

Thanks in great part to decades of hard work by DACOWITS, women in the military now have increased opportunities to pursue careers in all job fields. The Army continues to make great strides increasing the number of women pursuing the new jobs, and we believe their leadership is doing a good job of publicizing their many successes. Yet there continue to be significant disparities between the services in terms of the integration of women into ground combat jobs and male recruit training units.

A recent poll of service women and women veterans conducted by the Service Women's Action Network (SWAN) indicates that job opportunities and gender bias remain top concerns for women in the military. But the reticence of some branches of the service to integrate women into formerly closed jobs and continued high rates of assault and harassment indicate ongoing cultural problems in our armed forces. We cannot afford to reverse the hard fought progress made in the past few years when it comes to leveling the playing field for opportunities for minority populations in the military.

SWAN thanks DACOWITS for all it stands for, and strongly urges the organization to continue to use its resources and advisory capacity to educate members of the new administration and influence the services to ensure the continued integration of women into ground combat jobs and recruit training. Further, we ask that DACOWITS continue to examine cultural factors that contribute to the negative behaviors on the continuum of harm. We appreciate how much hard work has been done by DACOWITS over the years to level the playing field for women in the military and we look forward to many more successes in the future. Thank you.

Warmest regards,

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