

DACOWITS' 2008 Recommendations:

1	DACOWITS recommends that DoD study the impact on readiness, and applicability to other Services, of the Navy's 1-year postpartum deployment deferment policy.
2	DACOWITS recommends DoD study the Army's Pregnancy/Postpartum Physical Training Program addressing pregnancy and postpartum health and wellness, described by the Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, including its applicability to other Services.
3	DACOWITS recommends further consideration and study of off/on ramps for all branches of Service to determine the return on investment of such programs.
4	DACOWITS recommends that installations continue to expand child care availability consistent with the operational tempo of the installation.
5	DACOWITS recommends the continuation, expansion, strengthening, and support of current mentorship programs.
6	DACOWITS recommends the Services ensure that mentorship training is included at all school points along the career path and in professional development opportunities.
7	DACOWITS recommends the Services continue to encourage members to seek mentors and to be mentors.
8	DACOWITS recommends DoD and the Services assess current character development programs such as the Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma Petty Officer Indoctrination Program, the Army I. A.M. Strong Program, and the National Guard Bystander Intervention Program, to determine best practices for possible implementation across the Services.
9	DACOWITS recommends the Services ensure they provide dynamic and interactive programs for junior personnel that address personal behavior and decision making.
10	DACOWITS recommends a work-life balance component be added to all leadership school opportunities.
11	DACOWITS recommends the Services continue to maximize installation-sponsored women's discussions and presentations, such as those that occur during Women's History Month.
12	DACOWITS recommends commands cultivate and encourage dynamic and creative opportunities to develop local initiatives for women that facilitate career success.
13	DACOWITS recommends the Services continue to support and promote the various sources of information for parents preparing for PCS, including Military OneSource. Some of these sources are included in the appendices, including a consolidated list of websites offering information and assistance for military families PCSing with school-aged children (Appendix J) and websites offering general information regarding K-12 schooling (Appendix K).
14	DACOWITS recommends the Services expand and publicize School Liaison programs and make them a key point of contact and first stop for parents seeking information regarding public, private, and home-schooling options.
15	DACOWITS recommends DoD pursue broader options, e.g., addressing open enrollment within the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and within other agreements at the state level.
16	DACOWITS recommends DoD and the Services promote practices at the local level that remove barriers to attending public schools of choice, e.g., providing transportation, negotiating open district enrollment polices, and reserving slots at charter/magnet schools for late transfer students.

17	DACOWITS recommends the Federal Impact Aid Program be fully funded.
18	DACOWITS recommends the Services facilitate home school support, e.g., through increased access to installation facilities and local school programs such as libraries, science laboratories, gymnasiums, music and arts programs, and so forth.
19	DACOWITS recommends DoD consider partnering with local school districts, in situations where it would be advantageous to both the military community and the local school district, to locate schools on installations or near military family housing. For example, in highly impacted school districts, the installation might provide leased land or similar support for such schools. These schools could better coordinate with other base support activities (e.g., before-school and after-school activities, child care, family support). The proximity of schools to housing and the coordination between schools and base support activities that this proximity would facilitate, in turn, would help the military parent stay mission-focused.
20	DACOWITS recommends all the Services establish and fund dedicated School Liaison positions.
21	DACOWITS recommends the Coast Guard and DoD establish memorandums of agreement to support Coast Guard families where DoD School Liaison support is available.
22	DACOWITS recommends DoD continue to support and advocate for the adoption of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children by all states.
23	DACOWITS recommends DoD continue to create and support grant programs, professional development opportunities, enhancement of virtual school capabilities, and greater collaboration and coordinated efforts with the Department of Education.
24	DACOWITS recommends DoD and the Services continue to support youth programs and partnerships that provide after-school homework assistance and extracurricular activities.
25	DACOWITS recommends DoD continue development of virtual school opportunities, including nationally accredited courses and online tutoring for this highly mobile student population.
26	DACOWITS recommends the Services more effectively market deployment support programs to local schools and highlight current best practices.
27	DACOWITS recommends the Services more effectively inform military families about school-based deployment support programs and highlight available online resources. Websites offering deployment-related information/assistance for military families with school-aged children are provided in Appendix L.