

UNCLASSIFIED

INFORMATION PAPER

7 February 2019

Subj: THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESPONSE TO THE DEFENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE SERVICES (DACOWITS) REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) #8

1. Purpose. Provide a response to RFI #8 - "Since the 1990s, female Marines have been assigned to Marine Expeditionary Units (MEU) detachments, with the general policy that, if the MEU ships are configured for women, women may serve on the MEU detachment. The Committee requests a written response from the Marine Corps to provide details on the current status in the assignment of women to MEUs to Navy amphibious warships."

2. Key Points

- References:
 - (a) MCO 3120.13, Policy for Marine Expeditionary Units (MEU)
 - (b) MCO 5000.12E W/CH 1-2, "Marine Corps Policy Concerning Pregnancy and Parenthood"
 - (c) MCO 1300.8, Marine Corps Personnel Assignment Policy. (Female Marines Classification, Assignment and Deployment)
 - (d) MARADMIN 193/16 deleted chapter four of MCO 1300.8 in its entirety.
- The mission of the MEU is to provide a forward deployed, flexible sea-based, Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) capable of conducting Amphibious Operations, crisis response and limited contingency operations, in order to support the theater requirements of Geographical Combatant Commanders. The MAGTF is made up of a command element, an infantry battalion, composite squadron, and a combat logistics battalion; all of which are open for the assignment of women.
- Embarkation aboard Navy amphibious ships is based on the MEUs mission requirements (MOS rate & rank) and berthing availability within the Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) per reference (a) and (c). Generally, gender is not a consideration in Marine Corps personnel assignments since publication of reference (c) and (d). The only caveat is for pregnant Marines, who are restricted from assignment to Navy amphibious warships as outlined in reference (b). Beyond pregnancy, the only other constraint serving aboard or embarking on US Navy Amphibious ships is the availability of berthing spaces, which are separated by gender.
- 5% of the active duty MEU personnel are female. There is no record or indication of berthing spaces inhibiting service of women aboard the MEU.

Approved by: Equal Opportunity & Diversity Management Branch, M&RA