

**DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
WOMEN IN THE SERVICES (DACOWITS) MEETING MINUTES
November 7-8, 2005**

DACOWITS held a meeting November 7-8, 2005, at the DoubleTree Hotel, Crystal City, National Airport, 300 Army-Navy Drive, Arlington, Virginia. Members and public present during the meeting are at enclosure one and two.

7 November 2005

LtGen Carol Mutter, USMC retired, Chairperson DACOWITS, opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. The Chair discussed general administrative issues to include the lessons learned by the Committee over the last three years, the cover page of the 2005 Report, the Executive Summary, the best practices section of the report, the number and priority of the recommendations. The Committee was concerned that the recommendations not be on issues that are already being addressed by the DoD. Mental health screening came up as an example. LTGen Mutter reviewed the voting procedures.

The Committee then moved into voting on the recommendations for the Career Opportunities Chapter of the 2005 Report. See enclosure three for the draft the Committee used to formulate the final findings and recommendations for the Career Opportunities chapter. Mrs. Robson led the discussion of this chapter of the report. During this time period the Committee addressed findings and recommendations concerning deployment, transformation, weight and fitness. They deferred leadership and counseling to be rewritten and voted on later. The effect of deployment on the Service member's decision to stay in or leave the military was widely discussed during this time. The Committee made changes to the wording of the findings and recommendations presented by the Career Opportunities subcommittee. All changes were voted on and approved.

The Committee recessed between 10:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Upon return the Committee addressed findings and recommendations concerning education and mentoring. All finalized findings and recommendations were voted on and approved.

The Committee broke for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and returned at 1:00 p.m. The Committee continued the voting process after lunch. The Committee addressed geographic mobility, leadership and counseling. The Committee made various changes to findings and their wording. They also made changes to the wording of the recommendations. All changes were voted on and approved.

At 2:20 p.m., members completed the Career Opportunities chapter of the report, and moved on to voting on the findings and recommendations from the Family subcommittee.

Ms. O'Neill led this discussion. During this time the Members discussed recommendations on the effect of deployment on families, balancing the family and the Service member's career and factors influencing family members' view of the Service member staying in or leaving the military. The Committee made various changes to findings and their wording. They also made changes to the wording of the recommendations. All changes were voted on and approved.

The Committee took a break at 3:15 p.m. and returned at 3:30 p.m. The Committee continued voting on the family section of findings and recommendations. They covered: separation periods for dual military couples, research on the impact of separation on small children, and support groups for children. The Committee made various changes to findings and their wording. They also made changes to the wording of the recommendations. All changes were voted on and approved. The Committee discussed at length a recommendation to include paid family support personnel at the Battalion level in the Army and Marines or equivalent level in other services. The recommendation did not pass.

Public forum was opened at 4:45 p.m. There were no statements provided for the Committee so they continued voting.

LtGen Mutter adjourned day one at 5:08 p.m.

8 November 2005

LtGen Carol Mutter, USMC retired, Chairperson DACOWITS, opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. LtGen Mutter outlined the agenda focus for the day. She explained that this was a session in which the Members would continue to vote on the 2005 findings and recommendations.

The Committee began work on the Reserve Component section of the report. Dr. Davis led the discussion. See Enclosure three for the draft findings and recommendations the Committee used to come to final findings and recommendations. The Committee worked on the education issues noted in the focus groups of the Reserve component. This included both their civilian education goals and their requirements for military professional development. The Committee made various changes to findings and their wording. They also made changes to the wording of the recommendations. All changes were approved and voted on.

The Committee conducted a break from 10:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

The Committee returned to work on deployment, mobilization, force management and support services for the Reserve Component. The Committee made various changes to findings and their wording. They also made changes to the wording of the recommendations. All changes were voted on and approved.

The Committee broke for lunch at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Committee returned to work on findings and recommendations that address Reserve Component partnerships with the community to increase support during deployment, increasing outreach and information on these programs, supporting the National Guard Family Centers and utilizing Military OneSource. The Committee made various changes to findings and their wording. They also made changes to the wording of the recommendations. All changes were approved and voted on. Breaks were taken as needed. The Members did not complete the voting process. Four Reserve Component recommendations and 15 recommendations for Chapter V will be addressed in the December meeting. To see the voting record completed at the end of 8 November please see enclosure three.

The Committee adjourned at 6:00 p.m.



Report submitted by
COL Denise Dailey, USA
Military Director, DACOWITS



Report certified by
LtGen Carol Mutter, USMC (Ret)
FY 2005 DACOWITS Chair

Attachments as Stated

Enclosure One

DACOWITS MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE AT Nov 7-8, 2005 MEETING

Committee Members Present 7 November 2005

Dr. Lynda Davis
Mrs. Margaret Hoffmann
LtGen Carol Mutter, USMC, Retired
Ms. Catherine O'Neill
Mrs. Margaret Robson
Mrs. Virginia Rowell
Col Vance Shaw, USAFR, Retired
Sen. J.P. Duniphan
Dr. Mary Nelson
Ambassador Ellen Sauerbrey

Members Not present 7 November 2005

Ms. Bonnie Fuller Ford
Mrs. Rosalie Silberman

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Sen. J.P. Duniphan
Ambassador Ellen Sauerbrey

Members Not Present 8 November 2005

Ms. Bonnie Fuller Ford
Mrs. Rosalie Silberman

Enclosure Two

Sign in sheets

Enclosure Three

2005 Guard and Reserve Findings and Recommendations 10 21 05.doc
Career Opportunities Findings and Recommendations 31Oct05.doc
Family Findings and Recs.doc
Findings and Recommendations 2005 Responses Chapter V.doc
Voting Record at Close of Business 8 November.doc