

**SUBJ:** DACOWITS RFI 7 - December 2024 QBM

**FROM:** CG-1K, CG-1M, LDC/FORCECOM, DPR-22, HSWL

**TO:** DACOWITS Committee

**THRU:** Office of Diversity & Inclusion (DPR-4)

**Impact on Military Mothers Reintegrating into Family/Home Life After Deployment**

In accordance with DACOWITS' Terms of Reference, the Well-Being and Treatment (WB&T) Subcommittee will renew the 2019 DACOWITS' study which examined the impact of deployments on military mothers who reintegrate into family/home life after deployment. Determine whether additional policy development is required, or if the Department and Military Services have sufficiently addressed concerns.

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The Committee requests a **written response** from the USD(P&R) via Military Personnel Policy (MPP) and Military Community and Family Policy (MC&FP) and both the Active and Reserve Components of the Military Services (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Department of the Air Force (Air & Space)), Coast Guard, and the National Guard Bureau on the following:

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**DACOWITS:**

- 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?
- b. Section 555 of the FY21 NDAA directed the Secretary of Defense to develop policy that, among other issues, outlined “[r]esponses 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,
- 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?
- d. What policies and procedures does each Service have to support reintegration. Are there any 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.

- 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?
- g. What kind of mentorship and support are specifically provided to deploying mothers?
- h. What efforts have the Women's Initiatives Teams (WITs) initiated, if any, and how are the Services supporting those recommendations?
- i. What type of mental health screening/care is provided?
- j. What kind of follow up is provided and at what intervals?
- 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.
- 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)?
- m. Do exit surveys have questions related to whether reintegration/post-deployment challenges are a reason for separation?

**CG Response:**

- a. The USCG does not have data specific to this topic.
- b. The official USCG post-deployment reintegration program is the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, which is tailored specifically to Reserve Component (RC) personnel. The USCG does not have any other policies directed towards reintegrating non-RC personnel following deployments, nor any that specifically target women or mothers. (Note that Section 555 of the FY21 NDAA does not apply to the Coast Guard.)
- c. The CG does not have data specific to this topic.
- d. The official USCG post-deployment reintegration program is the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, which is tailored specifically to Reserve Component (RC) personnel. USCG does not have any other policies directed towards reintegrating non-RC personnel following deployments, nor any that specifically target women or mothers.
- e. USCG does not have any policies geared to military members prior to deployment to help them plan for and more successfully reintegrate post-deployment, nor any programs that specifically target women or mothers.
- f. The only official USCG post-deployment reintegration program is the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, which is tailored specifically to Reserve Component (RC) personnel. USCG does not have any other policies directed towards reintegrating non-

RC personnel following deployments, nor any that specifically target women or mothers.

- g. The USCG does not have data specific to this topic.
- h. The USCG does not have data specific to this topic.
- i. All service members, including those who are mothers, returning from deployment complete a Post-Deployment Health Assessment (PDHA, DD Form 2796) along with a Mental Health Assessment (MHA, DD Form 2978) not later than 30 days after returning from deployment. Additionally, service members must complete a Post-Deployment Health Re-Assessment (PDHRA, DD Form 2900) and an MHA within 90 – 180 days after returning from deployment. Additional MHAs must be completed within 181 days – 18 months and 19-30 months after returning from deployment. If any mental health concerns are identified on any of the MHAs, the service member would be referred for further evaluation and care.
- j. If a mother returning from deployment is found to have a mental health concern on the initial or any of the follow up MHAs and is seen by a mental health provider for care, appropriate follow up will be provided at intervals determined by the provider based on the service member's diagnosis, treatment plan, and response to treatment.
- k. This is not an Enabling Objective or a Terminal Performance Objective that is included in the Coast Guard Force Readiness Command leadership curriculum at the Leadership Development Center.
- l. The Career Intentions Survey (Coast Guard exit survey for AD and Reserve) does not have questions related to this topic.