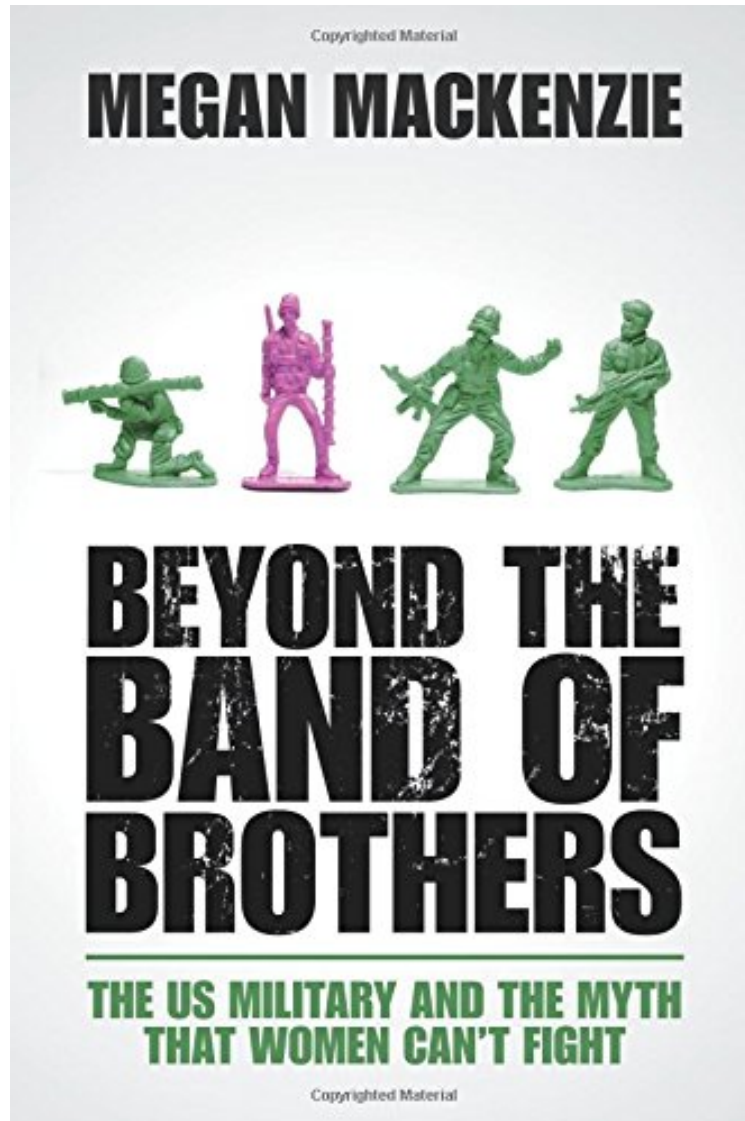


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Beyond the Band of Brothers: The US Military and the Myth that Women Can't Fight

Megan MacKenzie

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#1457493 in Books Megan MacKenzie 2015-06-17 2015-06-18 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.98 x .51 x 5.98l, .0 #File Name: 1107628105234 pages Beyond the Band of Brothers | File size: 73.Mb

Megan MacKenzie : Beyond the Band of Brothers: The US Military and the Myth that Women Can't Fight before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beyond the Band of Brothers: The US Military and the Myth that Women Can't Fight:

4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Excellent account of an important American myth By Kirstin Hasler An excellent, well researched account of the band of brothers myth that dominates American conversations

about the military. I might quibble with some of the details, such as how the myth emerged (I'd point to WWI rather than Vietnam), but overall Mackenzie offers a compelling argument supported by solid evidence. While the book is aimed most directly at the combat exclusion, it also has important implications for thinking about why soldiers fight and the roots of combat effectiveness. I highly recommend it. 4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A factual accounting of the prevailing myth

By Angelia K. Holbrook
Mackenzie meets her intent to "deconstruct the band of brothers myth in order to change the conversation about war, and to make it more difficult to romanticize and legitimize war" as we idealize it today. She doesn't take sides just shines light in the dark flimsy arguments that inform policy and practice related to women's roles in the military. Check your opinions at the door - she Joe Friday's the heck out of the issues related to women in combat. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating examination of a commonly accepted "truth"

By Brandon
MacKenzie lays out the parallel and mutually supporting social phenomena that established and then sustained an emotion based policy. Perhaps the best chapter in the book is Chapter 3 where she examines how beliefs and emotions shape policy, often to the detriment of good decision making. In this chapter MacKenzie groups the arguments against women into those that are gut reactions, divine concerns, and threats to nature. Then she details how the gut, God and nature are harnessed to seemingly objective data. By following MacKenzie's bread crumb trail one sees how emotion, shaped by cultural norms and beliefs, defied rational logic and sustained a policy of self-deception. This is a fascinating examination of how assumptions about the "natural order" of the human experience are artificially constructed and then perpetuated. It takes great thinkers like MacKenzie to help us deconstruct and analyze the foundations of our lived experiences.

Women can't fight. This assumption lies at the heart of the combat exclusion, a policy that was fiercely defended as essential to national security, despite evidence that women have been contributing to hostile operations now and throughout history. This book examines the role of women in the US military and the key arguments used to justify the combat exclusion, in the light of the decision to reverse the policy in 2013. Megan MacKenzie considers the historic role of the combat exclusion in shaping American military identity and debunks claims that the recent policy change signals a new era for women in the military. MacKenzie shows how women's exclusion from combat reaffirms male supremacy in the military and sustains a key military myth, the myth of the band of brothers. This book will be welcomed by scholars and students of military studies, gender studies, social and military history, and foreign policy.

"Megan MacKenzie has offered us all a careful, persuasive dissection of a potent patriarchal myth. After reading this accessible book, 'combat', 'bonding', 'upper body strength' and 'national security' will never look the same. Beyond the Band of Brothers is for anyone interested in grappling with myth, militarism or sexism." Cynthia Enloe, author of *Bananas, Beaches and Bases*

"Women's combat exclusion is gone: yet myths glorifying wars and men who fight them are as strong as ever. Mackenzie challenges us to engage in more profound conversations about the tragedies of war." J. Ann Tickner, American University, Washington DC

About the Author
Megan MacKenzie is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney. Her research centers on gender and security. Her book *Female Soldiers in Sierra Leone: Sex, Security and Post-Conflict Development* (2012) included interviews with over 50 female soldiers who participated in Sierra Leone's civil war.