



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS
111 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0111

SAMR (600a)

MEMORANDUM FOR Chairman, Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS), 4800 Mark Center Drive, Suite 04J25-01, Alexandria, VA 22350-4000

SUBJECT: Army Written Response to Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) December 2024 Request for Information (RFI) 7

1. The committee requests written responses from the Army on the following:

a. What research or studies have been undertaken or is ongoing to identify the issues unique to returning mothers and reintegration? Provide links to or copies to findings and reports. What actions have been taken to address issues identified by the research or studies, if applicable?

Response: The Army has not conducted any studies on this topic.

b. Section 555 of the FY21 NDAA directed the Secretary of Defense to develop policy that, among other issues, outlined “responses to the effects specific to covered members who reintegrate into home life after deployment.” What policy, initiatives, or resources have been developed to assist returning military mothers with the challenges they face on return from deployment. Provide copies of relevant policies, training, and other documents.

Response: The Army has no specific policies addressing the return of military mothers from deployment. All members receive reintegration briefings which offer resources and services that focus on all Soldiers, both single and married, to include those who are military mothers.

c. What are the issues and challenges that have been identified, including the restoration of the parent-child bond, and resumption of prior family roles and responsibilities?

Response: Additional research is required to identify issues and challenges such as restoration of the parent-child bond, and resumption of prior family roles and responsibilities.

d. What policies and procedures does each Service have to support reintegration. Are there any programs specific to mothers and being a woman?

SAMR (600a)

SUBJECT: Army Written Response to Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) December 2024 Request for Information (RFI) 7

Response: Army Regulation 350-35, Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness mandates Post-Deployment Resilience Training (reintegration) for all Soldiers within one month after return and a second reintegration training within three to six months after return. There are no separate programs specific to mothers and being a woman.

e. Are there any resources or programs geared to military mothers prior to deployment to help them plan for and more successfully reintegrate post deployment? If so, describe these efforts and provide links to policies, programs, etc.

Response: There are no separate deployment related policies for military mothers. Army Community Services offers a variety of programs to include deployment/re-deployment briefing, helping children cope with deployment, homecoming fairs, and other events and programs to help Soldiers reintegrate back into home life. Additionally, the Army Family Advocacy Program (FAP) provides a New Parent Support Program that educates and supports parents (with children under the age of three) to meet the challenges of parenthood while maintaining a military lifestyle.

f. DACOWITS' 2019 focus group participants expressed that post-deployment reintegration/assistance efforts were male-centric and lacked resources to assist the unique challenges returning military mothers faced. What efforts have been made to address this important subset of re-integration assistance.

Response: There are no new specific policies addressing post-deployment reintegration. The Army continues to review and revise policies to meet the needs of Soldiers.

g. What kind of mentorship and support are specifically provided to deploying mothers?

Response: Individual prevention and education counseling services are offered to deploying mothers as needed. Additionally, deploying mothers are referred to Military and Family Life Counselors (MFLC), Military OneSource, Chaplain, and/or referred to behavioral health services as appropriate.

h. What efforts have the Women's Initiatives Teams (WITs) initiated, if any, and how are the Services supporting those recommendations?

Response: The Army WIT has not published any recommendations on the impact of military mothers reintegrating into family/home life after deployment.

i. What type of mental health screening/care is provided?

SAMR (600a)

SUBJECT: Army Written Response to Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) December 2024 Request for Information (RFI) 7

Response: The Mental Health Assessments (DHA4 and DHA5) are a series of deployment health screenings designed to identify mental health concerns, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other behavioral health conditions that may require referral for additional care and treatment. The DHA 4 and 5 assessments are the final screenings of the 5 part DHA assessment cycle that includes the pre-deployment health assessment, post-deployment health assessment, and post-deployment health reassessment.

j. What kind of follow up is provided and at what intervals?

Response: The DHA 4 is designed to be completed between 181 days and 18 months (545 days) after return from deployment, and the DHA 5 between 18 months (546 days) and 30 months (910 days) after return from deployment.

k. Is leadership training provided to military leaders about the challenges and difficulties of reintegration that military mothers may encounter, the range of impacts of those challenges, in order to increase knowledge and understanding? Provide links to or copies of such training.

Response: Leaders do not receive specific training yet remain aware of the command requirements to support members for all instances of necessary family support in accordance with the Army command policies and regulations.

l. What second and third order effects of reintegration difficulties have been identified (e.g., on military readiness, work productivity, psychological and physical health, attrition rates)?

Response: The Army has not conducted any studies on this topic.

m. Do exit surveys have questions related to whether reintegration/post-deployment challenges are a reason for separation?

Response: The Department of the Army Career Engagement Survey (DACES) does not specifically list reintegration/post-deployment as a reason for separation.