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U.S. allows women to fight in wars

26th January, 2013

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1301/130126-women_in_combat.html

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THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130126-women_in_combat.html

The U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta has announced one of the biggest reforms of the American military in decades. He has lifted the ban on women fighting on the front line in future wars. The new ruling reinforces the fact that women have been putting their lives at risk for many years. Mr Panetta told reporters: "Female service members have faced the reality of combat, proving their willingness to fight and, yes, to die to defend their fellow Americans." Panetta said many very able women soldiers have been prevented from doing a job they love because of their gender. He said: "We owe it to them to allow them to pursue every avenue of military service for which they are fully prepared and qualified."

The Defense Secretary announced there was an important proviso to his new ruling – that women must be able to meet the military's standards, including physical ones. Army Sergeant Jeremy Grayson agreed, saying: "Women would have to be able to do the physical stuff that men do. They have to be able to pull their own weight." Another Army spokesman, Anthony Lemaitre, warned the public to be prepared to handle seeing women troops come home in body bags or with lost limbs. He said: "It's harder to see a mother or a daughter dead." There could now be up to 237,000 positions available for women that are currently off limits to them. The Army says the ruling will benefit the military in many ways.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-21172033>
http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/troops-accept-new-women-in-combat-policy-say-women-should-meet-same-standard-as-men/2013/01/24/e12f4cb8-6663-11e2-889b-f23c246aa446_story.html

WARM-UPS

1. WOMEN IN COMBAT: Walk around the class and talk to other students about women in combat. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

biggest reforms / American military / the front line / future wars / willingness / gender / proviso / standards / physical stuff / pull your own weight / troops / off limits

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. WOMEN: Why aren't there more women in these jobs? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Why so few?	Would they be better or worse than men?
National leader		
Front line soldier		
Master chef		
Company CEO		
Sports commentator		
Construction worker		

4. EQUALITY: Students A **strongly** believe women will be totally equal with men in the job market one day; Students B **strongly** believe qqqqqqq. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. DAUGHTER'S JOB: What job would you like for your daughter? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- front line soldier
- model
- police officer
- tax accountant
- flight attendant
- English teacher
- software designer
- store manager

6. MILITARY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'military'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130126-women_in_combat.html

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The U.S. Secretary of State has announced important military reforms. T / F
- b. Women will still not be able to fight on the front line. T / F
- c. Leon Panetta said women have already been ready to die in combat. T / F
- d. Panetta wants women to do any military job they are qualified to do. T / F
- e. Mr Panetta said he would make the standards lower for female troops. T / F
- f. A soldier said a woman must be able to carry her own weight. T / F
- g. Another soldier said Americans must be ready to see female casualties. T / F
- h. There could be almost a quarter of a million jobs open to women. T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. announced | a. removed |
| 2. lifted | b. go after |
| 3. reinforces | c. enthusiasm |
| 4. willingness | d. deal with |
| 5. pursue | e. things |
| 6. proviso | f. declared |
| 7. stuff | g. closed |
| 8. handle | h. arms and legs |
| 9. limbs | i. backs up |
| 10. off limits | j. condition |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. He has lifted the | a. to fight |
| 2. on the front | b. their own weight |
| 3. putting their lives | c. available |
| 4. proving their willingness | d. to his new ruling |
| 5. allow them to pursue | e. line |
| 6. here was an important proviso | f. limits to them |
| 7. be able to pull | g. at risk |
| 8. handle seeing women troops come | h. every avenue |
| 9. 237,000 positions | i. home in body bags |
| 10. that are currently off | j. ban on women fighting |

GAP FILL

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130126-women_in_combat.html

The U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta has announced one of the biggest (1) _____ of the American military in decades. He has lifted the ban on women fighting on the (2) _____ line in future wars. The new ruling (3) _____ the fact that women have been putting their lives at risk for many years. Mr Panetta told reporters: "Female service members have (4) _____ the reality of combat, proving their (5) _____ to fight and, yes, to die to defend their fellow Americans." Panetta said many very able women soldiers have been (6) _____ from doing a job they love because of their gender. He said: "We (7) _____ it to them to allow them to pursue every avenue of military service for which they are (8) _____ prepared and qualified."

faced
fully
reinforces
willingness
reforms
owe
front
prevented

The Defense Secretary announced there was an important (9) _____ to his new ruling – that women must be able to meet the military's (10) _____, including physical ones. Army Sergeant Jeremy Grayson agreed, saying: "Women would have to be able to do the physical (11) _____ that men do. They have to be able to pull their own (12) _____." Another Army spokesman, Anthony Lemaitre, warned the public to be prepared to (13) _____ seeing women troops come home in body bags or with lost (14) _____. He said: "It's harder to see a mother or a daughter dead." There could now be up to 237,000 positions available for women that are currently off (15) _____ to them. The Army says the ruling will (16) _____ the military in many ways.

weight
benefit
proviso
stuff
limbs
standards
limits
handle

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130126-women_in_combat.html

- 1) One of the biggest reforms of the American _____.
 - a. military in many decades
 - b. military in decades
 - c. military in a decade
 - d. military on decades
- 2) women have been putting their _____ years
 - a. lives at risk for many
 - b. life at risk for many
 - c. lives to risk for many
 - d. livelihoods at risk for many
- 3) proving their willingness to fight and, _____ their fellow Americans
 - a. always, to die to defend
 - b. no, to die to defend
 - c. maybe, to die to defend
 - d. yes, to die to defend
- 4) many very able women soldiers have been prevented from doing a job they love _____
 - a. because of a gender
 - b. due to of their gender
 - c. because of that gender
 - d. because of their gender
- 5) We owe it to them to allow them to _____ of military service
 - a. pursue every street
 - b. peruse every avenue
 - c. pursue all avenues
 - d. pursue every avenue
- 6) The Defense Secretary announced there was _____ to his new ruling
 - a. an important provision
 - b. an important providing
 - c. an important proviso
 - d. an important provider
- 7) women must be able to meet the military's standards, _____.
 - a. inclusive of physical ones
 - b. including a physical one
 - c. included physical ones
 - d. including physical ones
- 8) They have to be able to _____
 - a. pull their own weight
 - b. carry a donkey
 - c. shoot to kill
 - d. handle many things
- 9) be prepared to handle seeing women troops come home in body bags or _____
 - a. with lost limb
 - b. with lost rims
 - c. with lost limbs
 - d. with lost lambs
- 10) The Army says the ruling will _____ in many ways
 - a. benefits the military
 - b. be beneficial to the military
 - c. benefit the military
 - d. benefit a military

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130126-women_in_combat.html

The U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta has announced one of the biggest reforms of the American (1) _____. He has lifted the ban on women (2) _____ in future wars. The new ruling reinforces the fact that women have been putting their lives at risk for many years. Mr Panetta told reporters: "Female service members have (3) _____, proving their willingness to fight and, yes, to (4) _____ Americans." Panetta said many very able women soldiers have been prevented from doing a job they love because of their gender. He said: "We (5) _____ them to (6) _____ military service for which they are fully prepared and qualified."

The Defense Secretary announced there was (7) _____ his new ruling – that women must be able to (8) _____, including physical ones. Army Sergeant Jeremy Grayson agreed, saying: "Women would have to be able to do the physical stuff that men do. They have to be able to (9) _____." Another Army spokesman, Anthony Lemaitre, warned the public (10) _____ seeing women troops come home in body (11) _____. He said: "It's harder to see a mother or a daughter dead." There could now be up to 237,000 positions available for women (12) _____ to them. The Army says the ruling will benefit the military in many ways.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130126-women_in_combat.html

1. What is Leon Panetta's job?

2. What has Leon Panetta lifted?

3. For how long have women been putting lives at risk?

4. What are women prepared to die for?

5. What does Leon Panetta want women to pursue?

6. What is Leon Panetta's important condition?

7. What did a soldier say female soldiers would have to pull?

8. What must the U.S. public be prepared for?

9. How many military jobs could there be for women?

10. In how many ways did the Army say the ruling could benefit the Army?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130126-women_in_combat.html

1. What is Leon Panetta's job?
 - a) White House Chief of Staff
 - b) U.S. Secretary of Defense
 - c) U.S. Homeland Secretary
 - d) U.S. Secretary of Attack
2. What has Leon Panetta lifted?
 - a) weights
 - b) too many heavy army backpacks
 - c) the ban on women fighting on the front line
 - d) the cover off a new Army jeep
3. What have women been putting at risk?
 - a) their savings
 - b) their investments
 - c) their careers
 - d) their lives
4. Whom have female troops been willing to die for?
 - a) their fellow women soldiers
 - b) their fellow Americans
 - c) Americans who follow them
 - d) Americans they follow
5. What has stopped women doing the jobs in the military they want to do?
 - a) gender
 - b) bosses
 - c) men
 - d) their ability
6. What is Panetta's condition regarding women and what they must do?
 - a) be able to meet the military's standards
 - b) must not be allowed to shoot to kill
 - c) can serve for only 10 years
 - d) women must be able to run a marathon with a rifle
7. What did a soldier say women must pull?
 - a) the trigger of a machine gun
 - b) a muscle
 - c) a jeep
 - d) their own weight
8. What must the U.S. public be prepared to do?
 - a) see women get taken hostage
 - b) see women become generals
 - c) see women return in body bags
 - d) see women on the front line
9. How many new jobs for women could there be?
 - a) 277,000
 - b) 217,000
 - c) 273,000
 - d) 237,000
10. Why couldn't women do the jobs before?
 - a) they weren't strong enough
 - b) they were off limits
 - c) they didn't exist
 - d) they didn't want to

ROLE PLAY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130126-women_in_combat.html

Role A – Leon Panetta

You think it is OK for women to fight on the front line. Tell the others three reasons why. You think women can do exactly the same job as men. You don't agree that protecting a country is only a man's job. You think your new ruling will make your country stronger.

Role B – Long-time soldier

You totally disagree with women serving on the front line. Tell the others three reasons why. You saw many bad things in your time as a soldier. You don't think women should see those things or put their lives at risk. There are many military women can do without fighting on the front line.

Role C – Woman soldier

You love your job. Tell the others three reasons why. You are better at soldiering than many men. You think it's unfair you could not fight on the front line. Wars have changed and the risk to all soldiers has reduced. All women should be allowed to defend their country.

Role D – Anti-war campaigner

You think armies are crazy. Tell the others three reasons why. You disagree with all the others. No country should have an army. That would end all wars and millions of lives could be saved. You think the money spent on the military should be used to promote peace.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130126-women_in_combat.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'front' and 'line'.

front	line
--------------	-------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• biggest• ban• risk• fellow• love• owe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• important• meet• stuff• warned• lost• benefit
--	--

WOMEN IN COMBAT SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130126-women_in_combat.html

Write five GOOD questions about 26th January in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WOMEN IN COMBAT DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'war'?
- c) What do you think of female soldiers?
- d) Should women be allowed to fight on the front line?
- e) Why do men in government tell women they cannot fight in combat?
- f) Would you fight to defend your country?
- g) What would enemy soldiers think about fighting women?
- h) What do you think of soldiers who are ready to die to protect their fellow citizens?
- i) Do you think you would be a good soldier?
- j) How important is this new ruling?

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WOMEN IN COMBAT DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Do you think all countries will allow their women to fight one day?
- c) How difficult is it for a woman to do exactly the same as men?
- d) Do you always pull your own weight?
- e) How would people's view of war change if they saw many women in body bags?
- f) How different would you feel if your daughter went to the front line than if your son did?
- g) Are there extra dangers for women soldiers?
- h) What could women do on the front line better than men?
- i) How might the new ruling benefit the U.S. military?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Leon Panetta?

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130126-women_in_combat.html

The U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta has (1) _____ one of the biggest reforms of the American military in decades. He has (2) _____ the ban on women fighting on the front line in future wars. The new ruling reinforces the fact that women have been putting their lives (3) _____ risk for many years. Mr Panetta told reporters: "Female service members have (4) _____ the reality of combat, proving their willingness to fight and, yes, to die to defend their (5) _____ Americans." Panetta said many very able women soldiers have been prevented from doing a job they love because of their gender. He said: "We (6) _____ it to them to allow them to pursue every avenue of military service for which they are fully prepared and qualified."

The Defense Secretary announced there was an important (7) _____ to his new ruling – that women must be able to meet the military's (8) _____, including physical ones. Army Sergeant Jeremy Grayson agreed, saying: "Women would have to be able to do the physical stuff that men do. They have to be able to (9) _____ their own weight." Another Army spokesman, Anthony Lemaitre, warned the public to be prepared to (10) _____ seeing women troops come home in body bags or with lost (11) _____. He said: "It's harder to see a mother or a daughter dead." There could now be up to 237,000 positions available for women that are currently (12) _____ limits to them. The Army says the ruling will benefit the military in many ways.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) announced | (b) announcement | (c) announcing | (d) announcer |
| 2. | (a) lifted up | (b) lifting | (c) lifted | (d) lifted off |
| 3. | (a) on | (b) by | (c) at | (d) of |
| 4. | (a) headed | (b) stomached | (c) backed | (d) faced |
| 5. | (a) fellow | (b) follow | (c) fallow | (d) felled |
| 6. | (a) lend | (b) owe | (c) due | (d) borrow |
| 7. | (a) device | (b) advice | (c) revising | (d) proviso |
| 8. | (a) union | (b) standards | (c) conform | (d) uniform |
| 9. | (a) measure | (b) lose | (c) pull | (d) put on |
| 10. | (a) wheel | (b) handle | (c) knob | (d) button |
| 11. | (a) combs | (b) bombs | (c) tombs | (d) limbs |
| 12. | (a) up | (b) off | (c) out | (d) in |

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SPELLING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130126-women_in_combat.html

Paragraph 1

1. the American irlyiatm
2. The new ruling rrcnesezio the fact
3. proving their sngleiiwnls
4. because of their nrldgee
5. allow them to rspueu every avenue
6. fully prepared and qfauidile

Paragraph 2

7. an important iroospv
8. do the lhpisyac stuff
9. pull their own hwtegi
10. lost bilms
11. mother or a ehgadtru
12. 237,000 positions laiabalve

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130126-women_in_combat.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () fight and, yes, to die to defend their fellow Americans." Panetta said many very able
- () ruling reinforces the fact that women have been putting their lives at risk for many years. Mr Panetta told
- () agreed, saying: "Women would have to be able to do the physical stuff that men do. They have to be able to pull
- () to see a mother or a daughter dead." There could now be up to 237,000 positions
- () reporters: "Female service members have faced the reality of combat, proving their willingness to
- () in decades. He has lifted the ban on women fighting on the front line in future wars. The new
- () seeing women troops come home in body bags or with lost limbs. He said: "It's harder
- () available for women that are currently off limits to them. The Army says the ruling will benefit the military in many ways.
- () The Defense Secretary announced there was an important proviso to his new ruling – that women must be
- () women soldiers have been prevented from doing a job they love because of their gender. He said: "We owe
- () able to meet the military's standards, including physical ones. Army Sergeant Jeremy Grayson
- (**1**) The U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta has announced one of the biggest reforms of the American military
- () it to them to allow them to pursue every avenue of military service for which they are fully prepared and qualified."
- () their own weight." Another Army spokesman, Anthony Lemaitre, warned the public to be prepared to handle

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130126-women_in_combat.html

1. of military of reforms American One biggest the the.

2. has women lifted fighting the ban He on.

3. risk Putting for their many lives years at.

4. doing from Prevented love they job a.

5. qualified for are and Service they prepared which fully.

6. was proviso new There important his an to ruling.

7. be able to pull their own weight They have to.

8. home Seeing in women body troops bags come.

9. currently for are limits available that off Positions women.

10. many The benefit in will military ways ruling the.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130126-women_in_combat.html

The U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta has announced one of the biggest *reformers / reforms* of the American military in *decadence / decades*. He has lifted the *ban / banning* on women fighting on the front line in future wars. The new ruling *reinforcement / reinforces* the fact that women have been putting their lives *at / to* risk for many years. Mr Panetta told reporters: "Female service members have *headed / faced* the reality of combat, proving their willingness to fight and, yes, to die to defend their *fellow / fallow* Americans." Panetta said many very able women soldiers have been prevented *for / from* doing a job they love because of their gender. He said: "We *owe / lend* it to them to allow them to pursue every avenue of military service for which they are *filled / fully* prepared and qualified."

The Defense Secretary announced there was an important *providing / proviso* to his new ruling – that women must be able to *meet / seek* the military's standards, including *physicality / physical* ones. Army Sergeant Jeremy Grayson agreed, saying: "Women would have to be able to do the physical *stuff / staff* that men do. They have to be able to *push / pull* their own *weight / height*." Another Army spokesman, Anthony Lemaitre, warned the public to be prepared to *button / handle* seeing women troops come home in body bags or with *fallen / lost* limbs. He said: "It's harder to see a mother or a daughter dead." There could now be up to 237,000 positions available for women that are currently *out / off* limits to them. The Army says the ruling will *benefit / sake* the military in many ways.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130126-women_in_combat.html

Th_ _ .S. S_cr_t_ry _f D_f_ns_ L_n P_n_tt_ h_s
_nn_nc_d_n _f th_b_gg_st_r_f_rms _f th_m_r_c_n
m_l_t_ry _n d_c_d_s. H_h_s_l_ft_d th_b_n_n_w_m_n
f_ght_ng _n th_fr_nt_l_n _n f_t_r_w_rs. Th_n_w
r_l_ng r_nf_rc_s th_f_ct th_t_w_m_n h_v_b_n
p_tt_ng th_r_l_v_s _t_r_sk_f_r_m_ny_y_rs. Mr P_n_tt_
t_ld_r_p_rt_rs: "F_m_l_s_rv_c_m_mb_rs h_v_f_c_d
th_r_l_ty _f c_mb_t, pr_v_ng th_r_w_ll_ngn_ss t_
f_ght _nd, y_s, t_d _t_d_f_nd th_r_f_ll_w
_m_r_c_ns." P_n_tt_s_d m_ny_v_ry _bl_w_m_n
s_ld_rs h_v_b_n pr_v_nt_d fr_m_d_ng _j_b_th_y
l_v_b_c_s _f th_r_g_nd_r. H_s_d: "W_w_t_t_
th_m_t _ll_w th_m_t_p_rs _v_ry_v_n _f
m_l_t_ry_s_rv_c_f_r wh_ch th_y_r_f_lly pr_p_r_d_nd
q_l_f_d."

Th_ D_f_ns_ S_cr_t_ry _nn_nc_d th_r_w_s _n
_mp_rt_nt pr_v_s_t_h_s_n_w_r_l_ng - th_t_w_m_n
m_st_b _bl_t_m_t th_m_l_t_ry's st_nd_rds,
_ncl_d_ng phys_c_l_n_s. _rmy S_rg_nt J_r_my
Gr_ys_n _gr_d, s_y_ng: "W_m_n_w_ld h_v_t_b
_bl_t_d th_phys_c_l st_ff th_t_m_n_d. Th_y_h_v_
t_b _bl_t_p_ll th_r_w_n_w_ght." _n th_r_rmy
sp_k_sm_n, _nth_ny L_m_tr_, w_rn_d th_p_b_l_c_t
b_pr_p_r_d_t_hndl_s _ng_w_m_n tr_ps_c_m_
h_m_n_b_dy_b_gs_r_w_th_l_st_l_mbs. H_s_d: "t's
h_r_d_r_t_s _m_th_r_r_d_ght_r_d_d." Th_r_
c_ld_n_w_b_p_t_237,000_p_s_t_ns_v_l_b_l_f_r
w_m_n th_t_r_c_rr_ntly_ff_l_m_ts_t_th_m. Th_rmy
s_ys th_r_l_ng_w_ll_b_n_f_t th_m_l_t_ry _n_m_ny
w_ys.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130126-women_in_combat.html

the us secretary of defense leon panetta has announced one of the biggest reforms of the american military in decades he has lifted the ban on women fighting on the front line in future wars the new ruling reinforces the fact that women have been putting their lives at risk for many years mr panetta told reporters "female service members have faced the reality of combat proving their willingness to fight and yes to die to defend their fellow americans" panetta said many very able women soldiers have been prevented from doing a job they love because of their gender he said "we owe it to them to allow them to pursue every avenue of military service for which they are fully prepared and qualified"

the defense secretary announced there was an important proviso to his new ruling – that women must be able to meet the military's standards including physical ones army sergeant jeremy grayson agreed saying "women would have to be able to do the physical stuff that men do they have to be able to pull their own weight" another army spokesman anthony lemaitre warned the public to be prepared to handle seeing women troops come home in body bags or with lost limbs he said "it's harder to see a mother or a daughter dead" there could now be up to 237000 positions available for women that are currently off limits to them the army says the ruling will benefit the military in many ways

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130126-women_in_combat.html

The U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta has announced one of the biggest reforms of the American military in decades. He has lifted the ban on women fighting on the front line in future wars. The new ruling reinforces the fact that women have been putting their lives at risk for many years. Mr Panetta told reporters: "Female servicemembers have faced the reality of combat, proving their willingness to fight and, yes, to die to defend their fellow Americans." Panetta said many very able women soldiers have been prevented from doing a job they love because of their gender. He said: "We owe it to them to allow them to pursue every avenue of military service for which they are fully prepared and qualified." The Defense Secretary announced there was an important proviso to his new ruling – that women must be able to meet the military's standards, including physical ones. Army Sergeant Jeremy Grayson agreed, saying: "Women would have to be able to do the physical stuff that men do. They have to be able to pull their own weight." Another Army spokesman, Anthony Lemaitre, warned the public to be prepared to handle seeing women troops come home in body bags or with lost limbs. He said: "It's hard to see a mother or a daughter dead." There could now be up to 237,000 positions available for women that are currently off limits to them. The Army says the ruling will benefit the military in many ways.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about women in combat. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. WOMEN IN COMBAT: Make a poster about women in combat. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. FRONT LINE: Write a magazine article about women fighting on the front line. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to Leon Panetta. Ask him three questions about women on the front line. Give him three of your opinions. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b F c T d T e F f F g T h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. announced | a. removed |
| 2. lifted | b. go after |
| 3. reinforces | c. enthusiasm |
| 4. willingness | d. deal with |
| 5. pursue | e. things |
| 6. proviso | f. declared |
| 7. stuff | g. closed |
| 8. handle | h. arms and legs |
| 9. limbs | i. backs up |
| 10. off limits | j. condition |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. The U.S. Secretary of Defense
2. The ban on women fighting on the front line
3. Many years
4. To protect their fellow Americans
5. Every avenue of military service
6. That women must be able to meet the military's standards
7. Their own weight
8. Women in body bags or with lost limbs
9. Up to 237,000
10. Many

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. a 6. a 7. d 8. c 9. d 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)