

BACKGROUND PAPER

ON

AETC SPECIAL WARFARE GENDER INTEGRATION IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

PURPOSE:

Provide the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) with information on AETC Special Warfare Gender Integration Implementation Plans and Resulting Facility Changes in Air Force Work Centers, Berthing/Barracks and Other Areas (RFI 10).

BACKGROUND:

In November 2019, Headquarters Air Force (HAF) requested AETC provide data for DACOWITS briefing in December. In December 2019, the Committee received a briefing from HAF on the status of their gender integration implementation plans. Modifications to facilities emerged as a topic of concern for the military services. The Committee requested a written response from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force on changes to shore-based facilities, from 1 January 2016 to 1 January 2020, in structural work centers, berthing (barracks) and other areas as a result of gender integration. Responses were to also include any future plans and timeline(s) for implementation. This includes the number of facilities modified or to be modified, the number of locations, and the reasons for the modifications. At minimum, organizations would address: hygiene areas, security camera installation, space security locks, restructured berthing/barracks to separate gender, and other facilities.

DISCUSSION:

Currently, AETC Special Warfare has fully integrated women into the training pipeline. There have been no limitations to full integration. The Special Warfare Training Wing (SWTW) facilities on Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA)-Lackland have been converted to gender-neutral. There has been no other gender-related facility modifications made or needed. In fact, SWTW reports the only gender-related facility modifications were in Bldg. 5570 (SW Prep course) creating open bays with gender-neutral restrooms/shower facilities. Specifically, the restroom facilities were converted to individual stalls. One wall contains toilets with the opposite wall containing showers, with all stalls having floor-to-ceiling doors that are lockable on the inside. The sink facilities are common/shared use. All trainees use the same restroom/shower facility regardless of gender. Additionally, Bldg. 147, the main academic building on JBSA-Lackland Chapman Annex, which is currently undergoing renovation design, may include similar gender-neutral restrooms/showers. However, the design charrette has not been completed. At other SWTW training locations across the country there are no gender integration facility issues, as the dormitories are not open-bay style, and there is adequate and available gender-equal, or private restroom/shower facilities. Again, the SWTW reports no facility limitations to achieve gender integration into SW training.

RECOMMENDATION: None, information only.

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