Who is Waging War on Women?

by Phyllis Schlafly

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The real war against women is the announced plan of the Obama Administration, using outgoing Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta as the fall guy, to assign women for the first time in American history to fight our nation's enemies in military ground combat. That's real war, with real guns, real bullets, and real deaths.

This war doesn't involve only women who have volunteered to serve in our military. It's a real war against all 18-year-old American girls, because for the first time in our nation's history they will be required to sign up for the draft and be ready for a letter from Selective Service ordering them to report for military duty.

That's because the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Rostker v. Goldberg in 1981 that the gender difference in the law requiring "every male citizen" of age 18 through 25 to register does not violate equal protection or due process. However, there was a caveat.

The Court ruled: "The purpose of registration was to prepare for a draft of combat troops. Since women are excluded from combat, Congress concluded that they would not be needed in the event of a draft, and therefore decided not to register them."

Congress must act immediately, before the May passage of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2014, in order to preempt what Obama's Department of Defense, without constitutional authority, is trying to do unilaterally. There is no demand from the American people to pursue this war on young women. The House has not had any hearings on women in combat since 1979, and the Senate has not had hearings since 1991.

Some U.S. military commanders' disdain for our traditional civilian control of the military is insufferable. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey said Congress can "legislate if they like" but "they don't have to," and Panetta said he didn't know "who the hell" is in charge of Selective Service.

They should read the U.S. Constitution. Article I, Section 8, gives power to Congress “To raise and support Armies, … maintain a Navy; To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.”

Demands from the feminists for 18-year-old girls to register for the draft are already appearing on the internet. Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY) has reintroduced his bill to include women in the draft or at least to require them to perform some kind of compulsory service.

Assigning women to close ground combat against vicious enemy troops creates a war not only on 18-year-old girls who don’t choose to serve in the military. It creates a war not only on the courageous enlisted women who have volunteered to serve in the military but don’t want to be assigned to close ground combat with the Army pretending they are physically equal to men.

The new orders to achieve “diversity metrics” (i.e., female quotas) will change all requirements that women pass the same tests required of the men. The services will be required to introduce a “critical mass” or a “significant cadre” of women, expected to be 10 to 15 percent, into previously all-male units.

The mandate for diversity metrics will trump truth, honor, and common sense. The Defense Department has recommended that a new Diversity Czar (officially called a Chief Diversity Officer) be established to monitor “diversity management.”

This Diversity Czar and the Defense Department-endorsed Military Leadership Diversity Commission will be charged with the following mission. “To ensure that the diversity effort continues, demonstrated diversity leadership must be assessed throughout careers and made … a criterion for nomination and confirmation to the 3- and 4-star ranks.”

Men, do you get what that means? Your promotions will depend on giving the feminists whatever they demand and lying about so-called equal performance by males and females in order to demonstrate your “diversity leadership.”

The men will be expected to ignore the fact that gender-fair training is not the same as “gender-free training.” The Military Diversity Commission Report admits that fair treatment “is not about treating everyone the same.”

Gen. Robert W. Cone, who heads the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, said, "I think that fairness is very important in a values-based organization like our Army." But ground combat with evil enemies is not fair or equal; it is not even civilized. So, what do you think of men who would send women into that?

And, here is more Cone nonsense: "Army officials will look at 'traditional impediments' — the attitudes regarding the acceptance of women into previously male-only jobs…. The Army will take 'proactive measures' to mitigate resistance to women going into these specialties."

The only way to preserve tough standards for ground combat training, and maintain women's Selective Service exemption, is for Congress to reassert previous regulations exempting women from direct ground combat units.