



Women in the Service Coalition, Inc.
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WiSCI Files Lawsuit Seeking Records on Pentagon Review of Women in Ground Combat

The Women in the Service Coalition takes legal action seeking transparency into a Pentagon review that could affect thousands of women currently serving in ground combat roles.

WASHINGTON, DC – The Women in the Service Coalition (WiSCI) and journalist Hope Hodge Seck, through the Law Office of Mark S. Zaid, P.C., filed a lawsuit today seeking the release of records related to the Pentagon’s ongoing review of women serving in ground combat roles.

WiSCI submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request on August 17, seeking transparency into the scope, methodology, conduct, and intended use of the review. The request seeks, among other records, the memorandum authorizing the review and contracting documents defining the work assigned first to the Institute for Defense Analyses and later to the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory.

[\[Read the original FOIA request\]](#)

In an interim response dated August 21, the Pentagon acknowledged the request, assigned it FOIA case number 26-F-2989, and confirmed that processing had begun. The Pentagon stated that it would not be able to respond within FOIA’s ordinary 20-working-day statutory period because of “unusual circumstances.”

The Pentagon also denied WiSCI’s request for expedited processing, concluding that WiSCI had not demonstrated that the information would lose its value if it were not disseminated quickly.

The request was subsequently placed in the Pentagon’s “complex processing queue,” which the agency said currently contains approximately 3,686 open requests.

[\[Read the Pentagon’s August 21 response\]](#)

For WiSCI, this is not simply a dispute over paperwork. Thousands of women have trained, qualified, and are currently serving in ground combat roles, many more over the past ten years that these roles were available to women. Decisions that could affect their careers, assignments, and continued service should not be developed behind closed doors without meaningful transparency about the evidence, methodology, and standards being used.



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WiSCI sought these records through the process established by law. We are now asking the courts to ensure that process is followed.

[\[Read the lawsuit filed by WiSCI\]](#)

WiSCI will continue pursuing the information necessary for servicewomen, Congress, and the American public to understand how this review is being conducted and how its findings may ultimately be used.

“This is a simple and straightforward request. The Pentagon claim of ‘unusual circumstances’ is unsupported, just as yet another review of women’s roles is unwarranted and unnecessary. We will move forward with legal action, through the law office of Mark S. Zaid, Esq., to press for clear disclosure in accordance with the law.”

— Brenda S. “Sue” Fulton, Executive Director, Women in the Service Coalition, Inc. (WiSCI)

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About WiSCI

The **Women in the Service Coalition, Inc.** (WiSCI, pronounced “whiskey,” found at wiscimil.org) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to advocating for women and men in military service. WiSCI works to strengthen the Armed Forces through smart military personnel policies; protect opportunities for qualified servicewomen; support the development of women leaders; and ensure that service members can compete for and serve in positions based on their ability to meet the requirements of the job.