

WSPD Editorial

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WOMEN IN COMBAT?

One of the main objections WSPD has held against the proposed Equal Rights Amendment is the fact that, in the event of war, women would be required to serve in combat assignments.

Now, even without ERA, Pentagon officials are pressing for Congressional authority to place women in a full range of battle situations, from fighter planes to infantry.

In WSPD's opinion, such a move would be a social and military disaster. Obviously, many -- women included -- will disagree. But, for our part, we side with the view expressed in an interview published earlier this year in U. S. News & World Report, quoting retired Army Brigadier General Elizabeth Hoisington, who said: ". . . in my whole lifetime, I have never known 10 women whom I thought could endure three months under actual combat conditions in an Army unit." And, "The peripheral dangers of serving in combat units -- being raped by stronger or temporarily crazed comrades; being taken prisoner of war and similarly abused, beaten and starved; being physically and mentally incapable of performing one's assigned duties in combat and being responsible for others being killed or wounded -- these are some of the other harmful situations women could experience in combat. There is more to fear in combat than just being killed and not returning to your loved ones at home."

Amen to that, and then some.

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