E PLURIBUS UNUM: SHOULD WOMEN BE REQUIRED TO REGISTER FOR SELECTIVE SERVICE?

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It is that fundamental belief – it is that fundamental belief – I am my brother’s keeper, I am my sisters’ keeper – that makes this country work. It’s what allows us to pursue our individual dreams, yet still come together as a single American family: “E pluribus Unum,” out of many, one. Now even as we speak, there are those who are preparing to divide us, the spin masters and negative ad peddlers who embrace the politics of anything goes. Well, I say to them tonight, there’s not a liberal America and a conservative America; there’s the United States of America. There’s not a black America and white America and Latino America and Asian America; there’s the United States of America.¹

I. INTRODUCTION

E PLURIBUS UNUM – OUT OF MANY, ONE

Our national motto – Out of Many, One – symbolizes unity. E Pluribus Unum captured the new republic’s spirit of tolerance, solidarity, and nationalism.² E Pluribus Unum, quoted above, from President Obama’s 2004 Keynote Address,³ was the national de facto motto of the United States until it was replaced by a formal motto in 1956 by an act of Congress adopting “In God We Trust.”⁴

Presidents and courts, among others, continue to emphasize the importance of this principle.⁵ As President Clinton said in his inaugural address, the idea of “America” is “that our nation can

¹ Barack Obama, Keynote Address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention (Jul. 27, 2004).
³ See Keynote Address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention, supra note 1.
⁵ See President William J. Clinton, Inaugural Address (Jan. 20, 1993).
summon from its myriad diversity the deepest measure of unity.”

Senior District Judge Garnett Thomas Eisele in his dissenting opinion acknowledged the principle in this way: “E Pluribus Unum – from many, one. It was a good idea when the country was founded, and it’s a good idea today. From many, one. That still identifies us.” This concept helps us visualize a nation where its citizens are people from many different backgrounds, races, religions, and nationalities that come together as a united nation where equal rights are accorded to all of its citizens. Thus, a person’s gender would have no bearing on his/her exercise of rights.

This paper sets out to build a connection between militarization and gender and make a solid argument as to why women should be mandated to register for selective service. Part II discusses the mobilization of resources for war and the role of women in militarization and the gendering process. Then the paper will focus narrowly on the exploitation of women by three specific military entities during a time of war to advance their military goal. The three military entities will be examined; Part II.A will address the U.S. Army; part II.B will address the Israeli Women's Army; and part III.C will address the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Part IV will analyze all three military groups and the woman’s role in the military group.

II. MILITARIZATION

Gender bias is a global problem. Some would agree that there is no other place where gender bias is more prevalent than in military entities. But the reality is that militaries need women. Militaries need women to fulfill multiple roles, not only the traditional female roles. The United States is starting to recognize equality in the military, and the value of having a mixed-

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6 Id.
10 See id.
11 Id.
gender army. As women are necessary to the future of this Country and the safety of this nation, women — just as men — should be required to register for selective service.

Militarization is defined by Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary as: “to give a military character to” or “to adapt for military use.” Cynthia Enloe defines militarization as: “a step-by-step process by which a person or a thing gradually comes to be controlled by the military or comes to depend for its well-being on militaristic ideas.” Under this approach, it is believed that militarization is not simply about joining the army, but a more subtle process that takes time to develop. This subtle process of militarization, over time, leads individuals to believe that military needs and militaristic presumptions are a way of life and invaluable.

This paper argues that militarization is a gender issue that has led to gender bias. Gender bias in the workplace, especially against women, is in almost all areas of our society. Women are limited from certain jobs regardless of their merits. The military is one of the most traditional and conservative institutions in the United States of America. Gender roles within the military have been a phenomenon that has created a gender bias on a global scale. Some theorists argue that militarization is harmful to society, specifically to women, as it allows the military to exploit the resources of the society it claims to protect by convincing them that the military’s actions are valuable, necessary, and often even something to take pride in.

Yet women have been essential to military forces. Enloe states, “[t]he militarization of women has been crucial for the militarization of governments and of international relations. The

12 Id.
14 CYNTHIA ENLOE, MANEUVERS: THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF MILITARIZING WOMEN’S LIVES 3 (The Regents of the Univ. of Cal., 2000).
15 Id. at 2.
16 Id. at 3.
17 Laura Sjoberg, Agency, Militarized Femininity and Enemy Others: Observations From the War in Iraq, 9 INT’L FEMINIST J. OF POL. 82, 83 (Apr. 17, 2007).
18 Id. at 88.
19 Id. at 93.
20 Id. at 92–93.
21 Id.
22 See Enloe, supra note 14, at 3.
23 See id.
militarization of women has been necessary for the militarization of men.”24 Women have been needed by the military to play traditional roles: to reproduce the next generation of soldiers, to serve as a symbol of home for which soldiers are willing to risk their lives for, and to boost morale and provide comfort.25 But women have also been essential for non-traditional roles such as fighting alongside male soldiers in the battlefield, planning, strategizing and performing covert operations male soldiers would not be able to accomplish.26

Although women’s roles are essential to the operations of the military,27 our male-dominated society and government, marginalize the idea of women in the military.28 The key to control is to define women as creatures marginal to the military’s core identity.29 This is so; no matter how crucial in reality are the services women perform to the smooth operations of the military.30 With the idea of mandatory draft registration of women looming around the corner after women have been allowed into all areas of the military, this paper argues that the mandatory draft registration of women may combat gender bias.

III. MILITARY ENTITIES

As Nelson Mandela has said:

Freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression. To this end, we have acknowledged that the objectives of our reconstruction and development will not be realized unless we see in visible and practical terms that the condition of women in our country has radically changed for the better, and that women at every level have been empowered to intervene in all aspects of life as equals with any other member of society.31

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24 Id.
25 Id. at 44.
26 Id.
27 See id.
28 See Enloe, supra note 14, at 44.
29 See id.
30 See id.
A. The United States Military

In 2016, the United States Military is the most progressive military entity in the world when it comes to women equality, although that has not always been the case.\textsuperscript{32} The United States Military has historically been male-dominated and hierarchical, with a history of discriminating and being resistant to any change in gender roles.\textsuperscript{33} The masculine climate of the United States Military has made members of the United States Military and policy makers resistant to change.\textsuperscript{34} To understand the present state of the military in regards to gender neutrality, we must look to its history as to provide some background reference.

From the years 1775 to 1783, during the American Revolution, female soldiers worked in traditional women roles such as nurses, seamstresses, and cooks.\textsuperscript{35} In 1785, a breakthrough occurred as women were allowed to assist male soldiers by serving them water, transporting contraband for the military and acting as spies in roles that men would not have been able to fulfill.\textsuperscript{36} Even while allowed these extended privileges, women were not allowed to serve in these roles unless they were disguised as men and were not allowed to wear the military uniform.\textsuperscript{37} In fact, Deborah Samson Gannett, the first American woman soldier, enlisted in 1782 to fight in the Revolutionary War under the name of her deceased brother and disguised herself as a man to battle in the front lines.\textsuperscript{38}

Necessity during World Wars allowed women to break new ground in the military.\textsuperscript{39} During World War I, more than 22,000 women were recruited by the Red Cross to work as nurses for the United States Army.\textsuperscript{40} During World War II, over 400,000 women

\textsuperscript{33} Id.
\textsuperscript{34} See id.
\textsuperscript{35} See CAROL BERKIN, REVOLUTIONARY MOTHERS: WOMEN IN THE STRUGGLE FOR AMERICA’S INDEPENDENCE 58–59 (Vintage Books 2005).
\textsuperscript{36} See id. at 133.
\textsuperscript{37} See id.
\textsuperscript{40} Marian Moser Jones, American Nurses in World War I: Under Appreciated
served in the United States Military mostly in traditional roles such as nurses. In 1948, General Dwight D. Eisenhower advocated to allow women to join the Regular Army and President Harry Truman successfully changed both legislation and policy. In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson removed the restriction on the number of women allowed to serve. Also removed was the ceiling on the highest rank women could achieve as well.

In 1979, Congress considered requiring women to participate in Selective Service registration amidst the Cold War era. In Senate hearings, military leaders testified against the registration of females and the repeal of the combat exclusion. The Senate Committee on Armed Services issued a report in 1980 in which it rejected registering women for the draft. The Committee reasoned that historically, women had not regularly participated in combat and no society had conscripted women for combat roles. The Committee cited “important societal reasons” for preserving an all-male registration, including the “sweeping implications” for society should young mothers be drafted and leave their children with their young fathers. The Committee concluded that women lack the physical and emotional strength to kill and fight in battle; their presence would result in sexual tension, pregnancy, and perceptions of unfairness; and women would impair the male bonding and unit cohesion necessary for military effectiveness.

In 1981, the United States Supreme Court upheld the exclusion of women from Selective Service registration in *Rostker v. Goldberg*. At issue in *Rostker* was whether a the Military

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44 *Id.*
47 *Supra* note 45, at 323.
48 *Id.* at 326.
Selective Service Law mandating draft registration for men and not women was permissible under the Equal Protection Clause. The majority noted that such a sex-based classification was justified because of a prior legal differentiation between men and women - only men can serve in combat units. This legally created distinction, which the Court felt reflected Congress’s support of allegedly well-established and entrenched societal norms, provided a sufficient state interest to justify excluding women from registering for the draft.

In 1994, The Ground Combat Exclusion Policy of the United States Army was implemented which prohibited women from serving in direct combat. This ban created a barrier for women in their employment opportunities that would enhance their military careers. Approximately 221,000 of the positions offered by the Department of Defense at this time were closed to women. In a monumental decision, in 1996, the United States Supreme Court, in the case of U.S. v. Virginia, ordered the Virginia Military Institute to admit women as part of their 14th amendment rights to equal protection under the law.

The military has taken gradual steps towards gender equality. Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced on December 3, 2015, that the Department of Defense would lift all gender-biased restrictions on military service starting January. As of January 2016, all gender-based restrictions were lifted. The 2016 lift reversed the 1994 rule that prohibited women from serving in combat after a study showed that female soldiers can meet the

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50 Id. at 59.
51 Id. at 77–79.
52 Id. at 76–79.
53 See supra note 41, at 1014.
54 Id. at 1051–52.
55 Gender Issues: Information on the DOD’s Assignment Policy and Direct Ground Combat Definition, UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 3 (Oct. 1998). http://www.gao.gov/archive/1999/ns99007.pdf (The 1994 change in policy resulted in ninety-one percent of all Army career fields, sixty-seven percent of all Army positions, eighty-seven percent of all enlisted MOS specialties, ninety-seven percent of warrant officer specialties, and ninety-seven percent of officer specialties becoming open to women.).
57 See id at 544–45.
59 Id. at 307 n.6.
qualifications of ground combat roles.60 The lift allows women to serve in combat units and occupational specialties but has also opened more than 13,000 positions in the Army.61 Although the lifting of the ban has not addressed the issue of individual bias within the military, it may reduce the perception of traditional women roles in the services by eliminating an institutional bias.62 As of January 2016, there has been no formal decision to require women to register with the Selective Service or be subject to mandatory military draft registration.63

There are nearly 17 million male U.S. citizens between the ages of 18 and 25 currently registered and eligible for conscription.64 There has not been a draft since 1973, but all men between the ages of 18 to 25 still must register for a potential draft.65 All males between 18 to 25 are required by the Selective Service Act66 to have registered within 30 days of their 18th birthdays and must notify Selective Service within 10 days of any changes to information they provided on their registration cards, such as a change of address.67 Yet, women are not eligible for conscription.68

As of 2016, The United States Code Section 3328, which codifies the requirements for Selective Service Registration, specifically calls for “An Individual” to register under the Selective Service Act69 as required to register under Section 3 of the Military Selective Service Act.70 The Military Selective Service Act, to which Section 3328 refers to, specifically states “every male citizen of the United States, and every other male person residing in the United States.”71 The Military Selective Service Act does not use the words “female” or “women” at any point in the wording of the

60 An Analysis of Female Representation and Marines’ Performance in Aviation and Logistics Occupations, CNA ANALYSIS & SOLUTIONS, Apr. 2015, at iii.
61 Barry, supra note 32.
62 Id.
63 See id.
70 50 U.S.C. App. § 453.
71 50 U.S.C. App. § 453.
Act. The contradictory wording of the two Acts has led to quite a conundrum. To this day, women are not required to register for the Selective Service because the Military Selective Service Act specifically refers to “male persons” in stating who must register. In order to change the status quo, Congress must amend the Military Selective Service Law in order to include women. If “true and pure equality” is to be realized in the U.S. military, Army Secretary John McHugh stated that women would eventually have to register for the draft. “If your objective is true and pure equality then you have to look at all aspects” of the roles of women in the military, McHugh said, and registration for the draft “will be one of those things. That will have to be considered.”

As of 2015, women make up about 15% of the U.S. military. More than 162,000 women are enlisted and active in the armed services with over 39,000 of those women serving as officers. Health care was the top field for female officers, at 39%. They made up nearly 28% of administrative officers, 19% of intelligence officers and 18% of supply officers. Respect for military women serving is greater than ever, yet gender bias still lingers when women are put in direct competition with men. The most popular arguments against full integration of women in the military are that women are unfit for combat and are unable to handle the emotional and physical demands of combat. “In theory, 3% of women might meet male minimum standards, but going from the top of their fields to lower status in land combat units would set

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74 50 U.S.C. App. § 453.
76 Id.
77 Id.
80 Id.
82 See id.
them up for career disadvantages and disproportionate, debilitating injuries.”

Therefore, even if allotted the opportunity to perform alongside men, in traditional male roles, women in these roles would still be seen in a negative light.

Women have been steadily moving into previously all-male jobs across the military. In August of 2015, two female soldiers, Capt. Kristen Griest and 1st Lt. Shaye Haver, made history by graduating from Ranger School, the army’s elite unit leadership school that is considered one of the most grueling military courses in the world. Soon thereafter the Army announced that it was opening the school on a permanent basis to women for the first time.

Sadly, even with women breaking down barriers, incidents continue to occur that curtail women’s advancement in ranks. Even with the incredible effort that these female soldiers exhibited, reports still brought down their victories. Many critics, including veterans and active-duty troops, accused the Ranger School of lowering their standards and that the women received special treatment being allowed lighter duties and exceptions to policies. They claimed that the women were sent to a special two-week training before even commencing the program. They were also accused of allowing the women to repeat key parts of the course that they failed and being taken out to the courses to see it while men had to see it for the first time when they went to the school. These women could not have been simply given the recognition they deserved. Major Jim Hathaway said it best, “We could have invited each of you to guest walk the entire course, and you would still not believe. We could have even video recorded every patrol and you would still say that

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84 See id.
86 Id.
87 See id.
88 See id.
89 See id.
90 See id.
92 See id.
93 Supra note 90.
we gave it away. Nothing we say will change your opinion.”

Even further, women are consistently objectified and considered sexual objects even when training and performing the same military function as men. In a study performed by the Rand Survey statistics show that nearly five percent of all active-duty military women experienced at least one incident of unwanted sexual conduct in the past year. 62 percent of women who experienced a sexual assault and reported it endured some type of retribution or retaliation. Social retaliation accounted for the largest form of perceived retribution, but 32 percent said they faced professional retaliation and 35 percent experienced an adverse administrative event after reporting an incident. Social retaliation accounted for the largest form of perceived retribution, but 32 percent said they faced professional retaliation, and 35 percent experienced an adverse administrative event after reporting an incident. American women serving in Iraq or Afghanistan are more likely to be raped by a comrade than killed by an enemy. Calculations by The Huffington Post reveal that “a servicewoman was nearly 180 times more likely to have become a victim of military sexual assault [in 2011] . . . than to have died while deployed during the last 11 years of combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.” Victims are often blamed for reporting such crimes, and are challenged professionally, leading to a stunt in career advancement.

Having a restriction on women’s role in ground combat and the fact that women are not required to register with the Selective


86 Id. at 17.

87 Id. at 20.

88 Id. at 21.

89 Id. at 21.

90 LORI HOLYFIELD, VETERANS’ JOURNEYS HOME: LIFE AFTER AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ 15 (Routledge, 2016).


92 See id.
Service are two of the last ways that women are treated differently in the U.S. By allowing women to serve in ground combat and mandating their registration without restrictions or exceptions would allow for a strong fighting culture and would ultimately strengthen the military by ensuring the broadest possible pool of candidates. By changing the policy now, the Department of Defense is recognizing women’s contributions to wars and acknowledge that times have changed, both in terms of the ways wars are fought and attitudes about appropriate roles for women in the forces. If our enemies allow women to fight in open combat and take on high-risk missions internationally, why should the U.S. not allow their women soldiers the same right?

B. Israel Defense Forces

Israel presents an iconic view of women soldiers and the progressive inclusion of women in the military. Although Norway was the first NATO country to require women to register for the draft, Israel was the first Western democracy to have mandatory conscription of women. Mandatory military draft registration pertains to all men and women who are not otherwise exempt. The 1986 Israel Defence Service Law, which replaced the 1959 version, mandates military service for both men and women, while differentiating between the sexes in terms of conditions of service. The Proclamation of Independence announced that the State of Israel “will ensure complete equality

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104 Id.
105 Id.
109 Id.
111 Id.
112 Rimalt, supra note 109, at 102.
of social and political rights to all its citizens irrespective of religion, race or sex.”

Thus, the Israel Defence Service Law imposed the draft on women for the period of 24 months—a significantly smaller length than that for men.

Since the founding of the State of Israel in 1948, women have taken part in Israel’s military and women in 2011 compromise 33% of all soldiers. The 2000 Equality Amendment to the Israeli Military Service Law states: “The right of women to serve in any role in the Israel Defence Force (“IDF”) is equal to the right of men.” The Amendment that female lawmakers had drafted granted equal opportunities to women who were found to be physically and personally suitable for nearly all combat positions. As of now, 88% of all roles in the IDF are open to female candidates, while women can be found in 69% of all positions.

Although Israel has been progressive in its gender-equality movement, the Defence Service Law created a gender-based distinction regarding the legal grounds on which a person could file for exemption from military service. The Law granted women exemption from military service on three basic grounds: family status (marriage, pregnancy, or motherhood), religious belief, and conscientious objection. These exemptions were subsequently integrated into the consolidated version of the Defence Service Law in 1959 and continue to apply to all women who might otherwise be called to serve in the military.

Similar exemptions from

117 Id.
120 Id. at §§ 39, 40 (Those exemptions were included in Section 39 of the 1949 Law).
121 Id. at § 39.

The 1959 Consolidated Version incorporated the exemptions,
regular and reserve military duty were not and still have not been formulated for men.122 "In Israel, facial attempts to achieve gender-neutrality provide little relief in the face of a legal and cultural background in which gender inequalities are still deeply ingrained."123

C. The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria

ISIS, in addition to being a force in the Middle East, is essentially a global gang preying upon alienated youth and providing an identity for self-selecting men and women who are isolated, angry and, at the same time, in search of a mission in life.124

In 2004, a group known as al Qaeda emerged in Iraq, an Islamist anti-western militant group devoted to establishing an independent Islamic state.125 Two years later, this group

Defence Service Law § 39 (1959), and in the 1986 Consolidated Version, the relevant provisions read:
(a) The following persons shall be exempt from the duty of defence service -
   (1) The mother of a child;
   (2) A pregnant woman.
(b) A married woman shall be exempt from the duty of regular service.
(c) A female person of military age who has proved, in such manner and to such authority as shall be prescribed by regulations, that reasons of conscience or reasons connected with her family's religious way of life prevent her from serving in defence service shall be exempt from the duty of that service. Defence Service Law § 39 (1986). The religious exemption is further elaborated in Section 40 of the Law:
A female person designated for defence service who declares in writing under section 15 of the Evidence Ordinance (New Version), 5731-1971, before a judge (shofet, i.e., a judge of a civil court - Tr.) or a judge of a rabbinical court (dayan) (1) that reasons of religious conviction prevent her from serving in defence service and (2) that she observes the dietary laws at home and away from home and (3) she does not ride on the Sabbath shall be exempt from defence service after delivering the affidavit, in the manner and at the time prescribed by regulations, to a calling-up officer empowered in that behalf.

122 Id.
125 Major Aaron L. Jackson, Hunting Down Terrorists "Wherever They Exist":
rebranded as ISIS and disowned its al Qaeda connections in 2014.\textsuperscript{126} Similar to the bureaucratic hierarchy of Western countries, ISIS has a full legislative body with governors and enforcers, many of these enforcers being women themselves.\textsuperscript{127}

ISIS has a dual attitude towards women.\textsuperscript{128} On one hand women are treated as modern-day slaves being raped and sold just as commodities.\textsuperscript{129} Many of these women are Yazidi women who are held or captured, many of them under age.\textsuperscript{130} On the other hand, ISIS sees women an essential part of their military; hoping to lure other Muslim women to join them to help enforce the Islamic rules.\textsuperscript{131} Women roles within ISIS include recruitment, enforcement, matchmaking, education and even actual high-risk missions.\textsuperscript{132} Women within ISIS are afforded liberties that are nonexistent in other societies, like the right to inheritance and the right to consent to marriage and to dissolve them.\textsuperscript{133}

To grow their resources, ISIS requires women to lure and encourage other women to join their forces.\textsuperscript{134} These women become recruiters over social media, spreading messages to women to leave their western-style lives behind and join them in their forces.\textsuperscript{135} This recruitment strategy gives impressionable women a sense of power and belonging, while still allowing the romantic touch of potentially finding a jihadi fighter husband.\textsuperscript{136} But even with the essential responsibility of recruitment, in ISIS territory,


\textsuperscript{126} Id. at 139–40, 148.

\textsuperscript{127} Id. at 142–43.


\textsuperscript{130} See Davis, supra note 127, at 34–35.

\textsuperscript{131} See id. at 30.


\textsuperscript{134} See Gardner, supra note 131.

\textsuperscript{135} Id.

\textsuperscript{136} See id.
women are not allowed to move around freely and must always be accompanied by a male chaperone in public. They are restricted in the clothes they wear and the modesty of their clothing. Women may not wear make-up and must be covered head-to-toe by a black burqa. In these “uniforms,” women actively fight for the militant group and must prove their loyalty to their Islamic State or if not, they will be punished.

Claiming the Quran’s support, the Islamic State codifies sex slavery in conquered regions of Iraq and Syria and uses the practice as a recruiting tool. In these situations, women themselves are enforcing gender roles against women. The most prominent example of such is the group of women named the Khansa brigade, the all-female police for ISIS, that enforces and patrols the areas controlled by ISIS and exists to principally force other women to comply with ISIS’s vision of sharia law. These women control Raqqa, the de facto capitol of ISIS. The brigade enforces the Islamic Rule by arresting, beating, and punishing women who commit any offense. Even such small offenses as showing ankles, wrists or even being without a male chaperone will lead to women being punished. The brigade reinforces the gender bias and oppression against women by inflicting punishment that men traditionally would, but using their religion as a justification. The brigade acts as the “morality police” enforcing their strict version of Islam on other women. These women also oversee brothel operations, where women who have been kidnapped and forced to service Jihadi ISIS soldiers are

138 Gardner, supra note 132.
139 Boghani, supra note 137.
140 Id.
141 Id.
142 Ahmed, supra note 133.
143 Id.
144 See id.
146 Id.
147 Ahmed, supra note 134.
148 Killalea, supra note 144.
Al-Khansa members also act as matchmakers, finding women who seek status by marrying a fighter and becoming a jihadist bride. The women that are forced into marriage, eventually become widows relatively quickly. The life expectancy of a jihadist is a month to two months. Women will marry Jihadist for the status of becoming a fighter’s wife, but will be widowed within a short time after their marriage. The women are then given four months and ten days to mourn. If she is pregnant she will be given longer. Women get married to jihadist fighters but the life expectancy of a jihadist fighter is so short, these women are consistently being married off after periods of mourning. If they do not re-marry another fighter, they will be forced to work in brothels and satisfy other Jihadist fighters. And continuously these women are subjected to sexual abuse in the brothels or physical abuse by their husbands. Women who do not abide by the “rules set out” face barbaric consequences. It is as if Gender bias in Syria, is being reinforced by their own gender. These women are conditioned to treat other women in such a manner that demeans their own sex. They enforce brutal punishment towards each other, and demean other women by using force that men would traditionally employ.

At first these women are happy to bring power and honor to their families by having been recruited in the military. But after some time, and having been subjected to watch the terrible punishment

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149 Id.
150 See Gardner, supra note 132.
152 Gardner, supra note 132.
153 See id.
154 Id.
155 Id.
156 Spencer, supra note 140, at 82.
157 See Sue Reid, Isis’s Female Gestapo Wreaking Terror on Their Own Sex, SCOTTISH DAILY MAIL (July 11, 2015), http://www.pressreader.com/uk/scottish-daily-mail/20150711/282411282992017.
158 See id.
159 See Ahmed, supra note 134.
160 See id.
161 See id.
162 See id.
163 Spencer, supra note 150, at 81.
other women face, they regret their decision to join.\textsuperscript{164} Stories of former fighters in the all female-unit reveal that the life these women lead is not as exciting or safe as what they portray on social media.\textsuperscript{165}

Women are mandated to fight for ISIS on the battlefield, and also to follow their mission wherever their faith may lead them allowing women a wider role within the ISIS military.\textsuperscript{166} These women are trained just as their male counterparts inside Syria, to load, clean, and fire weapons.\textsuperscript{167} Not only within Syrian borders, but Female ISIS terrorist are stationed and trained worldwide.\textsuperscript{168} Moreover, ISIS promotes women in international terrorist missions, such as the recent bombings in Paris, France on November 13, 2015 that left 129 people dead.\textsuperscript{169} Survivors of that Friday night’s terrorist attack claim that one of the attackers shooting randomly into the crowd at an Eagles of Death Metal concert was a woman before she blew herself up.\textsuperscript{170}

Days later on Wednesday the 18\textsuperscript{th}, France police raided a Paris apartment searching for ISIS terrorists and a shootout ensued.\textsuperscript{171} During this exchange in gunfire, a woman by the name of Hasna Ait Boulahcen, the cousin of Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the man believed to have masterminded the series of bombings and shooting in Paris on Friday evening, blew herself up with an explosive vest in the name of Allah and in furtherance of ISIS’s purpose.\textsuperscript{172} Moments before the bomb went off, she was heard shouting “Help me, help me!” while she held her hands up.\textsuperscript{173} The

\begin{itemize}
\item[\textsuperscript{164}]See Killalea, supra note 144.
\item[\textsuperscript{165}]See id.
\item[\textsuperscript{166}]See Spencer, supra note 150, at 83–84.
\item[\textsuperscript{167}]Id. at 83–84.
\item[\textsuperscript{169}]Ian Gallagher, Marin Beckford & Martin Robinson, Revealed: Two of the Jihadis Sneaked into Europe via Greece by posing as refugees and being rescued from a Sinking Migrant Boat – and Survivors say one of the Attackers was a Woman, DAILY MAIL (Nov. 14, 2015), http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3318379/Hunt-Isis-killers-Syrian-passport-body-suicide-bomber-Stade-France.html.
\item[\textsuperscript{170}]Id.
\item[\textsuperscript{172}]Id.
\item[\textsuperscript{173}]Id.
\end{itemize}
female suicide bomber cried out ‘God is great’ in Arabic before detonating her explosives and killing herself for ISIS. From accounts given by her family, Hasna had not been interested in religion, and in fact was only radicalized in the last month before her death before abandoning her former lifestyle to join ISIS.

Women are essential to the ISIS mission and to the role they play in furthering the Islamic Rule. From training, to actual combat fighting, these ISIS women fighters are just as productive and given the same respect as male ISIS fighters when they are made to perform such missions. Women in this part of the world are so marginalized in their society that they are made to believe that the only way to bring honor to their family is to get involved with jihadist fighters. Fighting alongside their jihadist male counterparts is promised to be honorable and they are lured with false promises of being rewarded in their afterlife.

III. ANALYSIS

One could argue that while female soldiers in the United States are not restricted to the clothing they wear, nor the body parts they are able to show, but the United States has not allowed women to enjoy as many rights as those granted by other military entities such as fighting in the front lines, and managing their own brigades. In all three military entities addressed above, women are still not in the same situation, nor does the same playing field as men, yet the most oppressive group allow its female soldiers the most responsibility, even responsibility over other women soldiers. ISIS male fighters degrade women and objectify them, but ISIS female soldiers may argue that their male counterparts allow women greater roles and more responsibilities in their military.

175 See Willsher, supra note 170.
176 See Gardner, supra note 132.
177 See id.
179 See id.
180 Ahmed, supra note 134.
181 Id.
The US should allow women to take on a broader role. If our enemy allows women to fight for them, why don’t we allow women to play a role in counter-terrorism? We should move more in a direction as Israel has and implement mandatory draft registration for women.

The purpose of the Military Selective Service Act is to augment troop strength in times of war, a need that could just as easily be met by incorporating eligible women into additional combat support and combat service support roles.182 Now that times have changed and women are allowed combat roles within the military, the idea of women not being required to register for the draft is no longer applicable to the current times.183 Section 3 of the Military Selective Service Act should be worded parallel to its registration requirement counterpart in Section 3328 of the United States Code.184 Both should call for “An Individual” to register under the Selective Service Act, and not solely require men to register.

Women should be required to register for the draft after the Defense Department opened up all combat jobs to women because all American’s who are physically qualified to serve should register for the draft.185 Given the changed circumstances, this outlook at least need to be given more attention and should be looked at as part of a national debate.186 “But with the Pentagon’s decision to lift the ban on women in combat in January 2016 – and its move in recent months to open a number of jobs to female troops previously held only by men – those Supreme Court arguments from 33 years ago may no longer apply.”187 Therefore, mandatory registration for the draft may be the next logical step and the American system should follow suit.188 To defeat gender bias and truly have a Nation that believes in E Pluribus Unum, allocation of duties and responsibilities demands the inclusion of women.

Unified support for the inclusion of women in draft registration, however, is far from the current state of affairs.189 A recent

183 See id. at 16.
185 Dunn, supra note 181, at 21.
186 Id.
188 Id.
189 See Dunn, supra note 181, at 21.
telephonic phone survey conducted March 27 through April 1, 2013 found that although the majority of the 1,000 registered voters queried supported the inclusion of women in the draft, 38% did not support their inclusion.\(^{190}\) Overturning the combat exclusion for women implies, both logically and legally, that a new culture of unity and cohesion must be created within the military.\(^{191}\)

The resistance to this argument centers on the actual physical difference between the sexes.\(^{192}\) Critics of allowing women in major roles in the military and mandatory draft registration for women argue that allowing men and women to train together would diminish the training benefit received by men because the weight load and march rates must be kept at a range that women would be able to endure.\(^{193}\) Military commanders warned that the integration of women would destroy military effectiveness. For example, The Marines strongly support an all-male front-line.

To move forward in expanding opportunities for our female service members without considering the timeless, brutal, physical and absolutely unforgiving nature of close combat is a prescription for failure, an internal Marine study concluded. Those who choose to turn a blind eye to those immutable realities do so at the expense of our Corps’ war-fighting capability and, in turn, the security of the nation.\(^{194}\) Of all the issues associated with integration, the most troubling is the possibility that, instead of placing all service members on an equal playing field, the inclusion policy will result in an increase in sexual assaults within the military.\(^{195}\) The recent lifting of the combat ban then begs the question: Will lifting the ban on women in combat alleviate or exacerbate the ongoing sexual assault crisis?\(^{196}\) The same women who will now be permitted to join the ranks of the nation’s most elite units will also be dealt an


\(^{191}\) See Dunn, supra note 181, at 21.

\(^{192}\) See Catharine A. MacKinnon, *Sex Equality* 273 (Foundation Press, 2d ed. 2007) (discussing arguments in favor of exempting women from registering for the draft).

\(^{193}\) See id.


\(^{196}\) Id.
increased risk of sexual assault at the hands of their own comrades.197

According to opponents of the inclusion plan, there are a number of reasons why the inclusion policy will only aggravate the ongoing sexual assault crisis in the military.198 One reason why the inclusion policy will only exacerbate the ongoing sexual assault crisis is because of the deep-rooted hyper-masculinity that underlies the military.199

There are inherent power dynamics at play in combat scenarios that will present significant challenges to the implementation of this new policy.200 The abuse of women in war illustrates the control dynamics at play in the military’s strict hierarchy; within this hierarchy, “one way to assert dominance is through sexual violence and women are at the bottom of the totem pole.”201 The sudden forced integration may make women more accessible to men in situations where stress is high and trust is essential.202 The unfortunate reality is that “the strains of combat, close quarters in remote locations, tension, and even boredom can create the conditions for abuse,” not to mention “hinder[ing] medical care for victims and legal proceedings against those who attack them.”203

Proponents of a mandatory draft and complete inclusion of women argue that such a change will bring greater awareness encouraging more victims to come forward.204 Proponents argue that bringing women into the field mandatorily will break down the perception that women are weaker and will demystify the myth that women will tolerate inferiority.205 Allowing men and women to serve with each other as equals will build respect and trust as women prove that they are as capable as men.206

Soldiers are soldiers—provided they all undergo the same training and receive the same equipment, their capabilities in

197 Id. at 343.
198 Id.
199 Id. at 344.
200 Id.
201 Grassbaugh, supra note 194, at 344.
202 Id. at 346.
203 Id. at 348. (quoting Steven Lee Myers, A Peril in War Zones: Sexual Abuse by Fellow G.I.’s, N.Y. TIMES (Dec. 27, 2009)).
204 Id. at 342.
205 Id.
206 Id. at 343.
combat are more than comparable. Women have existed on the battlefield for centuries, but Americans must now acknowledge them as equals. Ultimately, women are seeking equality. This equality will only make our military better and stronger than it is now. It will allow for the start of true cohesion between male and female service members. It will allow our military a greater chance at protecting our Country from ISIS and other terrorist groups who require women to join forces with their male counterparts just by the shear numbers but also by having a greater cohesion within its forces. Although, a mandatory draft registration procedure may not solve the problem of sexual assault within our military, it will ensure that women have a stance against the ongoing epidemic by positioning them in a place where they are able to stand up for themselves, and make a presence within the frontlines. Lastly, but certainly not least, requiring women to register in selective service will make America better. America is regarded as the land of the free and the home of the brave. “It is time to change the culture that enables cowardice and indecency and make it free and equal for those who are bravest, once and for all.”

IV. CONCLUSION

Women are vital to the United States Military. Although the United States Military is the most progressive in the world, we should mirror countries such as Israel and Denmark to reach greater women equality. As we condemn ISIS for their treatment of women, we have failed to give our female soldiers the freedom that they have given their female counterparts. The entry of

207 See Kirsten Holmstedt, Band Of Sisters: American Women At War In Iraq 8, 313 (2007).
208 Id. at 314.
209 Id.
210 Grassbaugh, supra note 194, at 352.
211 Id.
212 Id.
213 Id.
214 Id.
215 Id.
217 Grassbaugh, supra note 194, at 352.
women into positions of power in the military in general, and into combat units more specifically, is the ultimate manifestation of women’s forging into the traditional male realm. To allow mandatory draft registration of women would be a powerfully symbolic and sound policy move. While there will be logistical challenges as the Pentagon and Congress continue to break down barriers for women, doing so will make the military stronger and will narrow America’s gender equality gap. In taking this step, the United States is following the lead of several close allies, including Israel, Canada and several European nations, that already allow women to serve in front-line combat jobs and have instituted mandatory military draft registration. If we truly believe in our de facto motto – Out of Many, One – then we must learn to accept women in an equal capacity within our military.