

# DACOWITS RFI #7

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**Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S.  
Pacific Fleet**

**19 March 2019**





# DACOWITS – Gender Integration: Women in Ships Update (RFI #7)

**In 2015, the Secretary of the Navy recommended keeping specific positions closed to the assignment of enlisted women on three classes of ships scheduled to be decommissioned: frigates (FFGs), mine countermeasure ships (MCMs), and patrol coastal craft (PCs). The rationale for keeping these classes of ships closed to women was in part due to lack of appropriate berthing spaces and decommissioning schedules. Ship modifications were determined to be an injudicious use of resources. However, in recent years there have been changes to these decommissioning schedules, as well as to the delivery of new gender neutral surface ships and submarine platforms. Therefore, the Committee is concerned about potential impacts to women's career progression due to a lack of availability for women to serve in sea duty assignments.**



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The Committee requests a briefing from the Navy and Coast Guard\* to address the following:

- a. What was the original plan for integrating all classes of ships previously closed to women?
- b. What is the current plan to expand opportunities for women at sea (i.e., assignment availability; increase in the number of racks at sea allocated to women)?
- c. Provide the current number of ships and submarines capable of having servicewomen assigned (officer and enlisted) out of your total inventory.
- d. What is the racks-at-sea utilization percentage for women (both officer and enlisted), as compared to their male counterparts for each class of ship?
- e. Provide the percentage of berthing allocations for women, onboard all newly commissioned ships over the past 5 years, by platform/class.
- f. At what level is the allocation of berthing/racks assigned to women on all pre-commissioning ships reviewed/approved?





# **DACOWITS – Gender Integration: Women in Ships Update (RFI #7)**

**7.a. What was the original plan for integrating all classes of ships previously closed to women?**

- **In 1978, action was taken by Congress at the request of the Department of Defense to integrate women onto ships. During the fiscal year of 1979, 297 enlisted women were assigned to four ships. Navy management decreed that 5,000 women would be serving on over 30 ships by 1985**
  
- **Since then, percentage of women on ships has increased to**
  - **24.6% for Female Officers**
  - **16.5% for Enlisted Females**



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**7.b. What is the current plan to expand opportunities for women at sea (i.e., assignment availability; increase in the number of racks at sea allocated to women)?**

- **Women are able to serve on any ship in the fleet, however, due to past construction, not at all paygrades. Currently, only the Patrol Craft (PC) and Mine Countermeasure (MCM) classes are female restricted due to berthing modification constraints. Based on the PB19 Ship building plan, MCMs are scheduled to be decommissioned by FY24 and all PCs by FY26**
- **All current and future construction plans for naval vessels are designed to accommodate both Officer and Enlisted Female Sailors**



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**7.c. Provide the current number of ships and submarines capable of having servicewomen assigned (officer and enlisted) out of your total inventory.**

- **Of our total of 182 Surface combatants, 160 are currently able to accommodate female Officers and Enlisted females. The exceptions are 9 of 11 MCMs and 13 PCs, which are officer only**
  - **Commanding Officer (CO)/Executive Officer (XO)-only aboard the 11 MCMs; CO-only on the 13 PCs**
  - **Two MCMs (SENTRY and GLADIATOR) are configured for enlisted females (3 E7 and above; 15 E6 and below)**



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**7.d. What is the racks-at-sea utilization percentage for women (both officer and enlisted), as compared to their male counterparts for each class of ship?**

## **Officer**

- **Navy considers every Officer rack aboard Surface Combatants open to women. Billets are assigned regardless of gender**

## **Female Officer Data by Ship Class\*:**

**Cruiser (CG): 22.3%**

**Destroyer (DDG): 27.1%**

**Littoral Combat Ship (LCS): 19.9%**

**Amphibious Transport Dock (LPD): 29.0%**

**Amphibious Assault Ship (LHD): 34.2%**

**Amphibious Assault Ship (LHA): 16.1%**

**Amphibious Command Ship (LCC): 30.0%**

**Mine Countermeasures (MCM): 2.4%**

*\*Percentages based on the ratio of female officers to total officers per ship class*





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7.d. What is the racks-at-sea utilization percentage for women (both officer and enlisted), as compared to their male counterparts for each class of ship?

## Enlisted Female

Source CMS-ID

- **CG: 15%**
- **DDG: 21%**
  - **Includes DDG 1000**
- **LPD: 19%**
- **LHD: 21%**
- **LSD: 23%**
- **LHA: 22%**
- **PC: 0%**
- **MCM\*: 20%**

\* Only two MCMs configured with Women-At-Sea (WAS) Mod







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**7.e. Provide the percentage of berthing allocations for women, onboard all newly commissioned ships over the past 5 years, by platform/class.**

- **Ships Delivered between 2013-2018**
  - **DDG 1000 – 1001**
  - **LCS 1 – 14**
    - **DDG 1000 & LCS – Configurable as needed; all berthing/heads are small and gender neutral; up to 100 percent of berthing can be allocated for women**
  - **DDG 113 – 116**
    - **DDG 51-112 – Configurable. Up to 100 percent of berthing can be allocated for women**
  - **LHA 6**
    - **LHA - Configurable. Up to 100 percent of berthing can be allocated for women**
  - **LPD 23 – 27**
    - **LPD 17-22 – Configurable. Up to 100 percent of berthing can be allocated for women**



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**7.f. At what level is the allocation of berthing/racks assigned to women on all pre-commissioning ships reviewed/approved?**

- **Commanding Officer (CO) and Command Master Chief (CMC) of the pre-commissioned ship have the review and approval authority, respectively, to allocate women's berthing and rack assignments**

# Questions?

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