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## **Service Women's Action Network Applauds Military's Review of Women in Combat.**

*SWAN Calls Combat Exclusion Policy "the military's Glass Ceiling"*

New York, NY – Today, Service Women's Action Network (SWAN), a national human rights organization founded by women veterans to advance the equal treatment of military women, applauded news that a commission established by Congress plans to recommend the elimination of the "Combat Exclusion Policy" for women.

The Military Leadership Diversity Commission, established by Congress two years ago, issued the recommendation as part of a draft report on diversity in the services. The final report is due to lawmakers this spring, and commission members are meeting this week in Virginia to debate final changes.

Anu Bhagwati, former Marine Captain and executive director of the Service Women's Action Network (SWAN) applauds the Commission's recommendation. "The Combat Exclusion Policy represents a huge glass ceiling for servicewomen. It is archaic, it does not reflect the many sacrifices and contributions that women make in the military, and it ignores the reality of current warfighting doctrine. Promotion to higher ranks and selection to many senior positions in the military is dependent on combat experience. This is all about doing what is fair and best for the force by ensuring diversity, particularly in the upper leadership echelons, and giving full credit where credit is due."

*SWAN is a national human rights organization founded and led by women veterans. SWAN's vision is to transform military culture by securing equal opportunity and the freedom to serve in uniform without threat of harassment, discrimination, intimidation or assault. SWAN also seeks to reform veterans' services on a national scale to guarantee equal access to quality health care, benefits and resources for women veterans and their families. You can follow Service Women's Action Network on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/servicewomn>, or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/servicewomen>.*

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