



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

MAY 21 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
ACTING UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL
AND READINESS
CHIEFS OF THE MILITARY SERVICES
COMMANDER, UNITED STATES SPECIAL OPERATIONS
COMMAND
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

SUBJECT: Proposed Implementation Plans in Response to January 24, 2013, Secretary of Defense Memorandum Regarding the Elimination of the 1994 Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule

I have received your proposed implementation plans to eliminate the remaining restrictions from the now rescinded 1994 Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule, and I appreciate your efforts to methodically and deliberately remove gender-restrictive barriers. I remain confident that we will retain the trust and confidence of the American people by opening positions to women, while ensuring that all members entering these newly opened positions can meet the standards required to maintain our warfighting capability. I note that there are several upcoming milestones and decision points which support full implementation of this decision by January 1, 2016. I expect you to inform my office as these milestones are achieved.

The Department remains committed to removing all gender barriers, wherever possible, and meeting our missions with the best qualified and most capable personnel. Thank you for your continued leadership in removing barriers as expeditiously as possible.

David L. Israel

cc:
Acting General Counsel, DoD
ASD (Legislative Affairs)
ASD (Public Affairs)



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