

Name:

## Day One

# Women in Combat

### Part 1: Silent read

→ Find out how female soldiers helped change the rules about women in combat.  
Read silently.

Army medic Veronica Alfaro was driving in a line of trucks through Iraq. All of a sudden, tracer bullets lit up the sky. As gunfire hit the supply truck in front of her, the convoy stalled. Alfaro used her own truck to shield the vehicle that had been hit. She ran through a hail of bullets to help the injured driver. Trained as a machine gunner, she showed no concern for her own safety. Alfaro received the Bronze Star for bravery in action.

During the Iraq War, the U.S. military still had old rules in place. In wartime, women soldiers were supposed to be banned from front line combat. In Iraq, however, this rule made no sense. There were no front lines. Attacks could come anywhere. Rockets came flying into the barracks. Snipers picked off soldiers in the street. The biggest danger was IEDs: improvised explosive devices. These homemade bombs popped up everywhere. Any soldier walking down the street or driving through the desert was a target.

In 2005, Lance Corporal Angelica Jimenez was in a convoy of Marine trucks in Fallujah, Iraq. When her truck took a direct hit, three of her friends were killed. Jimenez was badly burned. After she recovered, she told *ABC News*, “Women are just as capable.”

In 2013, the U.S. military recognized the roles that women had played and lifted the ban on women in combat. Even the toughest commando units would now be open to everyone.

Sources: “G.I. Jane breaks the combat barrier,” *The New York Times*, August 15, 2009.

“Women fight in Iraq and Afghanistan, despite preclusion from ground combat,” *ABC News*, May 30, 2011.



# Day One

// one minute

## Women in Combat

### Part 2: First timed read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

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52  
69  
83

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99  
114  
128  
143  
153  
167

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182  
198  
212

In 2013, the U.S. military recognized the roles that women had played and lifted the ban on women in combat. Even the toughest commando units would now be open to everyone.

228  
242  
243

### Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What was the old rule about women in combat?

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What was the brave act of Veronica Alfaro?

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## Day One

# Women in Combat

### Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Army medic Veronica Alfaro / was driving in a line of trucks through Iraq. // All of a sudden, / tracer bullets lit up the sky. // As gunfire hit the supply truck in front of her, / the convoy stalled. // Alfaro used her own truck / to shield the vehicle that had been hit. // She ran through a hail of bullets to help the injured driver. // Trained as a machine gunner, / she showed no concern for her own safety. // Alfaro received the Bronze Star / for bravery in action. //

During the Iraq War, / the U.S. military still had old rules in place. // In wartime, / women soldiers were supposed to be banned from front line combat. // In Iraq, / however, / this rule made no sense. // There were no front lines. // Attacks could come anywhere. // Rockets came flying into the barracks. // Snipers picked off soldiers in the street. // The biggest danger was IEDs: / improvised explosive devices. // These homemade bombs popped up everywhere. // Any soldier walking down the street / or driving through the desert / was a target. //

In 2005, / Lance Corporal Angelica Jimenez / was in a convoy of Marine trucks in Fallujah, / Iraq. // When her truck took a direct hit, / three of her friends were killed. // Jimenez was badly burned. // After she recovered, / she told *ABC News*, / “Women are just as capable.” //

In 2013, / the U.S. military recognized the roles that women had played / and lifted the ban on women in combat. // Even the toughest commando units / would now be open to everyone. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.