

## DACOWITS' 2013 Recommendations

#	Recommendation:
1	DoD and the Services should each combine in one program their efforts to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and sexual assault.
2	DoD should support legislation to remove from the chain of command the prosecution of military cases involving serious crimes, including sexual assault, except crimes that are uniquely military in nature. Instead, the decisions to prosecute, to determine the kind of court martial to convene, to detail the judges and members of the court martial, and to decide the extent of the punishment, should be placed in the hands of the military personnel with legal expertise and experience and who are outside the chain of command of the victim and the accused.
3	Initiatives similar to the Navy's Sexual Health and Responsibility Program, which informs Sailors of the importance of family planning, educates them on methods of contraception, and makes various contraceptive methods available, should be actively implemented by all the Services. Navy's lessons learned and best practices should be shared with DoD and the other Services to help promote the health and readiness of all the nation's troops.
4	All Services should seek to systematically increase the accessions of women into the officer corps by increasing the representation of women at the military Academies, Officer Candidate School/Officer Training School/Academy of Military Science (OCS/OTS/AMS), and Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC).
5	All Services should devote resources for the successful recruitment of women officers.
6	All Services should have targets to gauge progress in increasing the representation of women in the officer corps (and therefore in the principal accession sources for officers—the military Academies, OCS/OTS/AMS, and ROTC). These targets should be benchmarked against measures of the recruiting pool for women candidates, not against any measure of the current representation of women in the Armed Services or any particular Service.
7	The Services should continue apace in their plans to integrate women into closed units and positions as expeditiously as possible, but no later than January 1, 2016. These changes are in accordance with the guidance and timetable established in the January 24, 2013, directive of Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey and the January 9, 2013, implementation memorandum of Chairman Dempsey.
8	Women qualified in occupational specialties should immediately be eligible for assignment to any military unit.
9	Physical standards should be validated to accurately predict performance of actual, regular, and recurring duties of a military job and applied equitably to measure individual capabilities.
10	The Marine Corps should discontinue the “experiment” to allow women to volunteer for the Infantry Officers Course (IOC). Instead, women should be afforded the same opportunity as their male counterparts to qualify for any position and to be assigned to any unit for which they qualify, based on validated, gender-neutral standards.
11	The Services should ensure properly designed and fitted individual combat equipment is provided to women on an expedited basis. The Services should collaborate on product development, testing, and procurement to facilitate prompt distribution of appropriate individual combat equipment.