INFORMATION PAPER

DAPE-MPC
19 Nov 2013

SUBJECT: TRADOC Response to DACOWITS RFI #5

1. Purpose: To Respond to the Ranger School Question from DACOWITS

2. Question: "TRADOC oversees 32 Army schools, including the Ranger School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Information on the website for the Ranger School shows that the course is "a leadership school" open to volunteers from all sister services and "all [Army]MOSs," noting "CSA has approved all officers and enlisted Soldiers with Combat Support/Combat Service Support MOSs to attend." However, the "Combat Exclusion Policy still applies" to exclude women volunteers. The Committee requests information on the reasons for closure of this school to women when men who are in MOSs open to women and who do not intend to join the Ranger Regiment may attend. Please address whether there are other Army schools closed to women that are not used solely for training soldiers for currently closed units and/or occupations and what, if any, plans exist for opening these schools."

3. Response: The Army is conducting a standards based approach to validate performance standards for all military occupational specialties beginning with the high physical demand occupations currently closed to female Soldiers. A key component of successful gender integration is our deliberate and scientifically based methodology. As outlined in the Army's Soldier 2020 Implementation plan submitted to Congress in May 2013, the Army's priority is to validate the basic combat arms Career Management Fields, and any associated identifiers first. Those occupational specialties, in order of consideration, are select Engineer and Field Artillery occupations, and all Armor and Infantry occupations. This includes any associated identifiers awarded for course completion that are currently closed to females. A list of Special Qualification Identifiers (SQI), Additional Skill Identifiers (ASI), and Skill Identifiers (SI) that are awarded upon completion of courses that are closed to females was submitted to Congress in early 2013 and is provided along with this information paper. This list is an update of the 2005 list previously provided to Congress. TRADOC is also assessing the cultural and institutional issues that can impact the successful integration of women into new opportunities. This intentional and informed approach is essential to ensure we comprehend the impacts on small unit missions normally associated with infantry/ranger squads and platoons, in both the physical and cultural aspects of integration of it as we go forward.

While the Army has many courses and programs designed to provide leader development and training, the primary purpose of the Ranger Course is to provide Ranger Qualified Soldiers. Ranger training is voluntary and completion of the course is not required for service in any of the Army's basic Career Management Fields. Approximately eighty percent of the requirements for Ranger Qualified Soldiers are in the Infantry or Special Forces Career Management Fields, occupations currently closed to

females. Therefore, the decision point for Ranger School is linked to the opening of the Infantry Career Management Field, or as expeditiously as possible afterwards in coordination with USSOCOM. Ranger Qualified Soldiers fill positions coded with the enlisted SQI V (Ranger Parachutist) and G (Non-Airborne Qualified Ranger) within the units whose primary mission is to close with and destroy the enemy in direct combat. The officer SI of 5R (Ranger) is awarded to officer graduates of Ranger School, and 5S (Ranger-Parachutist) is awarded to officer graduates of both Airborne School and Ranger School. These enlisted SQI and officer SI are currently closed to females, and can only be opened once Congressional notification is complete. The Army must first deliberately and scientifically validate performance standards, as required by the Secretary of Defense's guidance and include the data in the submission packet.

We will proceed in this deliberate manner to ensure we capture lessons learned from the opening of the basic Career Management Fields and associated courses. Our work will ensure standards apply to each Soldier, regardless of gender, and create an environment for success.

COL Linda Sheimo
DAPE-MPC
703-571-7226
linda.sheimo@us.army.mil