Questions for the Secretary of Defense

1. What process or methodology is OSD using to verify that occupational standards are scientifically based and gender neutral? How will OSD ensure that standards "accurately predict performance of actual, regular, and recurring duties of a military occupation" as required by Section 524 (a) (1) of the 2015 NDAA?

2. What criteria will OSD use to allow an exception to policy to keep some units or occupations closed to women?

3. On the current schedule, many occupations and units won't be open by the January 1, 2016 deadline. What is OSD doing to ensure Service and SOCOM compliance with the original directive?

4. Why do some units in the Marine Corps and Special Operations Command remain closed to all women, even in specialties for which they already qualify, while the Army has opened all combat units to women?

5. How many women are actually serving in the Army's open infantry and armor companies?

6. What have studies of "cultural issues," referenced in Army and SOCOM implementation plans revealed and how is that data being used?

7. How does OSD define terms like "sufficient cadre" or "critical mass of women"? These terms have been variously applied by the Services and SOCOM to mean different things but they must be applied universally to effect an even application of policy. Jobs, positions and units should not remain closed because of a lack of an undefined term.

8. Why have regular progress reports, required by the Secretary's original directive, not been made publicly available?

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From:	E. Haring
To:	Myers, Jessica C CIV OSD OUSD P-R (US)
Subject:	Request for Public Comment
Date:	Monday, February 23, 2015 12:10:24 PM
Attachments:	Questions for OSD.docx

Jessica,

I would like to make a public request to DACOWITS for more coverage of combat integration topics at all remaining meetings this year. This is a highly critical time in this transition period. DACOWITS should keep up the pressure on integration by asking for quarterly updates from OSD, Army, SOCOM and Marines. The DACOWITS briefs are about the only way that any information has been made available to advocates and the public. The public has few options for gaining information on what the Services and SOCOM are doing relative to combat integration. I have attached a list of questions that I think, OSD at a minimum, be asked at this critical juncture.

Thanks,

Ellen

Regards,

Ellen L. Haring

Senior Fellow

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