On July 31, the panel of members returned a verdict of not guilty to the charges of making a false official statement and assault, but returned a verdict of guilty for the charges of attempting to violate a lawful general order, violating a lawful general order, and abusive sexual contact. On July 31, the panel of members sentenced him to a reprimand, to forfeit \$2,000 per month for 6 months, and restriction for 1 month.

#### **Special Courts-Martial**

- In Jacksonville, Florida, Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Felix RiosMcConnell was tried for unauthorized absence, failure to obey a lawful general order, and solicitation of a prostitute. On June 30, the military judge dismissed the charges of unauthorized absence and solicitation of a prostitute, but returned a verdict of guilty for failure to obey a lawful general order. On July 1, the military judge sentenced him to a reprimand, to forfeit \$1,000 per month for 6 months, and hard labor for 30 days.
- In Mayport, Florida, Gas Turbine System Technician (Electrical) 3rd Class Benjamin C. Leighton pleaded guilty to violating a lawful general regulation, wrongful distribution of a Schedule I controlled substance, and obstruction of justice. On July 23, the military judge sentenced him to a bad conduct discharge, reduction in rank to paygrade E-1, and confinement for 7 months.
- In Pensacola, Florida, Yeoman 2nd Class Lawrence S. Newman pleaded guilty to violation of a lawful

general regulation, larceny, and dishonorably failing to pay a debt. On July 27, the military judge sentenced him to a bad conduct discharge, reduction in rank to paygrade E-1, and confinement for 7 months.

larceny and larceny. On July 21, the military judge sentenced him to reduction in rank to paygrade E-3, a fine of \$2,000, and confinement for 45 days.

## NAVY REGION HAWAII

### Special Court-Martial

- In Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Charles E. Dreisewerd pleaded guilty to wrongful use of cocaine. On July 2, the military judge sentenced him to a bad conduct discharge, reduction in rank to paygrade E-1, and confinement for 60 days.

## NAVY REGION JAPAN

### Special Court-Martial

- In Yokosuka, Japan, an E-5 was tried for an assault consummated by a battery. On July 15, the panel of members returned a verdict of not guilty.

## NAVY REGION EUROPE, AFRICA, SOUTHWEST ASIA

### Special Court-Martial

- In Naples, Italy, Personnel Specialist 1st Class Carl S. Blanchard, pleaded guilty to false official statement and larceny. On July 15, the military judge sentenced him to a fine of \$25,000 and confinement for 140 days.

<http://www.navytimes.com/story/military/crime/2015/08/25/navy-special-general-courts-martial-july-2015/32328213/>

## NAVY REGION SOUTHWEST

### General Court-Martial

- In San Diego, California, Lt. Ernest M. Thompson pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit larceny, wrongfully selling military property, and larceny. On July 8, the military judge sentenced him to a reprimand, a fine of \$23,000, and confinement for 364 days.

### Special Courts-Martial

- In San Diego, California, Logistics Specialist Edgar J. G. Urieta pleaded guilty to breaking restriction. On July 1, the military judge sentenced him to forfeit \$500 per month for 1 month, reduction in rank to paygrade E-1, and confinement for 25 days.
- In San Diego, California, Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Brian M. White pleaded guilty to false official statements and damaging non-military property. On July 2, the military judge sentenced him to reduction in rank to paygrade E-4, and confinement for 20 days.
- In San Diego, California, Seaman Khalil K. Alexander pleaded guilty to assault consummated by a battery. On July 16, the military judge sentenced him to a reprimand, reduction in rank to paygrade E-2, and restriction for 45 days.
- In San Diego, California, Mechanic 3rd Class Dylan J. Kilby pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit

## Court overturns rape conviction involving JBLM soldier

(26 Aug) *The Olympian*, By Michael Doyle

A Joint Base Lewis-McChord soldier was inspired by the military's ramped-up campaign against sexual assault when she reported in 2012 that she had been raped several years before at a different base.

The soldier's belated testimony helped convict Army Staff Sgt. Gabriel C. Garcia. But now, an appeals court has dismissed Garcia's rape conviction, citing evidence problems as well as a politically infused command climate that deems military sexual assault an epidemic.

"The proceedings were unfair," the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals said in its [unanimous Aug. 18 ruling](#).

In particular, the two men and one woman on the panel noted how the Army prosecutor summoned sentiments that have swept through Congress and the Pentagon in recent years. The ruling makes clear that all military lawyers must now tread carefully as they balance zeal with justice.

"With multiple references, some overt and others thinly veiled, to the Army's efforts to confront sexual assault, the government attempted to impermissibly influence the (court martial) panel's findings by injecting command policy into the trial," Col. R. Tideland Penman, Jr. wrote for the court.

Currently held at Naval Consolidated Brig Charleston in South Carolina, the 47-year-old Garcia remains convicted on charges involving "maltreatment" of two enlisted females. One said Garcia called her sexually suggestive names in an email. Another said Garcia called her "sexy" and "cutie" and discussed his sex life.

Garcia's defense attorney says these other charges were imposed to paint Garcia in a bad light, the kind of predator the military is now committed to rooting out.

"This is a case where the pressures on the prosecutors caused them to go way beyond what is proper," Garcia's defense

attorney Phil Cave said Wednesday. "They knew they weren't supposed to introduce politics into the case, but they did."

And, Cave added, "it was a weak case on the facts."

An Army reaction could not be obtained Wednesday afternoon.

Allegations of unlawful command influence have dogged military courts ever since the anti-sexual assault campaign gained the momentum that led President [Barack Obama in May 2013](#) to declare that those who "engage in this stuff" in the military should be "prosecuted, stripped of their positions, court-martialed, fired, dishonorably discharged. Period."

"We're going to communicate this again to folks up and down the chain in areas of authority, and I expect consequences," Obama added.

At JBLM, sexual assault prevention programs ramped up significantly in 2012 and 2013 when the new 7th Infantry Division headquarters was formed at the base. Commanders ordered individual units to appoint sex assault response coordinators, spread a "zero tolerance" message down the ranks and crack down on misbehavior in the barracks.

In June 2013, then-Maj. Gen. Stephen Lanza canceled training activities for the 20,000 soldiers under his command at JBLM and focused them on sexual assault programs for a day.

A few months later, the local base opened a one-stop response center for sex assault victims. The Army liked it so much, it announced plans in 2014 to copy the JBLM model at 11 other installations.

Reported sexual assault incidents at JBLM have risen slightly since 2011 — 102 reports that year, compared with 120 and 114 cases the next two years.

## **First Four Of Enlisted Women Tapped For Silent Service Start Sub School Monday**

*(22 Aug) New London Day, By Julia Bergman*

The first four of the 38 enlisted women tapped to serve in the silent service will start their training at Basic Enlisted Submarine School on Monday.

The women, who are in the Submarine Electronics Communications Field, will be in a class of 79 students, composed mostly of men.

At the end of June, the Navy released the names of the first cadre of enlisted women who will start serving in the submarine service in 2016.

The female sailors will fill four chief petty officer positions and 34 positions from petty officer first class and below, across the blue and gold crews of the USS Michigan, an Ohio-class guided missile submarine homeported in Bangor, Wash. The Navy began recruiting the women in January.

Across the entire military, there were 6,131 reported military sexual assaults in fiscal year 2014.

A former resident of San Antonio, Texas, Garcia was serving with the 66th Military Intelligence Brigade in Germany when he first met the 23-year-old woman who later accused him.

The soldier, a paralegal specialist, testified Garcia raped and sodomized her. Several weeks after the alleged assault, she accompanied him to dinner and later sent him several sexually provocative photos of herself, according to trial testimony.

Several years later, while stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the female soldier reported she had been assaulted. At the time, she testified, she was keenly aware that "there were so many messages coming at me" about the prevalence of military sexual assault, from Army radio announcements to a movie called "[The Invisible War.](#)"

"There are certain points in your life where you start hearing things and you kind of get that feeling, like, I feel like somebody is talking to me," the soldier testified, court records show.

The alleged victim further testified that she was older and "more seasoned" as a soldier, and was finally "secure in being able to say this is what happened."

Cave, the defense attorney, said he will file a habeas corpus petition seeking Garcia's release if the Army doesn't take action on its own by the end of this week.

<http://www.theolympian.com/news/local/military/article32474226.html>

To prepare for the arrival of the women, sub school officials updated the Groton barracks to meet the Navy's privacy standards, according to Capt. David Roberts, the commanding officer of the Submarine Learning Center.

Senior enlisted female sailors are also reporting to sub school to serve as mentors for the young female sailors, Roberts said.

After completing boot camp, sub school is the starting point for every sailor entering the submarine force who does not have prior nuclear training.

Sub school is eight weeks long and features an academic portion, involving basic submarine systems, for example, skills training, and general military training.

Class sizes can be as large as 92 students, with a new class starting every two weeks. Within the next month or two,



Roberts said, additional groups of women will start their training.

The dropout rate at sub school is around 10 to 15 percent, according to Roberts, who added that generally the reasons for dropping out are not academic but are related to performance or conduct.

He said there are occasional dropouts due to sailors not meeting medical or physical requirements.

The SECF Apprentice training pipeline at 18 weeks is longer than other specialties because of the technical nature of the work.

It covers basic computer and electronic training and fire control systems, trigonometry and pre-calculus, AC/DC circuits, and basic power supplies, among other topics.

After sub school, the women will continue training for their specific rating, as do the men.

The selection of the first cadre of enlisted women represents the latest milestone in the Navy's larger plan to integrate women into the submarine force. Women officers began reporting to submarines in late 2011.

This month, the Navy opened up the second round of selections of enlisted women to serve on submarines. The service is accepting conversion applications for ranks E-1 through E-8.

According to the Navy Times, 113 women applied for the first round. Of those, 108 were determined to be qualified.

## **Women's Journeys To Navy SEALs Likely Would Start At Great Lakes**

*(21 Aug) Chicago Tribune, By Lauren Zumbach*

A top Navy officer said he's open to letting women join the ranks of its elite SEAL teams – and if the secretary of defense agrees with the admiral's recommendation, some of the first female SEAL candidates will likely start the journey at Naval Station Great Lakes in North Chicago, Navy officials said..

The Navy has been reviewing its policies and entry standards as part of the military's push to open more combat jobs to women.

Adm. Jonathan Greenert, the Navy's retiring top officer, said entry standards should be gender neutral but made it clear that no decision has been made about opening up the last all-male bastion in the Navy, according to a report in The San Diego Union-Tribune.

The services were told they'd need to seek exemptions for positions they believed should remain closed to women.

"We do not intend to ask for any exemptions for any job in the Navy," Cmdr. William Marks, with Navy public affairs, told the News-Sun on Thursday.

That includes the SEAL teams, Marks said, which are currently among the special operations units closed to servicewomen.

The 70 women who were selected as alternates are automatically included in the pool for the second round, unless they chose not to be.

The second round of women selected will be assigned to the USS Florida, an Ohio-class guided-missile submarine homeported in Kings Bay, Ga.

Electric Boat has been working with the Navy on design modifications for mixed-gender crews on Virginia-class submarines, according to Tim Boulay, director of communications at EB.

Females are expected to arrive aboard Virginia-class attack submarines in 2020.

"The goal is to maximize flexibility while maintaining a high level of privacy in living areas," Boulay said by email. He listed possible options, "still in the design stage only," as:

- Installing doors in place of curtains in bunk rooms;
- Lengthening doors for water closets, with segregated shower spaces;
- Adding a second shower in one lavatory space, to allow for two separate lavatories, each with a water closet, sink and shower; and
- Rearranging chief petty officer quarters to allow for two private bunk areas.

<http://www.theday.com/military/20150821/first-four-of-enlisted-women-tapped-for-silent-service-start-sub-school-monday>

Their journey would start at Great Lakes ... and end during BUD/S.

While a decision on whether Navy SEALs will accept women hasn't been made, each of the services and U.S. Special Operations Command will study their combat roles and entry standards and provide a recommendation to the secretary of defense on integrating women.

SOCOM, which oversees special operations across the armed services, expects to make its recommendation at the end of this fall, said SOCOM spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Matt Allen.

"We are working in concert with all the services. It's a deliberate process, and at the end, the secretary of defense makes the final decision," Allen said, adding that decision is expected Jan. 1, 2016.

If the secretary of defense is onboard, there's no timeline for when the first women could begin SEAL training, Marks said. But most enlisted SEAL aspirants take the first step at Naval Station Great Lakes' Naval Special Warfare Preparatory School, according to Navy officials.

The SEALs are highly selective. Out of the roughly 1,000 men who begin SEAL training each year, only about 200 to 250

successfully graduate, according to the Naval Special Warfare website.

The two-month training period at Naval Station Great Lakes aims to get SEAL candidates physically ready for more specialized training at the Naval Special Warfare Center in California, which takes about a year.

Just to make it to the SEAL training program, Great Lakes' Naval Special Warfare Preparatory School candidates must

pass a fitness test with minimum standards that would be grueling for anyone – male or female. Each must swim 1,000 yards with fins in 20 minutes; complete 70 pushups, 10 pullups and 60 curl-ups in two minutes each; and run 4 miles in 31 minutes, according to the Naval Special Warfare website.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/news/ct-Ins-great-lakes-navy-seals-women-st-0821-20150821-story.html>

## **New Army chief ponders momentous decision on women in combat**

*(22 Aug) Associated Press, By Robert Burns*

The Army's new chief of staff, Gen. Mark Milley, is taking a calculated approach to arguably the most consequential decision of his early tenure — whether to recommend that any all-male combat roles remain closed to women.

Central to his thinking, he said in an Associated Press interview Friday, is the question of whether allowing women to serve in the infantry, armor and other traditionally male-only fields would affect Army "readiness" for war.

"Does it improve it, or does it hurt it?" he is asking as he and leaders of the other military services weigh whether to recommend to Defense Secretary Ash Carter that he keep some positions off-limits to women. Under a January 2013 edict, all remaining all-male positions will be opened to women unless the defense secretary approves exceptions by January 2016. Carter said on Thursday that he expects to see the services' recommendations by October.

Milley, who took over as Army chief on Aug. 14 and has seen women in combat during his numerous tours as a commander in Iraq and Afghanistan, said he is not ready to say which direction he is leaning.

"Right now I would call myself right on the line," he said in the interview while flying to Fort Benning to attend an Army Ranger School graduation that included the first women ever to pass the rigorous Ranger training course. After the ceremony he briefly met privately with the two trailblazers, Capt. Kristen Griest, 26, and 1st Lt. Shaye Haver, 25.

Milley said that in coming weeks he will weigh a wide range of information, including Army assessments of the experience of Israel and other countries with women in combat, as well as studies by the Marine Corps, data collected during Army experiments and judgments reached by his own experience in war.

"Whatever decision is made is going to have some pretty far-reaching impact," he said. "So it's a big deal, and I want to make sure I'm thinking it through."

Women have been steadily moving into previously all-male jobs across the military, including as members of the Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, best known as the helicopter crews that flew Navy SEALs into Osama bin Laden's compound. Women are also now serving on Navy submarines and in some Army artillery jobs.

Officials familiar with the discussions about possibly ending limits on women serving in combat said they believe the Army will allow women to seek infantry and armor jobs. Milley's predecessor as chief of staff, Gen. Ray Odierno, has hinted at that conclusion.

"In order to best manage your talent, you have to pick the best people who can perform to the standards that we have established," Odierno said earlier this month. "If you can meet the standards that we've established, then you should be able to perform in that (position). And I think that's where we're headed."

Friday's Ranger School graduation ceremony offered Milley a chance to get further insight into sentiment within the ranks as he nears his decision.

The pioneer work by Griest and Haver has cast new attention on the obstacles that remain to women who aspire to join all-male combat units, including the 75th Ranger Regiment. Although Haver and Griest are now Ranger-qualified, no women are eligible for the elite regiment, although officials say it is among special operations units likely to be opened to women eventually.

Griest is a military police officer and has served one tour in Afghanistan. Haver is a pilot of Apache helicopters. Both are graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Of 19 women who began the Ranger course, Haver and Griest are the only two to finish so far; one is repeating a prior phase of training in hopes of graduating soon.

Addressing the graduates, Maj. Gen. Scott Miller said no one should doubt that all 96 graduates met Ranger standards, regardless of their sex, and he congratulated them on proving their mettle.

"You'll leave Victory Pond today with a small piece of cloth on your shoulder, but more importantly you carry the title of Ranger from here on out," he said. Miller, who gained his Ranger tab 30 years ago this month, is commander of all Army infantry and armor training and education, including the Ranger School.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/2eb65fd6499d4eab843f84d49e2d792b/new-army-chief-ponders-momentous-decision-women-combat>

## Warrant courses linked to assignment eligibility

(24 Aug) Army Times, By Jim Tice

A directive designed to ensure that warrant officers receive the appropriate military schooling before being assigned to key leadership and staff positions has been issued by Army Secretary John McHugh.

"Warrant officer professional military education is important, and we need to continue to educate our warrant officers," said CW5 Joel Smith, command chief warrant officer of Human Resources Command, Fort Knox, Kentucky.

The affected assignments involve both aviators and technical services officers of the active and reserve components, but primarily the active component, which comprises about 60 percent of the Army's 26,000-member warrant officer corps.

In issuing the assignment guidance in Army Directive 2015-30, McHugh said "it is critical that warrant officers complete the requisite PME within established timelines to ensure that they are fully prepared for the demands of their highly specialized roles."

"Consequently, warrant officers who do not possess the PME for their grade level are prohibited from serving in the following assignments and roles," the secretary ordered:

- Command at any level
- Professional military education instructor
- Duty with Army centralized selection boards, including all warrant officer accession boards, Recruiting Command selection boards and special branch-level boards. Chief warrant of the branch, regimental chief warrant officer, command chief or key Army 011A billets. Brigade-level command chief warrant officers will attend the Pre-Command Course Phases I and II, while branch and regimental command chief warrant officers will attend Phase III only.
- Army Senior Warrant Officer Council.
- Human Resources Command career manager.
- Broadening assignments, including senior warrant officer branch-immaterial and joint, interagency, intergovernmental and multinational positions.

All key active component CW4 and CW5 branch-immaterial positions will be nominative capstone and broadening assignments. Only officers who have been carefully developed through the timely attendance at appropriate education courses and assignment experiences will be selected for these key branch-immaterial billets:

- Army Staff senior warrant officer
- Army G1 warrant officer promotions and policy integrator

- Army G3/5/7 warrant officer leader development
- Forces Command, command chief warrant officer
- Training and Doctrine Command, G3/5/7 warrant officer leader development
- Combined Arms Center, command chief warrant officer
- Center for Army Leadership warrant officer integration officer
- School for Advanced Leadership and Tactics, mid-grade learning continuum warrant officer integrator
- Warrant Officer Career College, deputy commandant.
- Warrant Officer Career College, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company.
- Warrant Officer Career College, commander 1st Warrant Officer Company.
- 1st Warrant Officer Company, senior training, advising and counseling officer.
- Human Resources Command, command chief warrant officer.

Smith said the tenets of the Aug. 10 directive support Warrant Officer 2025, the master professional development plan that is pending final approval by senior Army leaders.

The schooling and assignments linkage "is a point of emphasis (in Warrant Officer 2025), and is an integral part of the development of our warrant officers by ensuring their attendance at professional military education in a timely manner, while actively managing our warrant officer talent pool," Smith said.

Under the professional development regimen now in place for the warrant officer corps, the Warrant Officer Advanced Course and appropriate specialty and branch-specific training is targeted at CW2s moving towards CW3.

Within the active component, the WO Intermediate Level Education course is aimed at CW3s and newly promoted CW4s, and the WO Senior Service Education course at senior CW4s and newly promoted CW5s.

Officers of the reserve components must complete the appropriate PME before pinning on for promotion to CW3 (WO Advanced Course), CW4 (Intermediate Level Education) and CW5 (Senior Service Education).

Most promotions to CW2 are made when a WO1 reaches 24 months' time-in-grade. Warrant officers are commissioned upon being promoted to CW2.

After promotion to CW2, due-course officers of the technical services receive primary-zone promotion board reviews every four years, while aviators are considered for in-zone

advancements to CW3 and CW4 every five years. Primary-zone consideration for CW5 occurs at about six years of time-in-grade for aviators.

<http://www.armytimes.com/story/military/careers/army/officer/2015/08/24/warrant-courses-linked-assignment-eligibility/31983943/>

## **Bias In Battledress: Fixing The Hidden Problems Of Military Prejudice**

(25 Aug) War on the Rocks, By Bryan Coughlin and Katey Van Dam

The military services have until October 1 to recommend if any of their occupational specialties should remain closed to women. Most services have hinted that they will open all opportunities to the most qualified candidate while others are expected to maintain the status quo. This is a historic moment that represents an opportunity for the military services to break through the institutional biases that have hindered optimal development of the next generation of warfighters. This juncture echoes others in history, where institutions have been pushed to examine their assumptions about their members' capabilities and to discard unhelpful biases in order to maximize their organizational effectiveness. Today, it is especially critical for the U.S. military to get this right as it strives to create a future fighting force with fewer resources.

We often do not recognize our own biases without someone else pointing them out to us. Institutional biases prevent organizations from achieving their full potential because they encourage those in positions of authority to maintain the status quo rather than unlock the potential of all members. This is also where a quick look at history can help illuminate a way ahead as women increasingly earn their positions in historically male-only units.

### **1851: The Irish Cop**

In 1851, Barney McGinniskin was the first Irish immigrant to become a police officer in the Boston Police Department. At the time, Irish immigrants and their families constituted 40 percent of Boston's population, but city leaders believed that the Irish were inherently too irresponsible to be police officers. The city marshal claimed that hiring McGinniskin came at the "expense of an American." Anti-immigrant and anti-Catholic fervor grew as "nativists" stoked the fear of these "immigrants."

Three years into his tenure, McGinniskin's anti-Irish boss relieved the 6'2" Boston police officer without cause. No protest was made because the leadership in the city silently consented to this malignant bigotry. Officer McGinniskin's abilities, merits, and dedication to his duties were not questioned. Instead, socially accepted stereotypes of his nationality ultimately determined his fate.

### **1942: The Black Soldier**

During World War II, intelligence testing of military recruits divided new joins into grades that determined their suitability for serving in various roles. Nearly all black recruits at the time scored in the two lowest grades, identifying them as suited for labor and precluding them from serving in technical and leadership positions. This testing process served to

reinforce the military's institutional bias toward maintaining segregated units under the assumption that the "negro soldier" was naturally less intelligent than his white counterparts. However, what the testing actually identified was the abysmal effect of a Jim Crow education system. Black recruits had not received the same education and preparation as that white recruits had.

These same assumptions about intelligence were also used in aviation to justify keeping black officers out of the cockpit. Despite being college-educated, black officers were expected to fail in flight training. They were provided low-performing white instructors who themselves had low expectations of their black students. Instead of capitalizing on the patriotism and talent of a large population of capable servicemen by integrating them into regular squadrons, those black pilots who succeeded were placed in segregated units where they were overworked due to limited manpower.

### **2015: The Female Marine**

The Crucible is the culminating event of the Marine Corps' recruit training, where recruits officially earn the title of U.S. Marine after enduring the infamous rigors of boot camp. Unlike the other services, the Marine Corps recruit training is gender segregated; women and men receive the same training, but do so in single-sex formations. Until August 2014, a row of chairs was placed behind the female platoon at the end of every Crucible, in the words of the commanding officer, "for recruits who were too 'exhausted' or sore to stand. Conversely, there were no chairs staged behind the male formation." This type of behavior has a name: "benevolent sexism." Unlike the previous examples of outward intolerance based on prejudice, benevolent sexism is often well intentioned. Leaders are often acting on a deep-seated bias that women are weaker and less capable, and constantly require assistance. This results in "gender norming," the watering down of performance standards for all, and ultimately a less capable warfighting organization.

The actions motivated by benevolent sexism perpetuate the underlying assumption of female inferiority by demonstrating to the entire institution on a daily basis that there are lower expectations for female performance. In the case of female Marine Corps recruits, the institution visually demonstrated this low expectation for them even though they had just completed the Crucible *under the same conditions and requirements as their male peers*. As a result, the Marine Corps continues to produce less-qualified Marines and accepts this status quo without challenging the underlying assumptions that sap its overall effectiveness.



## Recommendations

While instructors at The Basic School, the Marine Corps' leadership school for all new officers, we both personally observed biases – in subordinates, peers, and ourselves. Through discussion and the intent to better ourselves as instructors, we looked into the science of bias and how we could shape officers early on to be better leaders. The following recommendations are based on both our practical experience and academic research.

**Recognize and Address Biases:** Set one standard for individuals to compete for a position and judge each individual on his or her ability – not on stereotypes. As staff platoon commanders at The Basic School, we were both in charge of training a platoon of lieutenants for six months at a time. As much as we could control it, at no point were Marines given a pass to enforce biases. For example, women had to learn to change amongst their male peers after a hike, and their male peers learned quickly to accept this as normal, so no one really gave it a second thought. As a leader, forcing individuals to recognize and address innate biases often merely requires putting them in a new situation and allowing them to come to quiet terms with it. They then usually see that their fears did not amount to much once they actually experienced the situation.

Good communication with subordinates is required to get them to that goal, followed by tough expectations to keep to a rigorous training schedule. Whether it is a physical or technical skill, leadership or mentorship, your stronger subordinates will succeed if they believe you are giving them a fair shot. Addressing biases is often a delicate dynamic, particularly if the “guilty” individual is unaware or well intentioned. There are times where blatant disrespect requires bureaucratic action, but more often opportunities arise that allow us to point out our biases to each other in a constructive manner. At times, the subordinate plays the mentor. Fostering this environment as a leader is important.

**Bring Both Men and Women into the Discussion:** Leaders must ensure both men and women are part of the solution. Through education, the military can combat bias within its ranks. A project at Harvard University has studied the effect of bias and established an implicit association test to help expose individuals to their personal biases. This is a simple test that compares how an individual buckets words in different categories (specific to race, sex, or other factors). Although the test may not be a perfect indicator of one's exact bias, the result of the test is immaterial. Both authors have used the test with student lieutenants. No one has to share the results of their test, but the ensuing conversation afterward addresses the effect of an underlying bias on leadership. It is ideal to set ground rules, primarily dealing with civility and emphasizing intelligent debate instead of heated argument. If it is possible, having a mix of experiences (such as first-generation military, first-generation American, men, women, and people from different demographic backgrounds) provides great stimulus to the conversation. This type of discussion often enables people to relate to each other when they might not otherwise do so. The true impact of the implicit association test is the

conversation it creates among military leaders. Through discussion, solutions are born.

Furthermore, it is important that the training incorporates a study of history. Lessons such as those of the Boston Police Department and black service members in World War II are a great way to start, but the conversation needs to lead to how to improve the current military outlook. This requires maturity, honest reflection, and boldness to speak the truth. These traits should come naturally, as they are exactly what the military requires of its leaders. From entry-level training to top-level schools, the military should incorporate bias education into its professional military education series.

**Demand More from Military Leadership:** Military leaders must actively do more to set the example and enforce uniform expectations. Adjusting to a change in a previously homogenous environment can be challenging, particularly when a new team member is more obviously “different.” The importance is emphasizing task cohesion and setting a firm line that any bigotry will not be tolerated. Simply set the example of “This is our new team member. (S)he will be responsible for this. I expect you to show her/him the ropes.” Period. If you follow up with anything that emphasizes that individual's “otherness” you are only deepening the chasm the person must cross to connect with peers. Those who have experience with a minority come to realize their biases and adjust sooner than those who have no prior exposure. The example set by those in charge can either further ostracize a minority group and cause discontent among the ranks or create a cohesive fighting force that is more capable than others because of its ability to capitalize on all the talents of its members.

As leaders in the military, it is our responsibility to ensure a more lethal fighting force in the future. Last week, two women graduated from the Army's grueling Ranger School for the first time. Before this milestone event, institutional bias in the U.S. Army reinforced an assumption that women would simply never be capable of completing its most challenging small unit leadership course. Captain Griest and Lieutenant Haver's graduation not only repudiates this assumption, it also demonstrates that there is still much talent within the ranks that remains to be harnessed.

Continuing to propagate biases only further stigmatizes minorities that succeed, creating a “unicorn” effect of the initial few that succeed instead of an example of an individual's potential. The U.S. military will eventually reach a point where those in uniform are judged on their individual skill and not by the average abilities of their sex, race, or other distinguishable group. This is when our services will truly optimize their ability for mission accomplishment because they seek the best for the toughest jobs – regardless of gender.

*Bryan Coughlin is a former Marine infantry officer that served in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as a member of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines. Katey van Dam is a former Marine attack helicopter pilot and combat veteran.*

<http://warontherocks.com/2015/08/bias-in-battledress-fixing-the-hidden-problems-of-military-prejudice/>



## Retired Gen. McChrystal says doors opening for female soldiers

(25 Aug) *Ledger-Enquirer*, By Chuck Williams

Retired Gen. Stanley McChrystal, who commanded the 75th Ranger Regiment in the late 1990s, said if it were up to him, he would take the two female soldiers who graduated from Ranger School in his regiment.

“I certainly don’t want to speak for the current regiment, but I would,” the retired four-star general said Tuesday before speaking at the Jim Blanchard Leadership Forum. “I think you are looking for quality people who can get things done. What I have seen of these two young ladies is reflective, absolutely.” On Friday, Capt. Kristen Griest and 1st Lt. Shaye Haver became the first two women in Army history to complete Ranger School and receive a Ranger tab. Their distinction comes as the Pentagon weighs opening all combat units, including the all-male 75th Ranger Regiment, to women who meet military standards.

Asked if Griest and Haver should be allowed to join the elite regiment headquartered at Fort Benning, McChrystal was careful with his words.

“I am not in a position to make that decision, so I can’t speculate,” he said. “But I expect we are going to see them succeed.”

Remaining all-male positions would be opened to women unless Defense Secretary Ash Carter approves exceptions by January. Carter has said he expects to see recommendations from the service branches, including the Army, by October. McChrystal was one of the pivotal Army leaders after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, especially in the special operations community.

During a news conference on Thursday, Griest said she hoped to join a Special Forces unit. The West Point graduate is currently a military police officer.

“I think there is a place for good people, regardless of their sex, in our special operations,” McChrystal said. “I think doors are going to open that have never been open before and I think it is going to make the force better.”

McChrystal served as commander of U.S. and international forces in Afghanistan until 2010 when he resigned after a *Rolling Stone* article attributed unflattering remarks about Obama administration officials to the general and his staff. He was also commander of the Joint Special Operations Command in 2008 and 2009.

“Few can speak about leadership, teamwork and international affairs with as much insight as he can,” Maj. Gen. Scott Miller, commander of the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, said in his introduction of McChrystal.

Make no mistake, women are in combat now, McChrystal said.

“I think women have already been in combat,” he said. “I have seen it up close. What we are seeing now, this kind of formal recognition of training and preparation is simply going to open that door wider. Now, there are lots of implications for anybody going into combat — man or woman. The training we do and the preparations we have are going to have to be constantly looked at.”

McChrystal said he was proud of Griest and Haver, but he said the accomplishment of the 108 women who tried to get into the pilot Ranger School class and the 19 who started it in April should also be noted.

“I am really proud of all the females that tried Ranger School because it is a very tough experience,” he said. “All of them put it on the line and went through an awful lot, and I think a number of them will probably come back and get the tab.” One female soldier remains in the course. It will be known later this week if she gets out of the second phase in the north Georgia mountains.

McChrystal said he is not surprised women have earned the Ranger tab.

“It is recognition that times have changed,” he said. “And times changed long before this. In Iraq and Afghanistan, we had females in different types of combat doing extraordinary work. I think this is actually reflective of something that already happened, and it formally got pinned on the shoulders of two young ladies.”

McChrystal said he has not met Haver or Griest, but would offer them some advice.

“They are in a position that is more difficult than the average Ranger School graduate,” the general said. “A young man who was a student of mine at Yale, and worked for me after that, graduated in the class with them. He is going to go forward in his career as a young lieutenant with the Ranger tab. But the world is not going to be looking at him.”

The world will be looking at the first two women to graduate Ranger School, he said.

“Everything they do and everything they say is going to be scrutinized in ways that are difficult and sometimes not fair,” McChrystal said. “I would tell them they carry an extra responsibility maybe they didn’t seek — but they will have. I am sure they will do very well with it.”

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/news/business/article32405400.html>

## The Cost of Lower Standards for Women in Marine Recruitment

(25 Aug) *The New York Times*, By Kyleanne Hunter

The recent success of two female officers, both West Point graduates, in passing the Army’s [grueling Ranger School](#) has bolstered arguments for the full integration of women into the

military’s front-line combat units. In becoming the first women to receive the coveted Ranger tab, the two officers proved that women can handle not just the physical challenges

but also the psychological and leadership tests posed by the nine-week course.

Their graduation could not have come at a more important moment: In September, the heads of each armed services branch must tell Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter which positions and units they believe they can integrate and provide evidence for why any other position should remain closed.

As that deadline looms, the Marine Corps is dealing with its own gender-related controversy. In June, [Lt. Col. Kate Germano was removed](#) from her position as commander of the Fourth Battalion at Parris Island, the Marines' all-female boot camp. During her time as commander, Colonel Germano asserted that the Marines' setting lower standards for women than men led to an underlying sexism in the ranks, one that systematically kept women from reaching their full potential.

It is noteworthy that most of the reports and commentary about Colonel Germano's case have been written by men. Some pieces have been sympathetic to her situation, including one by Elliot Ackerman, a former Marine Corps officer, who used her case to give an honest and objective look at [the systemic problems](#) acting as barriers for women in the Marines. He argued that an institutionalized "hyper-masculinity" is a greater barrier than physical standards to the full integration of women into all military positions. It is a point that needs deeper discussion.

To add breadth and depth to this conversation, and to take it beyond Colonel Germano's case, I believe it is time to speak out about my experiences. The more women who are willing to speak about the way in which the ingrained hyper-masculinity hinders progress toward integrated forces, the closer we will come to an honest conversation about the true hurdles to gender integration.

Colonel Germano's case is one example. Mine is another.

I joined the Marine Corps a year after graduating from Georgetown University. Feeling stagnant in my civilian job, I was looking for a physical and mental challenge, and the Corps' ethos of "honor, courage and commitment" appealed to me. Those entering the Marines as officers do so via the Marine Corps' Officer Candidate School, known as O.C.S., in Quantico, Va. This 10-week course is designed to test an individual's mettle and their ability to be a leader of Marines.

Unlike enlisted boot camp, where all training is in a gender-segregated environment, the vast majority of O.C.S. is integrated. Female platoons have their own sleeping and hygiene accommodations but perform all physical and academic training in the same environment as males. Though this training and evaluation is simultaneous, women still have a lower standard for purely physical tasks. While O.C.S., and the subsequent Basic School that all Marine officers attend, is gender integrated, the Infantry Officer's Course and several advanced courses, such as Mountain Warfare Training Center and Marine Corps Special Operations, remain closed to women.

The physical standards for Marine Corps training are extremely demanding. Leading up to O.C.S. I would make the trek to my Officer Selection Office for rigorous training: Seven-to-10-mile runs in combat boots and utilities, weekly physical fitness tests, weight training and the long marches that we affectionately call "humps." I was able to run three miles (the Marines' fitness test standard) in under 18 minutes, get my scrawny bike-racer arms to do pull-ups, and even condition my feet to run mile after mile in boots.

Heading into O.C.S. I was focused, confident and strong. Though I was aware that there were separate male and female standards for physical performance, being the only woman at my selection office, I continually held myself to the men's standard.

At my initial fitness test at O.C.S., I ran three miles in 16 minutes 58 seconds. I was beaten only by the company commander (who would later become a friend and mentor when I was stationed at New River in Jacksonville, N.C.), and one of the male candidates I had spent the summer training with (and who had been training for the Olympic track team as his back-up plan to the Marines).

I was incredibly proud of my performance. I had given my best. I had proved that I belonged — no, that I was better than — the men chosen to audition to become the elite of the elite, leaders of Marines. When I returned to my platoon's squad bay, however, I was greeted with a different sentiment.

"Who do you think you are, candidate?" my platoon commander, a woman, barked. I must have stared back blankly, as I received a barrage of insults for several minutes. I was later counseled that the standard for women was 21 minutes, and that I should get used to running slower.

For the rest of my time at O.C.S., I was continually pushed to the back of runs and told to "learn what was expected of me." When I and another female Marine were near the front of a company run, we were asked why we hadn't fallen out like females are supposed to.

(I must add that my platoon sergeant was an incredible Marine who continues to encourage women to be their physical best. She is a rare exception.)

I could tell several other stories like this. While men in my squadron were praised and received accolades for getting perfect scores on their fitness tests, I was rewarded with, "We're glad Captain Hunter is leaving the squadron so we won't get beaten by a girl any longer." I don't fault any one male in particular for this, but rather an institution that has conditioned Marines to expect less from its members who are born female.

My experiences go beyond the expected harassment or normal button-pushing of Marines undergoing their initial training. By forcing women to adhere to a lower standard than men, and by effectively punishing them for exceeding their given standard, the institution is setting them up for failure.

It is no wonder that the first women to attempt the Infantry Officer Course have [failed](#). The course, even tougher than O.C.S., has been opened in recent years to female volunteers as part of the Marines' study of gender integration into the infantry. I would argue the women's failure is due to the fact that female Marines have been denied an even playing field from the beginning. While men have generally spent over a year physically preparing for the demands of the Infantry Officer Course, the women who have attempted the course have done so with mere months of notice.

When an institution expects less of one group, and mandates lower standards for that group, there is no way that it will progress without a great deal of reform.

During her tenure at Parris Island, Colonel Germano proved that the majority of women could meet the "higher" standard if given the tools and the expectations. Was it easy? No. But should we expect anything less of those who choose to serve in the service with the slogan "The Few. The Proud"?

Yet rather than rewarding her for innovative and effective training techniques, she was punished. The military is an inherently physical business. Initial impressions of fellow military members are frequently based on their physical performance. By conveying this truth to her recruits, Colonel Germano was setting them up for success, not berating them. The sad truth is that by institutionally expecting less of women, women begin to expect less of themselves.

Upon successfully completing O.C.S. and Basic School, I went to flight school and became an AH-1W "Super Cobra" pilot. As the only female pilot on multiple combat deployments, I can attest to the cultural bias that the dual standards produce. Combat does not care about your gender.

## **Women's Roles In Special Operations: Breaking Barriers**

*(26 Aug) San Diego Union-Tribune, By Gidget Fuentes*

The military services are poised to lift all restrictions that have barred women from some of the front lines of combat and the advancements in rank and job that come with it. That is, unless the services make good arguments to keep as male only those combat-arms jobs, including thousands in special operations.

Two years ago, then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta directed an end to the combat exclusion rule that kept female troops from direct combat jobs. The service secretaries have until Jan. 1 to evaluate performance standards to ensure they are gender-neutral and integrate women into those occupations. At the time of his decision, women made up about 15 percent of the military.

Technically speaking, as of Jan. 1, every position will be open to women. But the services also can argue to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff why it wants a job specialty or an assignment to remain closed to women, but the final decision rests with the defense secretary. "Exceptions must be narrowly tailored and based on a rigorous analysis of factual data regarding the knowledge, skills and abilities needed for the position," Panetta wrote in the 2013 memo lifting the ground combat exclusion.

Flying the Cobra required the same physical and mental acuteness from me as it did from my male counterparts. Yet despite proving myself time and time again, the lower standards meant that my performance would always be called into question.

In 2012 I left the Marine Corps to study the impact of gender integration on fighting groups. Both my own experiences and the situation surrounding Colonel Germano highlight the reality that the biggest barrier to integration is changing a long-established culture of fighting men.

It has been proven that the barriers to women's integration are not physical, but institutional. The recent completion of the Army's Ranger School by two women should quell once and for all the misguided belief that women are unable to meet the standards required for elite combat units.

However, even in the wake of this historic accomplishment, there are those who [question its validity](#). Despite these critics, the Army is standing by the success of the soldiers and the validity of the process they went through. The Navy has even announced that they will be [opening SEAL training](#) to women. The institutional tide is shifting. It is time the Corps started looking for a Few Good Marines, not just a Few Good Men.

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[http://atwar.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/08/25/the-cost-of-lower-standards-for-women-in-marine-recruitment/?\\_r=0](http://atwar.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/08/25/the-cost-of-lower-standards-for-women-in-marine-recruitment/?_r=0)

Defense Secretary Ash Carter has voiced his support, telling the Senate Appropriations Committee in May that the military should continue "to expand combat positions available to women – because everyone who's able and willing to serve their country should have full and equal opportunity to do so."

Since Panetta's move, the military has been chipping away some corners of the door that blocks women from certain jobs and combat assignments. But it remains unclear just how far the services and the military's special operations components will go to open the door wide in every job field and, more importantly for women, every assignment slot.

Gayle Tzemach Lemmon, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations who has extensively studied women and special operations forces, said U.S. Special Operations Command has been studying integration and is expected to submit its recommendations in July. Lemmon stopped short of predicting whether those premier special-ops assignments will include women, but she believes many in the community who have worked alongside women support the change – as long as standards remain the same.

“The Rangers I speak of, even the ones who didn’t like the idea, felt it was inevitable,” said Lemmon, an author who spent two years writing about the experiences of female soldiers who trained and deployed as part of female engagement teams alongside Army Rangers. “Whether (women) would qualify, that was another story.” “The wars we fight are changing, and so are the people,” she said.

Breaking that glass ceiling in the special operations community, however, is seen by women as an opportunity to serve, fight and sacrifice equally. The special operations forces that conduct “direct action,” including Navy SEALs, Marine Raiders, Army Rangers and Green Berets, are seen as the ultimate front-line assignment, Lemmon said, “doing something that they see as making a difference to the mission. It’s about purpose – it’s always about purpose.” The Army on June 16 lifted gender restrictions on 20,563 jobs, including combat engineers; not necessarily combat engineer slots in special operations units, however.

“We’ve just approved opening up all positions in engineer to females, we’re very close to approving all positions in field artillery for females,” Gen. Ray Odierno told soldiers during a “virtual” town hall with troops before that decision was announced. A decision on the Army’s biggest combat-arms communities – infantry and armor – may come out in October after ongoing tests and assessments are completed, he said.

In February, the Army opened 4,100 special commands, including Army Special Operations Command, Army National Guard Special Forces Group, Military Information Support Operations Command and Military Free Fall Operations. But it “does not include currently closed occupations and positions with closed skill identifiers,” Army Secretary John McHugh wrote. Those include Army Rangers and Special Forces, which have remained along with infantry, cavalry and armor.

The Navy’s elite “silent service” took another big step June 22, when the Navy announced the first group of female enlisted sailors to be screened for training and assigned to a submarine. Those women will join men who crew the Ohio-class submarine Michigan. Female officers have served on its larger submarines for several years in an initial test of crew integration.

The Navy had more women interested and qualified to take the job than it had spaces for them, officials said. “We couldn’t be more pleased with the amount of interest shown by enlisted women in wanting the opportunity to serve in the undersea warfare domain,” Rear Adm. Charles Richard, who commands Submarine Group 10 in Kings Bay, Ga., and led the Enlisted Women in Submarines Task Force Commander, said in a statement. “It’s an exciting time in the submarine force as we continue to move forward in shaping the future of our force, drawing from the best pool of talent possible.”

In recent years, female soldiers have accompanied special operations forces, including Army Rangers and Special Forces, attached as “cultural support teams” to better interact with local women in Afghan villages. But whether U.S. Special Operations Command will agree to any lifting of the exclusion to allow women assignment as Rangers, or Green

Berets or Navy SEALs or Marine Raiders waits to be seen. Sentiment within the community is mixed.

A Special Operations Command survey found doubts among men that women could meet the demands of special operations, The Associated Press reported in April. Women also were concerned about the lowering of standards and, in turn, how that might reflect negatively on them.

Lemmon said Rangers she met who trained or worked with the female soldiers on the teams said “these women aren’t any different from us,” she said. “There’s no question, after 9/11 special operations folks I see speak about how these women made a difference.” Moreover, she said, “the most important thing, among women and men, was that the standards remain high.”

Lemmon detailed the work of those female soldiers in her book, “Ashley’s War: The Untold Story of a Team of Women Soldiers on the Special Ops Battlefield.” It tells the story of Combat Support Team soldiers. One of them was 1st Lt. Ashley White Stumpf, who was killed Oct. 22, 2011, when improvised explosive devices detonated during a patrol with Rangers. Two of the Rangers also died, including Rancho Bernardo High graduate Kristoffer B. Domeij, 29, a veteran Ranger on his 14th combat deployment.

“This is a positive story about what women could do. This is a story of what they have already done, and the difference they made in the battlefield” – in special operations and across the military services, she said. Those women “had a skill set that was useful, and they were seen as contributing to the mission.”

That the female soldiers excelled in that training and mission in a spec-ops community that’s been continuously deployed and primed to solve whatever problem is in front of them is a testament to all of them, Lemmon said. “It’s not an easy thing to come in, fit in and make a difference.” With deadlines looming, it seems all eyes this spring have been on the Army’s Ranger School.

In late June, three female soldiers were hoping the third time could be the charm for them. The women had passed the Army’s physical fitness test for entry into the two-month Ranger School, held at Fort Benning, Ga. It was their third try for the school, after having been dropped twice from the first phase of the training, called the Darby Phase. They, along with a number of men, were allowed to recycle into the next class, which started June 22. Col. David Fivecoat, who commands the Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade, which runs Ranger School, told the Army Times newspaper that the women “earned” another shot, having completed the fitness test during the Ranger Assessment Phase.

“The overall performance of the three ... was very high. All three were close to making it through the Darby Phase ... That is a daunting task for anyone, male or female.” Roughly fewer than half the students graduate from the school, which is considered the Army’s premier leadership course.

Opening the school to women, however, doesn’t mean female soldiers who graduate Ranger School get to be Rangers. Graduates are Ranger-qualified and earn the coveted “Ranger”



tab to display on their shoulders. But to get the coveted tan beret and to serve and be assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment, a Ranger must complete the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program, which has been closed to women.

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<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/aug/26/special-operations-women-soldiers-combat/>

## **Ranger Chaplain's Endorsing Agency: Women in Combat 'Contrary to Nature,' 'Biblical Duty of Man to Defend Woman'**

*(26 Aug) Huffington Post, By Chris Rodda*

Ever since the repeal of "Don't ask, don't tell," there has been a non-stop effort by Christian fundamentalists to undermine the effect of the repeal. Coalitions have been formed to futilely continue to fight this fight that they already lost, members of Congress have introduced legislation aimed at weakening the protections and equality granted to LGB service members by the repeal, and a slew of stories of chaplains and other service members being persecuted for their Christian beliefs regarding homosexuality have been concocted and highly publicized.

One of the most often heard arguments from the anti-gay religious organizations, coalitions, congress members, and media outlets regarding LGB service members being allowed to serve openly, and now being allowed to get married, is that Christian chaplains are being forced to violate their beliefs and promote the so-called "gay agenda." A particular argument that is constantly made is that in a post-DADT and post-DOMA military, chaplains can't adhere to the beliefs and guidelines of their endorsing agency.

In order to serve in the military, a chaplain must have an endorsement from a recognized ecclesiastical endorsing agency - the religious organization for their faith or denomination that verifies their credentials, etc., and endorses them as being suitable to serve in the military as a chaplain of their faith or denomination. A military chaplain not only has to follow military regulations, but also whatever rules are imposed upon them by their endorsing agency, which means adhering to the religious beliefs and positions of that endorsing agency.

Much has been said by those opposed to gays in the military and same-sex marriage about chaplains allegedly being forced to violate the rules and religious beliefs of their ecclesiastical endorsing agencies, but there is another belief held by many of the anti-gay, and sometimes blatantly homophobic, endorsing agencies and their chaplains that hasn't gotten nearly as much attention -- they are also opposed to women serving in combat.

Last Friday's graduation of the first two female Army Rangers led a number of people to contact the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF). Why? Because of the invocation delivered at the graduation by Chaplain (Maj.) Mark Winton, the chaplain for the Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade. Chaplain Winton not only delivered an exclusively Christian prayer, but made a point of making a statement by proclaiming at the beginning of it: "I will be praying in Jesus' name." Chaplain Winton's entire prayer can be heard in this video clip from PBS Newshour's live stream of the graduation <video clip>.

MRFF has known for a long time about the Christian proselytizing by chaplains that goes on during Ranger training. It is an openly stated strategy of many chaplains to prey upon service members when they are worn down by rigorous training, and training doesn't get more rigorous than Ranger training, making this an optimum "mission field" for chaplains who view soldiers worn down by the training's extreme demands like deprivation of food and sleep as particularly "ripe for the harvest." Think I'm exaggerating? Just watch this video of one former Ranger School chaplain (at the 2:50 mark) explain that his "goal is to meet them when they're at their absolute worst, when they're coldest and the most tired and the most hungry that they're gonna be, because the more difficult the circumstances, the more receptive the average person becomes to issues of faith."

After receiving a number of emails about Chaplain Winton's prayer, MRFF did a little checking on this chaplain, which turned up what we expected it would, such as his testimony on the website of his endorsing agency, the Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCCMP), in which he said:

*There is fruitful ministry happening both in our training before coming overseas and while we are in combat. This is my last deployment with this battalion, so I'm praying that God will really use the relationships that have been built here to help advance the cause of Christ. Before this deployment we conducted a Bible Study Seminar to encourage and equip soldiers to intentionally get into God's Word during their deployment. Many churches helped facilitate this seminar and it is encouraging to see the guys follow through.*

So, Chaplain Winton is obviously one of the many military chaplains who think their job as a military chaplain is "to help advance the cause of Christ." No big surprise there.

We next looked at Winton's endorsing agency, the PRCCMP, which is the endorsing agency for all of the military chaplains from six different Presbyterian denominations.

This is what the PRCCMP says in its current "Chaplains' Manual," last revised in February 2015, about women serving in combat:

*In recent years, the major churches making up the membership of the Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCCMP) have in their senior deliberative bodies (General Assemblies and Synod) passed resolutions concerning the use of women as military combatants in the Armed Forces of the United States. Since this was the first formal response of our churches to the evolving policy and practice of female integration into all*



areas of the U. S. military, the result has been discussion and dialogue in many circles with a commensurate number of questions and concerns as to the practical meaning of these resolutions for members of these respective church bodies.

These are some excerpts from the "Declarations of the Synod/Assemblies" of the PRCCMP's member denominations that follow (emphasis added):

From the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America:

*That, while recognizing the right and duty that women have to self-defense, which may involve physical violence (Judges 9:53), it is our conviction that **Biblical teaching does not give warrant to employ women for military combat.***

From the Orthodox Presbyterian Church:

*That the 68th GA declares that the use of **women in military combat is both contrary to nature and inconsistent with the Word of God.***

From the Presbyterian Church in America:

*1. Acknowledging that the child in the womb is "a person covered by Divine protection"*

*(Statement on Abortion, Sixth General Assembly); and that women of childbearing age often carry unborn children while remaining unaware of their child's existence; and that principles of just war require the minimization of the loss of life -- particularly innocent civilians; the PCA declares that **any policy which intentionally places in harms way as military combatants women who are, or might be, carrying a child in their womb, is a violation of God's Moral Law.***

*2. This Assembly declares it to be **the biblical duty of man to defend woman and therefore condemns the use of women as***

## **Women Don't Belong In Combat**

*(27 Aug) USA Today, By Anna Simons*

Thank God two women made it through Ranger School. Maybe now we can begin a serious debate about why women don't belong beside men in ground combat units.

No question, physical fitness matters. But in all the hoopla over standards, Americans seem to have forgotten why we have ground combat units in the first place. How will integrating women render the units more effective at destroying the enemy? That is the question proponents must answer.

There's ample evidence that integration would be detrimental. We all know what happens when young men and women spend intense time together in close proximity. Just look at pregnancy rates when women are deployed as members of non-combat units. Or look at sexual harassment and assault charges across the military.

**military combatants**, as well as any conscription of women into the Armed Services of the United States.

*3. Therefore be it resolved that the Thirtieth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America adopts the above as pastoral counsel for the good of the members, the officers, **and especially the military chaplains of the Presbyterian Church in America.***

The PRCCMP Chaplains' Manual then says of these above declarations from its member denominations:

*These declarations **provide authority for PRCCMP chaplains who counsel or advise other military members** regarding the use of women in combat.*

It also says:

*These declarations do not require a PRCCMP chaplain, who is biblically counseling a military member who has a problem of conscience with women in combat, to advise resignation. Neither do they require a chaplain who has a problem of conscience with women as military combatants to resign.*

Yes, the PRCCMP doesn't "require a chaplain who has a problem of conscience with women as military combatants to resign." They can just continue to serve as chaplains in a military that is moving forward and just graduated its first two female Army Rangers with no problem at all, right? Sure! That's gonna work out real well -- military chaplains like Chaplain Winton, who not only delivered his "I will be praying in Jesus' name" prayer at the graduation of those first two female Army Rangers, but is endorsed by an endorsing agency that holds the views that it is "the biblical duty of man to defend woman" and "women in military combat is both contrary to nature and inconsistent with the Word of God!"

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/chris-rodda/ranger-chaplains-endorsin\\_b\\_8042744.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/chris-rodda/ranger-chaplains-endorsin_b_8042744.html)

Problems are rife among consenting (and non-consenting) adults in non-military work where people aren't stuck together 24/7, for months on end. Even when sexual misbehavior doesn't occur, competition for affection and attention does -- especially among hormone-laden, hard-charging youth.

Or, not even youth. Gen. David Petraeus succumbed to temptation in his 50s. Is it reasonable to expect greater restraint among those less mature? Attraction puts the lie to claims that soldiers' attitudes will evolve -- just as they did toward serving with blacks or homosexuals. Proponents conveniently ignore that heterosexual men are wired to be attracted to women.

Other arguments defy logic, too: If the aim is total equity, supporters should be lobbying for universal service and a draft as well, but I haven't seen this.

Special operations forces acknowledge that women are ideal for certain intelligence and reconnaissance missions, and they want to work with them. But they also know what the permanent presence of women will do to the integrity of small group dynamics.

Unfortunately, proponents have never wanted to listen to what operators have to say. Maybe that's because operators are men. Nor will they listen to soldiers' or Marines' wives. Maybe feminist arguments apply only to certain women?

## **As First Women Graduate Army Ranger School, Women Veterans in Congress Celebrate**

*(21 Aug) Defense One, By Molly O'Toole*

Not long after the Pentagon first allowed women to be combat pilots, Martha McSally sat in a training room listening to yet another male fighter pilot ranting about how women "don't have what it takes." She had just run the Ironman Triathlon in Hawaii, beating most of the men in the military division.

"And here's this slightly pudgy fighter pilot, standing up and emotionally arguing why women don't have the strength — it was almost laughable if it wasn't enraging," recounts McSally, now a Republican congresswoman representing Arizona. Women had long performed well in gender-blind pilot training, but couldn't go on to combat, "because we had ovaries, for crying out loud." "You gotta pick your battles, but I couldn't help myself from standing up and countering him. I said, 'Let's go outside and sort this out, just between you and me. Let's have a little competition and see who's the last one standing.'"

That was more than two decades ago.

On Friday, Army Capt. Kristen Griest and 1st. Lt. Shaye Haver will [become the first women to graduate the grueling Ranger course](#). Their achievement has been accompanied by a Wednesday announcement from Adm. Jonathan Greenert, chief of naval operations, that the service will soon [open its elite training school for SEALs](#) to women as well. Most of the services — with the possible [exception of the Marines](#) — are not expected to ask for exemptions this fall as the military prepares to open to women all 200,000 positions that remain closed to them, including front-line combat and special operations jobs. The Defense Department has opened 111,000 jobs to women since beginning their review in January.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter on Thursday reiterated his desire for the services to be united on this front. "They are the first two women to pass through this elite proving ground ... truly it's a huge credit for anyone," Carter said in a press conference at the Pentagon, after personally congratulating Griest and Haver. "The department's policy is that all ground combat positions will open to women." Final determination will be made, he said, by the end of the year, but he added he took "special satisfaction in strides like this that we continue to make."

The four women serving in Congress who are veterans of America's post-9/11 wars take particular pride in the

For everyone's sake, it is time the serious questioning began.

*Anna Simons is professor of defense analysis at the Naval Postgraduate School.*

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2015/08/26/women-combat-ranger-school-sex-editorials-debates/32415995/>

accomplishments of these women, having blazed their own trails in the military, and now in office.

McSally, who was named to the House Armed Services and Homeland Security committees after her election in 2014, retired from the Air Force in 2010 as a full colonel. She had a lot of "firsts" in her 26 years, according to her office: first female fighter pilot to fly in combat, first woman to command a fighter squadron in combat, first woman to command a combat aviation unit. She flew nearly 325 combat hours in Iraq and Afghanistan, and 2,600 flight hours over her career.

She noted the irony of women being able to qualify for the Ranger tab but not try out for the 75th Ranger Regiment, the active Army unit for the most selective missions. "We've had women on the battlefield in 360-degree war in Iraq and Afghanistan, and when put in those circumstances — often without the same training — they've shown bravery, they've killed bad guys, they've died, they've come back wounded, everything it takes to be a leader...and now the goal posts have moved. 'Well, it doesn't mean they can meet a job where the primary responsibility is to be on the offense' — are you kidding me?"

She pointed out the women's accomplishment is even more impressive given the microscope they were under from those who expressed concern that standards would be lowered for them, despite the military's insistence, in addition to taking some four months to complete the 62-day course.

"Here we are ... two West Point graduates graduating from Ranger School, the toughest leadership course designed for combat forces, and they kicked ass under extraordinary pressure," she said. "These gals are smart — they know exactly what they're getting into, but they still said, 'Send me.'"

McSally's colleague on the Armed Services Committee, Rep. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., was also a combat pilot, flying Blackhawk helicopters. She says she purposefully chose the job because it was the closest she could get to combat before the 1993 changes that allowed McSally to become a fighter pilot. Duckworth became one of the first women to fly combat missions in Operation Iraqi Freedom when she deployed to Iraq in 2004 with the Illinois Army National Guard.

“To see two women get their Ranger tab in 2015 is inspiring, but not surprising to many of us who have never doubted that there are women who have the physical and mental strength required to earn a spot in the most elite combat units,” she told *Defense One* in a statement.

Duckworth lost her legs and partial use of her right arm when her helicopter was hit by an RPG in November 2004, and was awarded a Purple Heart. In 2009, President Obama appointed her as an assistant secretary of veterans affairs, and three years later, she was elected to Congress. She recently retired from the military, and now she’s [running for a seat in the Senate](#) against fellow veteran Sen. Mark Kirk, R-Ill.

“It’s past time that military policy catches up to that reality,” she said. “This move isn’t only good for women in the military – it will enhance force readiness since a greater pool of talent will be competing under the same criteria.”

A third female veteran colleague on the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, D-Hawaii, was deployed to Iraq the same year as Duckworth. She served two combat tours in the Middle East. Elected in 2012, Gabbard continues to serve as a captain in the Hawaii Army National Guard.

When Griest and Haver graduate on Friday, she told *Defense One* “history will be made.”

“I’m so proud of what these women have accomplished, and the trail they are blazing for so many others who will follow,” she said. “Department of Defense policies are finally beginning to catch up to the reality ... There is more to be done to make sure that our highly qualified female service members, like Cpt. Griest and 1st Lt. Haver, have the opportunity to lead in combat arms units and missions, which they are currently barred from.”

## **DoD plans to send more officers to civilian grad schools**

(24 Aug) *Military Times*, By Andrew Tilghman

The Pentagon wants to send more officers to earn graduate degrees at top-notch civilian universities, a key piece of soon-to-be released personnel reforms that could fundamentally alter the career tracks of senior military leaders.

Defense officials familiar with the plan said the aim is to both improve and diversify the officer corps' education and also provide future military leaders with more experience studying or working in the civilian sector and developing nontraditional skills.

The shift toward civilian schools is driven in part by concerns that the military's own educational institutions like those under the National Defense University in Washington and the service-run war colleges no longer are capable of delivering the comprehensive training that tomorrow's force will need to succeed.

"We're moving to a time when a battalion or brigade commander assigned to Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa

Iowa Republican Sen. Joni Ernst, a lieutenant colonel in the Army National Guard, spoke to *Defense One* just before the August recess about her role as the first female combat veteran to be elected to the U.S. Senate, in 2014. She is one of [three post-9/11 veterans](#) named to the powerful Senate Armed Services Committee.

“There will be for some a push to say women should serve everywhere, regardless of cost, and as a commander who served overseas in difficult and strenuous times, and because my husband served as an Army Ranger, I have to say, there are standards in place for a reason,” she said, but continued, “Women can serve pretty much everywhere.”

In 2003, Ernst served as a company commander in Kuwait and Iraq with the Army Reserves. When she took command of her transport company, she said she had to break through stereotypes still held by the “old-timers.” “Some of the more old-school service members might have some very significant concerns about women in a combat role, but honestly women are already serving in combat and they do it quite effectively,” she said.

Of the women in Ranger School, who had not yet completed the course, she gushed, “I love it!” “I wish them the best. I would love to be there — it’s gonna happen. If anybody can do it, these young women can do it. I want to be there when they pin their tabs on ... There’s going to be a lot of elite groups of women pursuing these opportunities.”

But Ernst won’t be attending the graduation Friday — fittingly, she is currently doing her annual two-week training at Camp Dodge.

<http://www.defenseone.com/politics/2015/08/army-ranger-women-veterans-congress/119326/?oref=d-river>

might have a master's degree in public policy," said one defense official familiar with the plan.

"There is a recognition that the world is changing. The security environment is changing. And breadth of knowledge is becoming increasingly as important as depth of knowledge," the official said.

The education proposals will be a key component of Defense Secretary Ash Carter's effort to overhaul the military personnel system. The Pentagon is wrapping up its "Force of the Future" review and plans to publicly unveil a slate of recommended changes in September.

The proposals will influence decisions about next year's Pentagon budget and may seek Capitol Hill's approval to change some federal laws governing military personnel management. Dozens of proposals are in a final draft phase, and acting Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and

Readiness Brad Carson plans to deliver them to Carter by the end of August.

A buzzword found across the slate of proposals is "permeability," the notion that troops should be able to more easily move in and out of the active-duty force and forge a career path that mixes operational assignments with time spent in the civilian sector in graduate school, on family leave, or on assignments working with private industry or corporate fellowships.

Beyond funding more graduate programs, the Pentagon's proposal aims to also break down some of the cultural and political barriers that make many of today's officers reluctant to temporarily leave the active-duty force. For years, many officers have felt such nontraditional assignments were a liability before promotion boards designed to reward those who hew to a more conventional career track.

"One of the biggest pieces of this is the acculturation. You can create more opportunity, but how do you get the real high performers — the future chief of staff of the Army or the future chief of naval operations — how do you get them to do it?" the defense official said.

The emerging slate of reforms will include new benchmarks designed to encourage officers to go to civilian graduate schools and other "broadening assignments" that involve spending time beyond the insular military community.

Specifically, the Pentagon may phase in a requirement for officers seeking to move up into the general and flag ranks. A certain percentage of each annual cohort moving into the O-7, one-star paygrade would have to show a career track with time spent in the civilian world.

"So by 2027, the idea is that 30 percent of your colonels selected for general would have some sort of broadening assignment, something that takes them off the treadmill and puts them into some sort of intellectually or life-experience broadening situation" in the civilian sector, the defense official said.

That could reverse a trend in some services that has significantly reduced officer enrollment in civilian schools. For example, Army data shows that the percentage of brigadier generals holding graduate degrees from civilian universities has dropped steadily from nearly 60 percent in the 1990s to less than 40 percent today.

An Army spokesman said the apparent shift, in part, reflects the fact that the Army and Air War Colleges have expanded their academic programs during that time period to include, for the first time, graduate programs.

Some new evidence suggests that the quality of the officer corps has been declining. A July study out of the Brookings Institution, a well-respected Washington think tank, found that Marine Corps second lieutenants have performed progressively worse on a standardized test administered at

officer training school over the last 35 years; the average new officer's score on the General Classification Test dropped from 131 to 122 between 1980 and 2014. A perfect score on the test, which measures intelligence and aptitude, is 160.

Many military experts have criticized the Defense Department's network of professional military education institutions. Especially at the height of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, assignments at some schools were considered cushy posts that gave troops time to focus on family and networking at the expense of academic development.

"The heart of the problem is that too many of our officers lack a rigorous college education," Richard Kohn, a military history professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, said in an interview. "The better graduate programs are more rigorous than the war colleges and the staff colleges."

"Officers should be going to the top universities where they are forced to do research and to think and write critically and precisely and rigorously," Kohn said. "So that as they rise in rank and responsibility, they can recognize quality research and direct that kind of work in their subordinates and present to their civilian leadership the same kind of high-quality rigorous thinking and good writing."

### **Enlisted troops not left out**

The Pentagon's proposal also aims to boost education in the enlisted force. The services are planning to set aside some money in their budgets to send high-performing enlisted members to earn undergraduate degrees from civilian schools.

Those troops would move into a reserve unit during their school years before returning to active duty to take on leadership roles as senior noncommissioned officers.

Traditionally, enlisted troops who earned undergraduate degrees and returned to service entered the commissioned officer corps. But Pentagon leaders believe enlisted members need more education to be effective in a force where both technology and missions are growing increasingly complex.

"The experience of Iraq and Afghanistan is that you've got young E-6s and E-7s making very important decisions, not only tactically but operationally," the defense official said. "These are the types of folks we want with the experience of attending an undergraduate university."

Enlisted troops are entitled to a taxpayer-funded college program after separation through the generous GI Bill program. Pentagon officials hope that institutionalizing a career track that includes an undergraduate degree for enlisted troops will help the service to retain them and make them more likely to return to service after school.

### **Closing the 'Civ-Mil Gap'**

Other reforms in the works inside the Pentagon would encourage officers to pursue graduate education. Proposals

include scaling back or ending "up-or-out" rules that force officers to compete for promotions within their "year-groups." Many officers are reluctant to seek out nontraditional assignments because they fear their peers who pursue more strictly operational career tracks will receive priority consideration from promotion boards.

The joint-service requirements imposed under the Goldwater Nichols Act also may be under scrutiny because critics say they make the system too rigid and force troops into "check the box" assignments that offer limited professional development.

Collectively, the personnel reforms being finalized by the Pentagon aim to give troops more exposure to the civilian world and possibly shrink the cultural divide between the military and civilian worlds.

### **Air Force increasing support for civilian sexual assault victims**

*(24 Aug) Air Force Times, By Jeff Schogol*

Air Force civilians who become victims of sexual assault will now have the same resources available to them as uniformed airmen.

Maj. Gen. Gina Grosso, head of the Air Force's sexual assault prevention and response efforts, has signed a policy memo that gives Air Force civilians the right to file both unrestricted and restricted reports and gives them access to sexual assault response coordinators and [victim advocates](#).

"We knew we could do more to help our civilian airmen, so we sought an exception to policy to allow the Air Force to extend the same care and support to civilian victims as we do to our military airmen and their families," Grosso said Monday in a statement.

Previously under Defense Department policy, Air Force civilians who went to SARCs for help were referred to off-base authorities, such as local police and rape crisis centers, said Maritza Sayle-Walker, a senior policy analyst in the Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response office.

Civilians stationed outside the U.S. previously had the option of filing unrestricted reports — which launch an investigation — but not restricted ones, for which victims do not launch an investigation at the time but receive medical treatment and mental health care, Sayle-Walker told Air Force Times.

"We wanted to provide the best care to the total force — to all of our airmen," Sayle-Walker said. "Our civilians are very valuable members of our team, and so we wanted to ensure we could provide them with support when they came forward through both reporting options. So if they wanted to come forward and just talk to someone and do a restricted report, they could get advocacy services right at the installation and not have to go elsewhere."

"Military officers need to be in touch with American society," Kohn said.

"It is important not just to expose graduate students in the colleges and universities to military officers, but to expose military officers to the civilian world. The development in the last 15 to 20 years of awarding a master's degree for attendance at staff and war college has diminished the number of people getting a first-rate education on the outside. It has, in my judgment, isolated the officer corps unnecessarily and to the officers corps' disadvantage," Kohn said.

"It makes for an isolated officer corps that is more alienated from the people they are serving."

<http://www.militarytimes.com/story/military/benefits/education/2015/08/20/graduate-school-proposals/32063579/>

Giving civilians the ability to file restricted reports allows the Air Force to provide sexual assault victims with the care and advocacy services they need to "get them into a better state of mind," so they can decide later if they want to contact law enforcement, she said.

The issue came up when Air Force civilians trained on how to interact with the military to deal with sexual assault cases, she said. The Air Force realized that civilians did not have the same on-base resources as uniformed airmen.

The Air Force currently has 118 nationally certified SARCs, 79 full-time victim advocates and 2,248 military and civilian volunteer victim advocates, said service spokeswoman Maj. Erika Yepsen.

"At this time, we do believe we have a sufficient amount of SARCs and our full-time SAPR victim advocates as well our volunteer victim advocates," Sayle-Walker said. "We don't anticipate needing an increase."

The changes are meant to demonstrate to Air Force civilians that the service can help them at any time and "they're not on their own," she said.

"Regardless of where you are stationed, you can speak with a SARC, get advocacy services and file a restricted or unrestricted report, just as our service members can do," Sayle-Walker said.

<http://www.airforcetimes.com/story/military/2015/08/24/air-force-increasing-support-civilian-sexual-assault-victims/32258519/>



## Squad Leader Development Program to expand beyond infantry

(24 Aug) *Marine Corps Times*, By Hope Hedge Seck

The new talent management program for Marine grunts will return next year with bigger bonuses and wider eligibility — and similar programs are now in the works for enlisted leaders in non-infantry fields.

On the heels of the Squad Leader Development Program's successful first year, planners are moving forward with variants on the program for every military occupational specialty. The program, which was developed at the behest of Commandant Gen. Joseph Dunford, offers its own MOS, a chance for quick promotions and sizable re-up bonuses.

It's designed to offer infantrymen promising career paths so the Marine Corps can better retain seasoned young noncommissioned officers. Leaders in other fields are taking notice, Master Gunnery Sgt. Justin Aiken, an infantry occupational field specialist with Marine Corps Plans, Policies and Operations, told *Marine Corps Times*.

"This was deemed a pilot program by the commandant, and he said directly that if you want some sort of leadership program developed for every MOS, how we do that is going to be obviously MOS-specific," Aiken said. "But the tenets and backbone of it, being talent management and high-quality people, will remain the same."

With a clear mandate from the commandant to embrace the concept of leader development, Aiken said he is receiving queries daily from Marines in non-infantry fields about how the program was conceived and designed.

"They're in the works," Aiken said of programs for other MOSs. "It's always good when we can do something good for the Marines."

At the recent Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Symposium in Quantico, Virginia, the service's top enlisted leaders discussed the MOSs across the Marine air-ground task force that would be best suited for the program, said Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Ronald Green. They looked for jobs that would benefit from a two-track approach, with Marines having the opportunity to pursue a special duty assignment or receive intensive training or development within their MOS, he said.

"We want to make sure that we're not slowing Marines down on either side," Green said. "That's what this is all about: Marines progressing no matter what track they take, and progressing evenly."

Green said that while the launch of a squad leader development-style program for engineers or aviators is still at least a year away, enlisted leaders were already exploring ways to apply the concept to their own fields. In fields like cyber operations, where it has been historically difficult to attract and retain skilled personnel, the format shows special promise.

### Bigger bonuses, more flexibility for grunts

As leaders work on new programs for Marines in fields like engineering or logistics, infantrymen can expect several bold new changes designed to attract more Squad Leader Development Program applicants.

Aiken, who briefed the senior enlisted Marines at the symposium on the topic, said that while the program was limited to 100 participants in 2015, there will be no participation caps next year.

"It's about getting the right guys," he said. "We don't have a number we're shooting for; we're just making sure we're getting the right Marines in the program."

In all, 78 Marines were selected for the program the first year. Aiken said he was pleased with that turnout, considering it was a new concept with a tight application period. But several changes will be made to attract more applications in 2016, including:

- **More eligible MOSs.** This year, only corporals and sergeants in five MOSs — infantryman, machine gunner, mortarman, infantry assaultman and anti-tank missileman — who were serving in infantry units could apply. Next year, all NCOs in those MOSs who meet the training and time-in-service prerequisites will be eligible to participate, regardless of their parent units, Aiken said.
- **Bigger bonuses.** Infantrymen accepted into the program can expect their selective re-enlistment bonuses to increase by about \$4,500 in 2016, Aiken said. That will bring the totals up to about \$23,000 for corporals and roughly \$25,000 for sergeants.
- **More flexibility.** Marines will have more time to apply for the program in 2016 and they will no longer be required to make a four-year commitment, Aiken said. Marines can opt to re-enlist for two years instead of four, and still claim half the bonus cash. They'll also be able to apply to the program year-round next year in order to account for deployments or resident professional military education requirements. Officials don't want to pull Marines out of leadership positions when they're needed most, Aiken added.
- **Choice of duty station.** Marine leaders are also considering allowing applicants to choose their preferred duty station, Green said. "We have to make sure we're not keeping Marines in place too long. ...We want to make sure that they're not there so long that they become stagnant."

The timeline on those changes has not yet been determined. Green said the Squad Leader Development Program remains in a "beta testing" phase, as officials work to refine the program before launching any new ones.

Officials with Marine Corps Manpower and Reserve Affairs, which is assisting with an inventory of all MOSs throughout the Marine Corps to determine NCO gaps and shortfalls, deferred all inquiries to Aiken and Plans, Policies and Operations.

To make sure that Marines in the program achieve the ultimate goal of leading a rifle squad in the operating forces, Aiken said planners were also encouraging senior leaders to advise applicants about whether to pursue the program's combat instructor track or its operational forces squad leader track.

"What's best for the Marine Corps is to get that squad leader in front of the squad," Aiken said. "For a sergeant who's got two years [in grade] already, if he goes with the combat instructor track, he'll probably never be a squad leader because he'll be promoted before he can."

Despite the changes, Aiken said the basic tenets of the program will remain. In exchange for a service commitment, corporals and sergeants with between three and six years' time in service can apply for a leadership fast-track that offers professional education, faster promotions, a dedicated MOS and a guaranteed operational tour as a squad leader in a soon-to-deploy unit.

## **Meryl Streep writes to every single member of Congress to demand gender equality**

(24 Aug) *The Independent*, By Heather Saul

Meryl Streep has continued her battle towards achieving equal rights for women by writing a letter to every single member of Congress and demanding they "stand up for equality".

The Oscar-winning actress' letter urged Congress to revive the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) which was written in 1920, passed by Congress in 1972 and ratified by 35 states. However, it fell short of the 38 needed in order for it to be enshrined in the Constitution and has lain dormant ever since.

States that did not ratify the ERA included Arizona, Utah and heavily conservative areas of the south.

The proposed amendment states: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

A copy of the letter printed by the *Associated Press* read: "I am writing to ask you to stand up for equality – for your mother, your daughter, your sister, your wife or yourself – by actively supporting the Equal Rights Amendment.

## **Military transgender ban set to end next May**

(25 Aug) *USA Today*, By Tom Vanden Brook

The Pentagon's ban on transgender troops would end May 27 under a draft timeline on repeal of the policy that affects about 12,000 troops, according to a document obtained by USA TODAY.

The memo, circulated last week among top personnel and medical officials, lays out the road map for ending the policy

According to Marine administrative message 393/15 released Aug. 10, interested NCOs must receive the endorsement of the first general officer in their chain of command.

In keeping with the priorities Dunford set out in his planning guidance earlier this year, the program was launched to address a shortfall of NCOs in key leadership positions within the operational forces, and to provide incentives for Marine squad leaders who might otherwise pursue a special duty assignment or other career option.

To promote the improved program for infantrymen, Aiken said he plans to organize a Marine Corps-wide roadshow later this fall.

"Everybody is on board with this program because it's all about making better-trained, better-educated squad leaders," he said.

<http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/story/military/2015/08/24/squad-leader-development-program-expand-beyond-infantry/31621489/>

"A whole new generation of women and girls are talking about equality - equal pay, equal protection from sexual assault, equal rights."

Streep also included a copy of the book *Equal Means Equal* by Jessica Neuwirth, president of the ERA Coalition, which calls for women to be given the constitutional right to equality.

Streep was heard whooping loudly as Patricia Arquette used her 2015 Oscar's acceptance speech to demand parity for all women in the US, sparking the hashtag #feministoscars.

She will play the role of Suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst in the forthcoming film *Suffragette*.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/meryl-streep-writes-to-every-single-member-of-congress-to-demand-gender-equality-10341323.html>

and highlights some of the potential issues, including a pilot program that would provide leaves of absences for transgender troops being treated with hormones or having surgery.

Meanwhile, Army and the Air Force leaders know for sure of about 20 transgender troops in each service, according to a Defense Department official familiar with the issue who spoke

on condition of anonymity because officials were not authorized to speak publicly. The condition of gender dysphoria disqualifies them from service under current policy, but a de facto moratorium on dismissals was enacted last month by Defense Secretary Ash Carter.

Carter ordered a six-month review of the issues surrounding transgender troops with the assumption that they can serve openly unless “objective, practical impediments are identified,” the Aug. 19 memo says. During that period, one of Carter’s chief deputies would have to approve any request to discharge transgender troops.

The memo details a list of issues surrounding the open service of transgender troops, including medical treatment, housing, uniforms and physical fitness standards.

Earlier this month, a study in the New England Journal of Medicine by the Palm Center estimated that it would cost the military \$5.6 million per year to treat transgender troops. The center, which studies issues of sexuality and the military, estimated that 188 of the 12,000 transgender troops would seek treatment in any given year. The number of transgender troops is an estimate; detailed numbers are harder to come by because troops have risked being discharged if they made their transgender status public.

Pentagon officials will consider a pilot program that would allow transgender troops under medical treatment to take a

## **Why I Taught My Daughter How To Throw A Punch**

*(25 Aug) Task & Purpose, By Fatherly*

*Editor’s Note: This article by Team Rubicon COO Ken Harbaugh was originally published on Fatherly, a digital lifestyle guide for men entering parenthood.*

You are approaching that age now, when you look around and see how other dads raised their daughters. You are noticing that I did things differently, that you are not like other little girls, the ones who never leave home without a ribbon in their hair. You are brave and curious and are beginning to realize that these qualities are not accidents. I want to explain why, because it will help you understand the way you are.

I taught you how to punch. Not because you should grow up fighting, but because, if ever forced to, you should know how. I once saw a little girl in Afghanistan who had acid thrown in her face because she wanted to go to school. You are not yet ready to know what some people do to each other, but I want you to be prepared. You will grow stronger every day, and the moment will come when you will fight for those who cannot fight for themselves.

I have nurtured your curiosity. When we found the spider under our orange tree with the red hourglass on her belly, we did not kill her. We watched, night after night, as she tended her web and waited patiently. We read books about her and told jokes about how she ate her boyfriends for lunch. And when she finally caught a beetle, we watched her strike and wrap it tight with silk. You found that the things that scare most little girls have the most to teach us.

sabbatical from service, returning to the ranks after they have made their transition to the other gender. They must also decide whether transgender troops being treated are eligible for deployment to war zones, the memo says.

Also under consideration: revisiting the discharge status of transgender troops who have been kicked out of the service. It is unclear how many troops have been discharged over the years for the condition because the Pentagon does not track them. A dishonorable discharge for having gender dysphoria could affect employment opportunities and veterans benefits.

Some top officers complained that the military has been asked to enact too much social change in recent years, including the 2011 repeal of the military’s ban on gay and lesbian troops serving openly, and on the continuing integration of women into combat units, said the Defense official and a colleague, who also spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren’t authorized to speak publicly.

Many senior officers, however, want a clear policy on transgender troops, the Defense officials said. These officers are comfortable with rules that allow them to keep good troops with gender dysphoria and provide them treatment.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/08/25/military-transgender-ban-set-end-next-may/32345385/>

I taught you to respect nature, to hunt, and to fish. Not for the sake of killing, but because the surest way to honor the living earth is to be part of it. You dug for worms and baited your own hooks, and most of the time we cooked what we caught. We raised chickens together and loved them and ate the eggs they laid and offered thanks. You know and love the world that sustains us, and you understand that meat does not grow on grocery store shelves inside plastic wrapping.

I allowed you to test your limits. When we surfed together, you paddled toward the outside break, even as the big waves kept pushing you back. You fought, and failed, but not really. We rode in, side by side, determined to try and try again until we owned the sea. Someday we will catch that giant storm-driven wave and the crowd on the beach will rise to its feet and marvel at the little girl riding down the mountain of water.

I taught you these things because one day I will let you go. You will walk down a long aisle to start another life and another family. You will be perfect and beautiful. But no one will mistake that beauty for fragility. You will fight for others while seeking new wonders. You will run barefoot through snow while exalting all of creation. You will live life to its fullest, testing your own limits while obliterating those set by others.

Until then, be proud of who you are. Never let anyone tell you what a woman can and cannot do. And should someone make fun of how little girls hit, offer to teach them. Smile politely, square your stance, and give fair warning. Then knock the

effing wind out of them. Because that is how a girl should punch.

*This article, “[Why I taught my daughter how to punch](#),” originally appeared on *Fatherly*.*

[http://taskandpurpose.com/why-i-taught-my-daughter-how-to-throw-a-punch/?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_content=tp-facebook&utm\\_campaign=culture](http://taskandpurpose.com/why-i-taught-my-daughter-how-to-throw-a-punch/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_content=tp-facebook&utm_campaign=culture)