

**DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE
SERVICES (DACOWITS) MEETING MINUTES
October 14-15, 2008**

DACOWITS held a meeting Oct 14-15 October, 2008, 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.

14 October 2008

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. The primary purpose of the meeting was to edit the 1st draft of the 2008 Report. Additionally, the Committee voted on findings and recommendations for the Wounded Warrior Report.

At 08:45 the Committee reviewed installation visits to Korea, Ft Campbell, Kentucky National Guard, Buford MCAS, Alameda Navy Reserve and the Coast Guard. These installations visits were conducted to address the topics for the 2008 DACOWITS Annual Report. The Committee considered the changing environment in Korea as one of the most significant changes going on in the DOD at this time. The DOD forces in Korea are experiencing deployment missions to OIF and OEF, geographical redistribution of its forces within the country and increases in military family members living in the country.

The Committee then discussed the visits to the installations where they talked to the families of Wounded Warriors. These visits were part of an additional tasking assigned to the Committee over the summer to review family support for the families of wounded Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines. Installations visited were Ft Hood, Ft Carson, Camp Pendleton, Lackland AFB, Brook Army Medical Center and the Center for the Intrepid, Walter Reed and Malcolm Grow Medical Center, Andrews AFB.

Committee members appreciated the volume of work the installations had to accomplish to support family members. The installations were accommodating and responsive to the needs of the members while they were conducting the focus groups. Due to the short notice, participation in the focus groups was limited.

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

At 10:00 a.m. the Committee began crafting the findings and recommendations for the Wounded Warrior Report.

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

At 1:15 The Committee reconvened to continue crafting and voting on findings and recommendations for the Wounded Warrior Report.

The Committee broke from 2:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. At 2:30p.m. the Committee completed its final vote on recommendations for the Wounded Warrior Report. The Committee voted on and approved seven broad recommendations to address the needs of the families of wounded warriors. The approved recommendations included improved communications, education, and improved integration of services. Additionally, the Committee found merit in and approved a recommendation to establish metrics to measure the quality of services and identify needed improvements to the systems that support these families.

At 3:00p.m. the Committee began work on editing the Military Women's Success Strategies Chapter of the 2008 DACOWITS Annual Report. Their intent was to reduce the number of Service members' quotations and provide a general content review so the contractor can publish a second draft.

At 4:30 p.m. the Committee asked if there was a public forum presentation. As there was not a presentation for the public forum, they continued editing the Success Strategies Chapter.

They completed editing and adjourned for the day at 7:15p.m.

15 Oct 2008

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 began work to edit the Educational Opportunities for Military Children Chapter of the 2008 Annual Report. The Committee worked until lunch.


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

At 3:45 the Committee completed edits to the Education Chapter. As with the Women's Success Strategies' Chapter, they streamlined the number of Service member quotes to be included in the report. They also asked that several sections of the 1st draft of the Education Chapter be consolidated as they were found to have similar information. The completed edits will be incorporated into a second draft that will be published on 15 November.

The Committee discussed some of the challenges of the upcoming year to include: Designated Federal Officer retirement and a replacement, the term for the Chairperson is completed, and the impact of the new administration. The Committee asked that the list of possible 2009 topics be sent to the Committee early for a thorough review.

Additionally, the working groups set up conference call dates and times to do administrative work in preparation for the upcoming meeting.

Committee adjourned for the day 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 14, 2008**

Dr. Mary Nelson
Mrs. Denise Balzano
Diana Denman
Col Torres
Mrs Lassus
Mrs Santiago

Members Absent

Mrs O'Flaherty

Members Present October 15, 2008

Dr. Mary Nelson
Mrs. Denise Balzano
Diana Denman
Col Torres
Mrs Lassus
Mrs Santiago

Members Absent

Mrs O'Flaherty

Enclosure Two

Sign in sheets