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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

MARY JENNINGS HEGAR, JENNIFER
HUNT, ALEXANDRA ZOE BEDELL,
COLLEEN FARRELL, AND SERVICE
WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

CHUCK HAGEL, Secretary of Defense,

Defendant.

Case No. 12-CV-06005 EMC

**STIPULATION AND ~~[PROPOSED]~~
ORDER REGARDING A LIMITED
STAY OF THIS MATTER** (Modified)

Judge: Hon. Edward M. Chen

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1. On November 27, 2012, Plaintiffs filed their Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief challenging as unconstitutional the 1994 direct ground combat definition and assignment rule.

3. In light of the above, the parties filed a stipulation agreeing to meet and confer after the May 15, 2013 deadline for submission of the implementation plans and allowing the Secretary thirty (30) days after that meet and confer to respond to the Complaint (Dkt 9), and a stipulation and proposed order continuing the initial case management conference and related deadlines until after the parties meet and confer on the implementation plans (Dkt 10). The Court entered the proposed order on February 8, 2013 (Dkt 11).

1 4. On May 30, 2013, the parties held a telephone conference. Defendant notified
2 Plaintiffs that the Military Services had submitted implementation plans to the Secretary, but that
3 the plans would not be made public because the Department of Defense (“DoD”) was treating
4 them as pre-decisional and deliberative. Defendant further notified Plaintiffs that, pursuant to the
5 National Defense Authorization Act of 2013, section 526, H.R. 4310, the DoD would submit a
6 report to Congress in July 2013 on the feasibility of developing gender-neutral occupational
7 standards for military occupational specialties currently closed to women and that DoD anticipated
8 that the report would provide some information about the implementation plans.

9 5. In light of the above, the parties filed a stipulation and proposed order agreeing to
10 hold a further meet and confer by August 20, 2013 and allowing the Secretary thirty (30) days
11 after that meet and confer to respond to the Complaint, which the Court entered on June 11, 2013
12 (Dkt 14).

13 6. On June 18, 2013, DoD made the implementation plans public. DoD completed
14 the above-referenced report to Congress in July 2013 and submitted a written report to Congress
15 on August 2, 2013.

16 7. Beginning on August 20, 2013, the parties held several telephone conferences in
17 which they discussed, among other things, the implementation plans. Plaintiffs also requested
18 information regarding the date by which Defendant will announce whether certain positions,
19 specialties, units, and schools of interest to Plaintiffs will continue to be closed to women and
20 informed Defendant that they intended to file an Amended Complaint.

21 8. On September 13, 2013, the parties filed a stipulation and proposed order setting a
22 schedule for Plaintiffs to file an Amended Complaint and for Defendant to respond to the
23 Amended Complaint, which the Court entered on September 18, 2013 (Dkt 17).

24 9. On October 31, 2013, Plaintiffs filed an Amended Complaint (Dkt 18). Plaintiffs
25 also served discovery requests on Defendant on December 3, 2013.

26 10. On December 19, 2013, Defendant filed a motion to dismiss the Amended
27 Complaint for lack of subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
28 12(b)(1), arguing, *inter alia*, that Plaintiffs’ challenge to the 1994 direct ground combat definition

1 and assignment rule is not ripe because the implementation process is ongoing and set to be
2 completed by January 1, 2016 (Dkt 19). On January 21, 2014, Defendant filed a motion for
3 protective order seeking a stay of all discovery pending a decision on Defendant's motion to
4 dismiss, arguing, *inter alia*, that a stay is required to protect the collaborative environment and to
5 avoid chilling the deliberative process in which the DoD and the Services are engaged as they
6 work toward the January 1, 2016 implementation deadline (Dkt 23).

7 11. On January 23, 2014, the Court entered a stipulation and proposed order setting a
8 schedule to allow for resolution of Defendant's motion for protective order before the deadline for
9 Plaintiffs to file their opposition to Defendant's motion to dismiss and setting a deadline for
10 Plaintiffs' opposition based on the outcome of Defendant's motion for protective order (Dkt 24).

11 12. On February 4, 2014, Plaintiffs filed an opposition to Defendant's motion for
12 protective order, arguing, *inter alia*, that their challenge to the 1994 direct ground combat
13 definition and assignment rule is ripe and that discovery should be allowed to proceed (Dkt 25).

14 13. On February 27, 2014, the Court held a hearing on Defendant's motion for
15 protective order and issued a minute order stating that the Court would defer its ruling on the
16 motion pending completion of briefing on Defendant's motion to dismiss and then "consider the
17 relevance and probative value of the requested documents." (Dkt 29).

18 14. On April 7, 2014, the parties held a telephone conference and agreed, subject to the
19 Court's approval, to a short continuance of the briefing schedule and hearing date on Defendant's
20 motion to dismiss to allow the parties time to discuss a potential resolution of the pending
21 motions. On April 10, 2014, the Court approved the parties' stipulation to that effect (Dkt 35).

22 15. The parties subsequently engaged in a meet-and-confer process and, based on and
23 without conceding their respective positions on the pending motions, agreed to seek a limited stay
24 of the case until the January 1, 2016 deadline for implementing the rescission of the 1994 direct
25 ground combat definition and assignment rule, pursuant to which: (1) the briefing and hearing on
26 Defendant's motion to dismiss would be suspended; (2) the parties' discovery obligations (other
27 than obligations to preserve relevant information, including information responsive to pending
28 discovery requests) would be suspended; (3) the parties would submit a joint status report to the

1 Court at six-month intervals that would convey to the Court DoD's most recent notifications to
2 Congress, along with any other publicly available information on the status of implementation;
3 and (4) either party can request that the Court schedule a status conference and/or set a briefing
4 schedule and hearing on whether the limited stay should be lifted.

5 16. In light of the foregoing, the parties respectfully request that the Court enter a
6 limited stay of the case as set out in the Proposed Order, filed herewith.

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8 DATED: May 1, 2014

MUNGER, TOLLES & OLSON LLP

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10 By: /s/ Rosemarie T. Ring
ROSEMARIE T. RING

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13 DATED: May 1, 2014

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ATTESTATION PURSUANT TO GENERAL ORDER 45

I, Rosemarie T. Ring, am the ECF User whose identification and password are being used to file this STIPULATION AND [PROPOSED] ORDER REGARDING A LIMITED STAY OF THIS MATTER. In compliance with General Order 45.X.B, I hereby attest that all signatories have concurred in this filing.

1 **[~~PROPOSED~~] ORDER**

2 Pursuant to stipulation, and based on good cause shown, the Court enters a limited stay of
3 this case until January 1, 2016, pursuant to which:

4 (1) the briefing and hearing on Defendant's motion to dismiss is hereby suspended;

5 (2) the parties' discovery obligations (other than obligations to preserve relevant
6 information, including information responsive to pending discovery requests) are hereby
7 suspended;

8 (3) the parties shall submit a joint status report to the Court at six-month intervals that
9 conveys DoD's most recent notifications to Congress, along with any other publicly available
10 information on the status of implementation;

11 (4) either party may request that the Court schedule a status conference and/or set a
12 briefing schedule and hearing on whether the limited stay should be lifted at any time; and

13 (5) ~~the first joint status report shall be due on September 4, 2014.~~ The 9/4/14 CMC
14 is reset for 11/13/14 at 9:30 a.m. A joint CMC Statement shall be
15 filed by 11/6/14. The motion to dismiss (Docket #19) and motion
16 Dated: for protective order (Docket
17 #23) are hereby terminated.
Parties to renote those motions
at a later time).

