

WOMAN IN COMBAT

Name of Student
Course
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A debate on women the involvement of women in previously men-dominated jobs such as the military has generated varied opinions. The less masculinity in women automate the roles they ought to engage in without any deeper thinking.ⁱ Combat roles are technical by nature even though they also require a good level of intelligence. Even so, some women prove to be intelligent as far as biology is concerned. Proponents of this analogy believes that women can play critical roles within the military given that not all functions require the physical might. Just like the engineering profession, opponents argue that the nature of such jobs, that is, the work environment makes it almost difficult to incorporate the female gender. For many years, feminists have fought for women rights and considerations in various domains for gender balance. Inasmuch as proponents hold the view that the technological growth of the 21st century has changed the military to an extent that not all roles demand the aspect of physical strength, the work atmosphere in the military does not favor the female gender. The main ideologies behind women's inability to fit in combat include emotional and physical abuse, increase in rape, and sexual harassment, and their natural biological body structure.ⁱⁱ

Women are easily influenced by emotions not leaving out physical abuse. Combat assignments and roles may involve dangerous actions and sad outcomes that require an emotionally mature individual to handle. More importantly, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder(PTSD) is more common with retired women warriors than men warriors.ⁱⁱⁱ Women victims of PTSD justify the fact that women ought to engage in other career paths other than the military. Notably, majority of women are sympathizers and can possibly allow emotions influence their professional actions. For instance, an

emotional combat professional may sympathize with an enemy ending up liaising with them. Some women are excellent performers in the military for their contributive actions that they bring in the military team. Nevertheless, women's roles in the military seem to be fewer compared to men. Women ought to possess self-defense mechanisms to protect themselves from harm during bad times.^{iv} That is to say that combat does not necessarily fit women's ability. Men are stronger beings who can execute combat roles better than women subject to different gender physical body make up.

Sexual harassment is a common misconduct that harms women many a times that it harms men. Female combatants are quite competitive when it comes to military health issues due to their intelligence and due care for patients. Additionally, women make most of the best nurses in health facilities. Some roles in the military necessitate the need of women in the same. However, professional men can serve as an alternative to spare women in combat roles given women's ease of exposure to danger during wars subject to combat roles.^v Some army teams around the globe count women in the military as "half person" since militaries are dominated by men. The main aim of any combat group is to concur and win the battle regardless of the fighters. Women warriors can hardly win a battle without men's support. Therefore, eliminating women from combat roles is a prudent ideology that would enhance growth and victory for many combatants. Women are vulnerable to terrific dangers such as rape that is common during the times of war. Moreover, some men can hardly surrender to warriors that may endanger their lives, lead to unnecessary killings, or unsuccessful operation.^{vi} For that reason, men warriors fit combat roles more than women fit in many considerations.

Natural women biological body structure favors them for other career activities other than combat roles. While majority of men can execute heavy duties, only a few men can cope up with heavy tasks given their nature of being a woman. Moreover, women's health is more likely to be deteriorated by combat roles than men. Women's nature of body may limit them to perform some duties in a military environment. Gender diversity hardly applies in combat roles since some actions best suit a specific gender.^{vii} Stereotypically, women are intelligent and can offer best intelligence services to the military than men; by this, they do not engage physically in the combat wars in war fields. Many warriors underestimate women's roles in the military therefore women have to apply extra effort and abilities in order to give an assurance of their ability in the military domain.^{viii} Scholars suggest that women are more concerned with their family issues than men do, which makes them unfit for combat roles that may require them to stay far from their families for quite a while.

While women demand for gender fairness globally, some roles such as those of the combat call for men's effort than they do to that of women even though some women prove to be successful in the military industry. Both men and women can bring forth their contributions in combat roles. Even so, elimination of women from combat roles makes the military system more efficient.

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- ii Anthony J Rosellini, "Sexual Assault Victimization and Mental Health: Treatment, Suicide Attempts, and Career Outcomes Among Women in the US Army," *AJPH Research*, vol. 107, no. 5 (2017): 735.
- iii Ibid., 736.
- iv Kate M Graw, Tracey Perez Koehlmoos, and Elspeth Cam Ritchie, "Women in Combat: Framing the Issues of Health and Health Research for America's Servicewomen," *Military Medicine*, vol. 1, no. 7 (2016): 181, Internet, available from <http://militarymedicine.amsus.org/doi/pdf/10.7205/MILMED-D-15-00223>, accessed 12 August 2017.
- v Segal, Smith, Segal, and Canuso, "The Role of Leadership and Peer Behaviors in the Performance and Well-Being of Women in Combat," 39.
- vi Ibid.
- vii Ibid.
- viii Rosellini, "Sexual Assault Victimization and Mental Health," 737.