

Equality in the United States Army

by

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Why are female Soldiers treated differently in the United States Army (Army)? Are all humans not created equal? The United States Army doesn't think so. The United States Army Regulation 600-20, creates an injustice for all female Soldiers. The regulation states, "The United States Army will provide equal treatment for military personnel... without regard to race, color, gender, religion or national origin.... Consequently, it further states, "Soldiers will not be ... trained, assigned, promoted, or otherwise managed on the basis of ... gender" However, the assignment and utilization of female Soldiers ... will be in accordance with Army Regulation 600-13, which prescribes policies, procedures, responsibilities, and the position coding for female Soldiers." The ability of the United States Army to categorize females as a separate Soldier identity is appalling. Men and women are equal. The oppressors of equality contest seeing female Soldiers returning in body bags. However, females continue to return from the Global War on Terrorism in body bags. Over 35 female Soldiers have been killed in the line of duty. The United States Army, must realize that the Constitution of the United States refers to both genders. The separation of females from the term Soldier, creates polarization and reduces the readiness level of all units. Furthermore, until females are able to fully deploy with their perspective units, we will forever be short in personnel strength. The battle of equality starts with the United States Army leaders. For generations, females have contributed to the success of the United States Army. They have served in conflicts, wars, been injured, and endured the ultimate sacrifice of death. Female Soldiers serve with the same ability as men. The ability to serve with honor, dignity, respect, and selfless service.

Currently there are thousands of female Soldiers serving in IRAQ, Afghanistan, Bosnia, and other campaigns throughout the world. These female Soldiers serve side by side with male Soldiers. They are on the front line of war. The Global War on Terrisom continues to revolve,

and reconfirms that the enemy doesn't discriminate against killing females. In 2005, women and men are fighting one war, as one team. The United States Army must acknowledge the contributions of female Soldiers. Furthermore, the United States Army must change their policy to confirm that all Soldiers are treated equal. The Army continues to discriminate against females. The Army must acknowledge that females have been bleeding and dying just like men.

Military leaders continue to visit Veterans Affairs Hospitals, and funerals throughout America. One fact stands clear, there are no discriminating factors when it comes to the wounded or killed. The outlining message confirms that females are subjected to injury and death equal to their male counterparts. The enemy's goal is not to kill a certain kind of American, but an American – period! Females are standing guard just as men are. They are engaging the enemy in close combat. Females are engaged by mortars, rocket propelled grenades, small arms fire. They are performing their duties. To all oppressors of equal treatment, I ask this of you. Take the time to see a wounded female Soldier. Explain that her wounds or loss of body parts was not meant to happen. Tell her she is not a Soldier. Instead, she is a female Soldier. Explain that her duties are based on a garrison or rear operational environment. Explain that male Soldiers are the only source for engaging the enemy. Take the time to visit a family of a fallen female Soldier. Explain that their loved one died in vain. Convince them that females are not true Soldiers. Convince the family that the Constitution of the United States refers only to men. Simply put, you can't justify such a forum. Female Soldiers are not backing down. They are not asking favoritism from the enemy. If the enemy disrespects them with harm, they simply eliminate the threat. Perhaps, it is time to eliminate legislation and leaders that don't support equal treatment of all American Soldiers.

Women have endured the responsibilities of motherhood and marriage, while Soldering

for many years. Despite these responsibilities, female Soldiers have performed their duties to standard. They lead by example. Female Soldiers always places the needs of the unit and their fellow comrades first. They are truly warriors. Female Soldiers expects equality from the Army, and now is the time for change. The United States Army has continued to change and adapt to all situations throughout history. The Army must except and change this ethical injustice that has been occurring for so many years. All Soldiers must be treated and respected equally. The human Soldier will always be the source of victory in any war or conflict. Women have shown they can handle the tough jobs. They can endure the pain of war. Female Soldiers are worthy of this change. Leaders, stand your ground and make a difference now! Help change this policy! The ability to be free and live in a world free of discrimination, also includes the Army. Assist our female Soldiers and allow them to enjoy the true meaning of an American Soldier!