



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, DC

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

8 February 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR DACOWITS

FROM: HQ USAF
1720 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330-1720

SUBJECT: DAF DACOWITS RFI Response RFI #5

QUESTION #5

In 2016, Committee made the following recommendation: The Secretary of Defense should require each of the Military Services to adopt a policy regarding accession of single custodial parents into the military to allow such accessions when facts, circumstances, and occupational requirements would allow, and when the Military Services would benefit. At the time, the Air Force allowed single parent applicants (both male and female) to join via a waiver with up to three dependents whereas the other Services only allowed male applicants to join with a waiver. Female applicants were required to sign over custody of any minor children for the duration of their first enlistment in order to join the military.

a. The status of your Services' single parent policies regarding male and female applicant's ability to join via a waiver and the details of these policies.

There are no prohibitions regarding single parents in Basic Military Training (BMT); however, they require members to implement their Family Care Plan while in training.

There are no prohibitions regarding single parents in Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps (AFROTC). AFROTC also allows pregnant members; however, pregnant members cannot be accessed as officers until they have completed all post-pregnancy requirements in accordance with DAFMAN 48-123, *Medical Examinations and Standards*.

There is no prohibition regarding single parents in Officer Training School (OTS); however, they require members to implement their Family Care Plan while in training.

The United States Air Force Academy cannot allow dependents in accordance with DoDI 1322.22, *Service Academies*. However, there are provisions for pregnant cadets to transfer to AFROTC to complete their commissioning requirements. Once the child is born, they retain custody of their dependent. If they choose to remain at USAFA, they must transfer custody to another individual who is not another USAFA cadet.

b. The status of your Services' single parent policies regarding male and female applicant's ability to commission via Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), Officer Candidate School (OCS), Direct Commission Officer (DCO) programs, etc.

As stated above, neither AFROTC nor OTS have prohibitions regarding single parents regardless of gender. USAFA prohibits dependents in accordance with DoDI 1322.22.

c. The status of the Military Service Academies implementation of the CADET Act outlined in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY22, which ensures cadets and midshipmen preserve parental guardianship rights and can become commissioned officers while raising a family.

Changes to DAFI 36-3501, *United States Air Force Academy Operations*, to allow dependents require DOD to first update DoDI 1322.22.

d. Provide copies of these policies and instructions for both officer and enlisted applicants.

Please see RFI 5 - Attachment 1 - DAFMAN 36-2032 Military Recruiting and Accessions: DAFMAN 36-2032, *Military Recruiting and Accessions*, paragraph 3.6.9 for information on enlisted applicants and paragraph 5.4.10 for information on AFROTC and OTS.

Please see RFI 5 - Attachment 2 - AFROTCI 36-2011V3 Cadet Operations: AFROTCI 36-2011V3, *Cadet Operations*, paragraph 11.3.10 for dependency policy for AFROTC cadets.

Please see RFI 5 - Attachment 3 - DAFI 36-3501 United States Air Force Academy Operations: DAF 36-3501, *United States Air Force Academy Operations*, para 4.22 and 4.23 for information on USAFA.

Please see RFI 5 - Attachment 4 - DoDI 1322.22 Service Academies: DoDI 1322.22, *Service Academies*, Enclosure 3, section 3e(4) & 3e(5) for DoD policy on Service Academy cadets and midshipmen.