

## National Guard Reply to December 2018 DACOWITS QBM – Follow-up Questions

### **RFIs 1B-4 – Conscious and Unconscious Gender Bias**

- None

### **RFI 7 – Gender Representation Among Instructors/Trainers**

- None

### **RFI 8 – Military Services’ Physical Fitness Tests**

i. **Military Services:** *Current policies for iron or other supplements provided to female recruits.*

**RESPONSE:** Air National Guard and Army National Guard fall under Service policies and do not have additional policies or procedures for iron supplements. National Guard members attend the same Basic Military Training as their active duty counterparts and would receive any supplements provided.

The National Guard does not provide medical treatment facilities nor health clinics for traditional members. Their scope is limited to Individual Medical Readiness (IMR). As such, they administer required vaccinations, draw blood, etc. Iron level is not a specific IMR measure. As such, there would be no authorization, requirement, or funding for ARNG or ANG to either 1) test/monitor iron levels in Soldiers and Airmen, nor 2) provide medical treatment/provide iron supplements to Service Members.

Guardsmen on a period of orders greater than 30 days can avail themselves of active duty medical services to include tests and supplements, but guardsmen in a reserve status do not qualify for medical benefits.

ii. **Military Services:** *The percentage of servicewomen who failed their official fitness test after the expiration of their postpartum exemption, over the last five years (e.g., 1 Jan 2013 – 31 Dec 2017).*

**RESPONSE:** This data call requires collecting fitness information from 54 states and territories, 89 Wings and numerous units across the nation. Requests have been made to solicit the information but complete data was not returned in time for consolidation for this report’s suspense. The National Guard Bureau will provide the five year data once it has been reported.

iii. **Army:** *Provide information on your Post-Partum Physical Training (P3T) program.*

**RESPONSE:** The Army Pregnancy Postpartum Physical Training (P3T) is available for Army National Guard soldiers to help meet the approved Army standards in AR 40-501, 7-9 and 7-10. The Department of the Army provides specially-designed DVDs and a workbook for Reserve, National Guard and remote Soldiers that is available to them after medical clearance is confirmed. These materials are provided on the PPPT AKO website. The Army National Guard does not have supplemental post-partum programs in addition to those provided by the Department of the Army.

iv. **Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps:** *Information on fitness programs for reintegrating medically waived Service members, to include postpartum servicewomen.*

**RESPONSE:** The Air National Guard does not have supplemental post-partum programs in addition to any provided by the Department of the Air Force.

### **RFI 10 – Breastfeeding and Lactation Support**

i. **Military Services:** *Describe how your Service-branch, to include the Reserve and Guard components, are tracking the effectiveness of the Breastfeeding and Lactation Support Policies. Please describe methods of tracking policy and program compliance; how feedback is solicited from affected servicewomen; and what trends and constraints are noted from those who elect/don't elect to breastfeed their newborns.*

**RESPONSE:** There is not currently an official, national level tracking of the effectiveness of the Breastfeeding and Lactation Support Policies in the National Guard. A request for this information would require collecting lactation information from 54 states and territories, 89 Wings and numerous units across the nation. Without a mandate for tracking, it is unlikely units are officially soliciting input from National Guard members. A data call would likely produce few affirmative replies.

ii. **Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard:** *During the Navy presentation on this topic, they highlighted having a “Command Advisor on Pregnancy and Parenthood (CAPP).” This is a voluntary command role to ensure Sailors receive proper counseling and support to fully understand their rights, responsibilities and resources regarding pregnancy and as new parents. This is an impressive best practice. DACOWITS is interested in knowing what similar best practices for pregnancy and post-partum are in place by the other Military Services.*

**RESPONSE:** An inquiry has been sent to the ARNG/SG and ANG/SG to determine if there are any programs in place within any of the 54 states and territories, 89 Wings and numerous units across the nation. No best practices had been submitted in time for this report's suspense. The National Guard Bureau will pass on any information that may be reported in future.