

U.S allows women to fight in wars

Listen and fill in the blanks with the correct word

NAMES

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."

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.