

**DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE
SERVICES (DACOWITS) MEETING MINUTES
October 9-11, 2007**

DACOWITS held a meeting Oct 9-11 October, 2007, at the DoubleTree Hotel, Crystal City, National Airport, 300 Army-Navy Drive, Arlington, Virginia. Members and public present during the meeting are at enclosures one and two. Materials used during the meeting are at enclosure three.

9 October 2007

Dr Mary Nelson, Chairperson DACOWITS, opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. The Chair discussed the issues the Committee would be accomplishing over the next few days.

At 08:45 Rachel Lipari from DMDC briefed the Committee on the 2006 Status of Forces Spouses' Survey.

The Members asked various questions about how spouses responded, how they were reached and how DMDC devised categories for analysis of the data. Ms. Lipari explained the survey methodology. She highlighted one key point in the methodology. She stated that in 1999 there had been a 51% response rate and in 2006 there had been a 36% response rate and attributed it to the longer survey sent out in 2006. Ms. Lipari noted some highlights from the survey about spouse employment. She stated that across all groups and categories of spouses, the respondents feel civilian employers will not hire military spouses. Another highlight was that 44% of the respondents stated they were employed during the deployment of their spouse.

The Committee broke from 9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

At 10:00 a.m. the 2006 Navy Spouse Survey with emphasis on the Civilian Spouses' Education and Employment Issues was presented by Dr. Rosemary Schultz, Navy Personnel Research, Studies and Technology Department. Dr. Schultz also described the methodology of the survey. This survey had a 24% response rate. She noted that half of the respondents said they were qualified and could continue career progression upon PCS. Additionally, she highlighted the response that childcare was the most frequently noted reason for not working. She also noted that military women stated their retention was influenced by the employment opportunities of their civilian spouses.

At 11:00 a.m. Dr. Richard Fafara, US Army Family and MWR Command presented the Survey of Army Families V: Your Paid and Volunteer Work. This survey had a 43% response rate. Dr. Fafara noted this survey of Army Civilian Spouses revealed that employment status has not been affected by deployment status. He also noted that since the 1995 survey, the reason for spouses to work for basic expenses has decreased.

The Committee took lunch at 12:00 p.m. and returned at 1:15 p.m.

At 1:15 The Committee reconvened to conduct a page by page review and edit of the 1st draft of the 2007 report. They began their efforts with the introduction and continued to the women's health section. They made requests for additional information to be included in the next version. They edited the number of quotes throughout the text.

The Committee broke from 2:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

They continued their efforts throughout the afternoon with the women's healthcare section.

At 4:30 p.m. the Committee entertained one presentation from the public. CAPT (USN Ret) Barbara Brimm made a presentation on the recent RAND report on women in combat and the Army's compliance with its policy and DoD policy.

The Committee adjourned for the day at 5:00PM.

10 Oct 2007

Dr Mary Nelson, Chairperson DACOWITS, opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. The Chair discussed the issues the Committee would be accomplishing the rest of the meeting.

At 8:45 a.m. The Committee continued its efforts from the previous day by starting on page 33 of the women's health section.

The Committee broke from 9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Committee continued its efforts until lunch.

The Committee took lunch at 12:00 p.m. and returned at 1:15 p.m.

Committee continued its efforts after lunch.

Committee adjourned for the day at 5:00 p.m.

11 Oct 2007

Dr Mary Nelson, Chairperson DACOWITS, opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. The Chair discussed the issues the Committee would be accomplishing the rest of the meeting.

At 8:45 a.m. The Committee continued its efforts from the previous day by starting on page 110 of the spouse employment section.

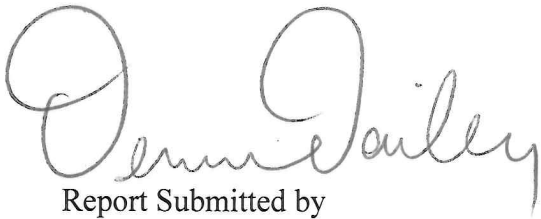
The Committee broke from 9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Committee continued its efforts until lunch.

The Committee took lunch at 12:00 p.m. and returned at 1:15 p.m.

Committee continued its efforts after lunch.

Committee adjourned the business meeting at 5:00 p.m.



Report Submitted by
Col Denise Dailey, USA
Military Director, DACOWITS



Report Certified by
Dr. Mary Nelson
DACOWITS Chair

Attachments as Stated

Enclosure One

DACOWITS MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present Oct 9, 2007

Dr. Mary Nelson
Mrs. Denise Balzano
Diana Denman
Mrs. Duniphan
Mr. Shaw
Col Torres
Mrs Lassus
Mrs Santiago
Mrs O'Flaherty
Members Absent
Mrs. White

Members Present October 10, 2007

Dr. Mary Nelson
Mrs. Denise Balzano
Diana Denman

Mrs. Duniphan
Mr. Shaw
Col Torres
Mrs Lassus
Mrs Santiago
Mrs O'Flaherty
Members Absent
Mrs. White

Members Present October 11, 2007

Dr. Mary Nelson
Mrs. Denise Balzano
Diana Denman
Mrs. Duniphan
Mr. Shaw
Col Torres
Mrs. Lassus
Mrs. Santiago
Mrs. O'Flaherty
Members Absent
Mrs. White

Enclosure Two
Sign in sheets