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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 20, 2013

General Raymond T. Odierno  
Army Chief of Staff  
200 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0200

Dear General Odierno:

As the Army continues its efforts to open combat positions to women, I would like to invite you to visit Fort Leonard Wood at your earliest opportunity. As you know well, Fort Leonard Wood is one of the Army's gender integrated Basic Combat Training sites. It is also home to the Sapper Leader School, a rigorous 28-day combat engineer leadership course that has been open to women since 1999.

I sincerely hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to observe first-hand, as Secretary McHugh did last May, the excellent training that is occurring at Fort Leonard Wood. I believe this training can serve as an effective model as you and other Army leaders make critical decisions on how to successfully expand combat jobs to women while ensuring our soldiers continue to be the best trained in the world. I also recommend you make time in your schedule to meet representatives of the surrounding communities who have done so much to support the installation and its mission.

Thank you for your consideration, and thank you for your service to our country.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill  
United States Senator

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