



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

## DEFENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE SERVICES

4800 MARK CENTER DRIVE  
SUITE 04J25-01  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22350

29 JUN 22

### MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Ex Officio Member for the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

On June 23, 2022, the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) discussed and deliberated, during a public meeting, the ideal experience and characteristics desirable for the Defense Department to appoint an ex officio member to the *Advisory Committee on Women Veterans*, as required by Title 38 U.S.C. 542(a)(2)(B)(ii). As the Chair of DACOWITS, I have consolidated the Committee's input below, for your review and consideration, prior to designating a representative to serve as the Secretary of Defense ex officio on the Department of Veterans Affairs' Advisory Committee on Women Veterans (ACWV).

The Secretary of Defense's ex officio will advise the ACWV on Department of Defense (DoD) policies and efforts to address issues experienced by women in the military. Therefore, DACOWITS recommends that the ideal experience and characteristics necessary of the Secretary of Defense's ex officio include:

- Authority to represent DoD appropriately
- Previously served in uniform and transitioned out of the military (e.g., female veteran)
- Service-connected disability rating, similar to the required appointment of the ACWV special government employees
- Non-uniformed subject matter expert (for continuity purposes)
- Medical and policy subject matter expert:
  - Knowledge of women's healthcare (i.e., credentialed)
  - Healthcare background (not necessarily a nurse or physician)
  - Assigned to Defense Health Agency
  - Ability to access DoD data/research (e.g., qualitative/quantitative)

My point of contact for this matter is COL Seana M. Jardin, DACOWITS Military Director and Designated Federal Officer, at (571) 232-7415 or [seana.m.jardin.mil@mail.mil](mailto:seana.m.jardin.mil@mail.mil).

Shelly O'Neill Stoneman  
Chair, DACOWITS

cc:

Sponsor, USD(P&R)

Group Federal Officer, USD(P&R)

Designated Federal Officer, DACOWITS