Rescinded the “Risk Rule”: 1994

Background

1988: The Department of Defense policy that extended women's combat exclusion to bar their participation in any non-combat unit where the risks of exposure to combat were equal to or greater than the combat units they supported.

1991: Congress establishes the Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces to study all matters relating to the assignment of women in the armed forces.

1994: Secretary of Defense Les Aspin officially rescinded the Risk Rule through a memorandum titled "Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule." This policy change opened thousands of new positions to women while still excluding them from units below brigade level whose primary mission was direct ground combat.

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